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McChord Air Force Base, Wash.

Connecting Team McChord with the Combat Airlift Mission

May 1, 2009

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DOD web watchboard provides H1N1 Flu info

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio (AFNS) — With just a few clicks of the mouse, servicemembers, civilians and families interested in learning more about the H1N1 Flu outbreak, otherwise known as swine flu, can access a variety of resources on the Web.

Defense Department officials created and maintain a Pandemic Influenza Watchboard, available at www.dod.mil/pandemicflu.

Also used during the H5N1 Flu outbreak, otherwise known as avian flu, the watchboard includes flu-related news articles, guidance from DOD leaders and links to information from other government agencies, such as the Centers for Disease Control and the Department of Health and Human Services.

Symptoms of H1N1 are similar to those of the common flu: sore throat, fever and overall body aches such as painful joints. Following guidelines set by CDC experts, anyone who experiences such indicators should contact his or her health care provider. To prevent infecting other people, individuals with these symptoms should stay home from work or school, as well as other public areas.

Air Force medical treatment facility commanders and public health personnel have been directed to increase surveillance for flu-like symptoms, and immediately report suspected cases of swine flu through their established service reporting systems, officials said.

CDC officials recommend individuals incorporate simple, but most effective, practices into their daily hygiene to prevent the spread of H1N1 and other strains of flu. They include:

1. Hand-washing with soap and warm or hot water — cold water is not as effective for killing germs.
2. Using alcohol-based hand sanitizer to wash hands when soap and water are not available.
3. Covering your nose and mouth when you cough or sneeze.
4. Avoiding touching your eyes, nose or mouth.
5. Avoiding close contact with people who are sick; avoiding close contact with healthy people if you are sick.

For more information, the Air Force Surgeon General's office recommends using guidelines set by the CDC and civilian medical community to stay healthy. These guidelines mirror the same principles issued during the fall and winter flu seasons, and can be accessed at <http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu>.



Photo by Abner Guzman

Welcome back

Retired Lt. Gen. Leo Marquez greets Airman 1st Class Isaac Beagle, 62nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, during the Knucklebuster awards ceremony April 24 in Hangar 4. General Marquez, who served here in 1964 as commander of the 325th Organizational Maintenance Squadron, returned to McChord for the second time since retiring in 1987 to be part of the awards ceremony. Thirty-seven awards were handed out across the three squadrons that make up the 62nd Maintenance Group. For more on the ceremony and General Marquez's visit, see Page 3.



Team McChord ready for flyaway MOBEX

By
Tyler Hemstreet
Staff writer

Team McChord kicks off its third of four mobility exercises today, taking another step toward October's Operational Readiness Inspection.

Nearly 500 Airmen from the 62nd and 446th Airlift Wings join with Airmen from the 319th Air Refueling Wing at Grand Forks Air Force Base, N.D., as part of a week-long flyaway MOBEX

to Alpena, Mich.

Working with Airmen from the 319th ARW adds another level of complexity when it comes to setting up a headquarters and operations in a new location, said Maj. Jason Morrison, 62nd AW chief of plans and programs.

"The real benefit of the flyaway is the good chance it offers us to work together as one team," Major Morrison said. "We haven't practiced that element yet."

The first advance echelon team is set to arrive in Alpena Saturday and

will take the initial steps to get the base up and running.

"We'll be setting the pace ... we want to establish the momentum of how Team McChord and the 319th are going to approach this exercise," said Col. Craig Petersen, 446th Mission Support Group commander who's also serving as the ADVON team commander.

After arriving and taking a small amount of time to get set up and functioning, the entire deployed team will encounter two days of simulated conventional and chemical attacks, Major

Morrison said.

"It will test how (the team) operates in those conditions, which is a graded part of the ORI," he said.

Nearly 75 percent of the Airmen participating in the exercise will also be part of the ORI, which will be McChord's first full one since 2006, Major Morrison said.

"This will be a great rehearsal for the ORI," Colonel Petersen added.

There is one more flyaway MOBEX scheduled — Sept. 12-18, also in Alpena.

Weekend Weather

FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Hi: 71 Low: 44	Hi: 62 Low: 45	Hi: 57 Low: 42

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

Countdown to success

MOBEX.....	Today
Rodeo.....	80 days
Operational Readiness Inspection.....	178 days

Don't miss it ...

First Friday

4 - 6 p.m. today at the McChord Clubs and Community Center



Airman's Roll Call: Separating promotion releases

Editor's Note: *Airman's Roll Call is a leadership tool 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.*

Air Force officials are initiating a new process to separate the release dates for the master sergeant and technical sergeant promotion lists. After 12 years of being the only

ranks to have their release dates combined, the new master sergeant promotion list will now be released on May 14 and the technical sergeant list will be released on June 18.

The following are facts surrounding the separation:

- In 1997, the master sergeant and technical sergeant promotion release dates were combined to streamline the release procedure.
- Since the inception of the virtual Enlisted Promotion Release

Application in 2008, the need to keep master sergeant and technical sergeant promotion release dates together no longer exists.

• The new separation will allow for individual recognition to promotion selectees from each respective rank and gives Airmen on both promotion lists their day in the spotlight.

AFPC officials stress that even though the promotion release dates are changing, the dates of the promotion cycle will remain the same.

Master sergeant and technical sergeant eligible Airmen will still test from February 1 through March 31 and the promotion cycle will still begin on July 1 each year.

Airmen who have questions regarding the new promotion release dates should contact their base force support squadron customer service section or the Total Force Service Center at 800-525-0102.

Find Airman's Roll Call Online at <http://www.af.mil/library/viewpoints/>.

Profession of arms key in bigger AF picture

By

Col. Tracy Smiedendorf

62nd Maintenance Group commander

I can still remember a conversation I had with one of my cousins 24 years ago shortly after I had just entered the Air Force. I was home on leave and playing horseshoes with him at a family reunion when he asked me, "So what are you doing for a living now?" I told him I had joined the Air Force and he quickly replied, "I hear that being in the military is just like a regular job now where you work Monday thru Friday." At the time I had no idea what to expect in the "real" Air Force because I was still in tech school where I was going to school Monday thru Friday, so I just told my cousin, "Yes, it's something like that."

Clearly I had not understood that being part of the Air Force was more than just a "regular job" as my cousin called it. In less than one year I would find out that being in the Air Force is much more than a regular job as I worked night shift, weekends and deployed to Japan for six weeks. To

borrow the old Navy recruiting slogan, "This was more than just a job, it was an adventure." Well, to paraphrase that today I'd say that joining the Air Force is more than just a job; it is a profession — a profession of arms.

In the Air Force we identify ourselves by our specialty as our profession. For example, I'm proud to call myself an aircraft maintenance professional. Last Friday we celebrated our maintenance profession at the annual Knucklebuster banquet. We recognized professional excellence in 37 different categories, and that was a great thing to do. However, I believe we are missing the bigger profession we belong to that all of us need to recognize we're a part of — the profession of arms.

Our 15th Chief of Staff of the Air Force, Gen. Ronald Fogleman, described this best when he wrote "We are practitioners of the profession of arms. We are entrusted with the security of our nation, the protection of its citizens, and the preservation of its way of life. In this capacity, we serve as guardians of America's future. Upon entering the Air Force, we accept a sacred trust from the American people. We thereby commit our lives in

defense of America." Few other professions require its members to lay down their life for their country.

Being proficient in your specialty and prepared for expeditionary taskings is critical to our profession. Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom have shown us that being practitioners of the profession of arms requires us to perform duties within and outside of our standard occupational skill sets. For example, Joint Expeditionary Taskings (formerly known as In Lieu Of taskings) require Air Force members to perform combat skill sets that were primarily Army or Marine Corps tasks before. Our role as Airmen is to be prepared for these activities that are outside our technical training. This can be as simple as being in good physical condition and staying up to date on your expeditionary skills training. I'd also recommend reading military literature to keep abreast of the latest developments in our profession.

So the next time someone asks you what do you do for a living or what's your profession? Proudly tell them you're a member of the profession of arms.

The Sharp Airman ...

is always prepared for inspections and exercises.

- The Airman has a good attitude – training is complete and rules are memorized.

- The Airman knows the answer, or where to find the answer, and demonstrates that knowledge when asked.
- The Airman always treats events as if they are real, performs the required task and keeps following the scenario until told to stop.
- Finally, if an evaluator identifies a problem, the Sharp Airman takes the initiative to fix the problem as quickly as possible and then follows up with the evaluator.

PROFESSIONALS

of the week

361st Recruiting Squadron

Tech. Sgt. Branden Demotts

Duty Title:
Enlisted accessions recruiter

Duty section:
Bend, Ore./E-Flight

Hometown:
Columbia Falls, Mont.

Why he's super:

Sergeant Demotts is an enlisted accessions recruiter in Bend, Ore., and is responsible for an area of responsibility covering almost 30,000 square miles — nearly the entire eastern side of the state. In his effort to recruit the best and brightest for the Air Force, Sergeant Demotts travels more than 30,000 miles annually to visit his 31 high schools and transporting applicants. In the short two and a half years he's been a recruiter, Sergeant Demotts has personally enlisted more than 75 new Airman. He is the sole AF representative to eastern Oregon and does an exceptional job by being active in numerous community events and clubs.



Michelle Love

Duty Title:
Operations flight administrative assistant

Duty section:
Operations section

Hometown:
Niceville, Fla.

Why she's super:

Ms. Love is instrumental to the success of not only her section but to that of the entire squadron. She's responsible for ensuring every Air Force applicant processed is qualified through background and credit checks. Ms. Love also manages the Recruiter Assistance Program, coordinating applications and orders for more than 350 recruiter assistants every year. Ms. Love was recently certified as an AFSO21 facilitator here and was the squadron's Air Force Assistance Fund representative, ensuring 100 percent contact across Alaska, Oregon and Washington.



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Retired general honors maintenance professionals

By

Tyler Hemstreet
Staff writer

It was only fitting that retired Lt. Gen. Leo Marquez returned to McChord for the 62nd Maintenance Group's Knucklebuster award ceremony April 24 in Hangar 3.

After serving at McChord as a maintenance officer in the 325th Fighter-Interceptor Wing in 1962, General Marquez later became commander of the 325th Organizational Maintenance Squadron in 1964.

"I fell in love with maintenance guys here at this base," General Marquez said.

And the award that now carries his name is presented to maintainers who have demonstrated the highest degree of sustained job performance, job knowledge, job efficiency and results in the categories of aircraft, munitions/missile and communications-electronics maintenance.

"I never intended for the award to be named after me," he said. "My motivation was to have our hard-working guys be recognized because they're the ones that make the mission go."

The award ceremony not only marked the first time General Marquez returned to McChord for the ceremony, but it also marked just his second official visit to an Air Mobility Command base since retiring in 1987, said 1st Lt. Kristina McGann, 62nd MXG executive officer.

"Everyone was really excited to see him," Lieutenant McGann said.

While some Airmen in attendance didn't know that General Marquez was visiting, many knew of his reputation in maintenance circles.

"I knew that he was the godfather of maintenance," said Tech. Sgt. Guy Madsen, who won a Knucklebuster award for Maintenance Training Manager within the 62nd Maintenance Operations Squadron.

General Marquez got an opportunity to speak to Airmen before the awards ceremony, telling stories about his days as a maintainer here and his work creating the maintenance badge. He even took time to answer some questions from Airmen in attendance.

General Marquez's visit transformed him from somewhat of a legend to a former down-to-earth enlisted guy speaking to fellow Airmen.

"It's a real honor for me to go around and speak to Airmen," the 77-year-old retired general said. "I've developed an admiration for enlisted people that work on these planes. It keeps me young watching and talking to the young troops."

While the mission hasn't changed very much since his time in the Air Force, General Marquez said the quality of Airmen has changed for the better.

"This is the best educated force we've ever known," he said. "Our people are much more capable now because they know so much more. We're trained our officers and NCOs in leadership skills and what they've



Photo by Abner Guzman

Master Sgt. Robert Daly, 62nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, gets his Knucklebuster plaque signed by retired Lt. Gen. Leo Marquez at the awards ceremony April 24 in Hangar 4.

been able to accomplish is phenomenal."

General Marquez said he's also proud to see how much has changed when it comes to the work Airmen have put in to improve the maintenance reliability of all the aircraft in

the Air Force fleet.

"The C-17 is a product of that," he said.

Thirty-seven Knucklebuster awards were handed out across the three maintenance squadrons that make up the 62nd MXG.



AMC command chief visits McChord

By

Tyler Hemstreet
Staff writer

Some of the sharpest Americans are joining the Air Force today, and the role their supervisors will play in their development is vital.

That's just one topic Chief Master Sergeant Joseph Barron, Air Mobility Command's command chief, discussed with Airmen attending Airman Leadership School here April 22 during a visit to McChord.

"Take care of (the new Airmen) and set them up for success," Chief Barron told the class. "No one arrives at their first duty station out of tech school asking, 'How can I fail today?'"

"I can't stress enough the importance of sponsors and supervisors at the first duty station," he said. "It's important to make a good first impression."

Briefings from AMC leadership further endorse the ALS curriculum and are just one more opportunity given to students to help them tie ev-

erything together and better prepare them for their role as supervisors, said Master Sgt. Robert Childress, 62nd Force Support Squadron ALS commandant.

"It's always a treat for us to host speakers from AMC," Sergeant Childress said. "It gives the students a chance to hear the very latest from the command level and be reminded what it means to be part of the bigger picture and the entire AMC mission."

Chief Barron also stressed the fact supervisors should learn to think outside the box.

"Don't be afraid to get out of your comfort zone — you may be asked to do something you aren't doing now," he said. "Some of you may be tapped on the shoulder and told, 'We need you to do something else.'"

The chief also touched on the fact that while Air Force Smart Operations for the 21st Century initiatives have a financial benefit, the focus should be on giving time back to Airmen and their families.

Supervisors should also remind Airmen they are important and the



Photo by Abner Guzman

Chief Master Sgt. Joseph Barron, Air Mobility Command's command chief, answers questions from Airmen April 22 during a visit to the Airman Leadership School here.

role they play in the mission is vital, Chief Barron said. That includes knowing how to best build their trust.

"Don't lead from behind your desk," the chief told the class. "If your Airmen trust you and know they can depend on you, they will come to you

with anything."

In addition to speaking to ALS students, Chief Barron had breakfast with First Term Airman's Center students, visited the Child Development Center and K-9 kennels and spoke at several other squadrons.



Top officer addresses Airmen's role in irregular warfare

By

Tech. Sgt. Amaani Lyle
Secretary of the Air Force
Public Affairs

WASHINGTON, (AFPN) — As combat requirements evolve, so must the Air Force's unique capabilities to engage the enemy, the service's top officer said.

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz discussed the role of Airmen in counterinsurgency operations and irregular warfare April 24 at the Brookings Institution here.

During the event, hosted by the 21st Century Defense Initiative, General Schwartz answered audience questions and spoke about the challenges the Air Force will face while combating more sophisticated insurgencies and future irregular threats. He also noted one of the Air Force's most formidable assets: Airmen.

"Today's Airmen are truly remarkable," General Schwartz said. "There's no lack of talent out there. It's our responsibility as leaders to ensure we lead (our Airmen) well, train them properly and that we're honest with them."

Brookings Institution Senior Fellow Peter Singer, director of the 21st Century Defense Initiative and author of the new book *Wired for War*:

The Robotics Revolution and Conflict in the 21st Century, provided introductory remarks and moderated the discussion. Dr. Singer offered insight about the metamorphosis of security, the economic environment and most significantly, the Airmen who serve today.

"We have a changing generation entering into service," Dr. Singer said. "We have 'millennials' joining, digital natives who've never known the world without computers ... a generation that, to them, the Vietnam War is as distant as World War I was to the Baby Boomers."

General Schwartz expounded on Dr. Singer's remarks, noting another significant dissimilarity between today's generation of Airmen and those of yesteryear.

"I think one of the key differences is less the character or the conviction of today's generation, but the fact that when you and I were younger, the Air Force was two-thirds single, one-third married and now the statistics, I believe, are exactly the opposite for each of the services: one-third single and two-thirds married."

The general said this inversion of numbers amounts to a service-wide focus on taking care of Airmen and their families.

"When you're talking about the people and skills we need to do this

work, we're talking about family and spouses," General Schwartz said. "Are we catering to families? You bet we are! We're listening. If we don't do that, we're going to have long-term problems in terms of keeping and attracting the type of talent we need."

The general said he has full confidence not only in the ability, but the motivation of today's Airmen.

"Airmen are fully invested and performing spectacularly. They believe in what they're doing," General Schwartz said. "When they grow up to be leaders it'll be a different Air Force because of that visceral experience Airmen share with their joint brethren side by side."

The general added that Airmen are one factor in a combination of winning strategies that includes enhanced border security and tailored organizational structure and equipment.

"We have to be as skilled, as wise as and even more capable than our adversaries."

General Schwartz said. "We need presence and surveillance in the Afghan-Pakistan border areas. It's critical that we partner with our Pakistani partners to disallow the sanctuaries from which the insurgents come."

The strategy to make it more costly and difficult to infiltrate into Af-

ghanistan is valid and the additional troop presence is, in part, intended to help address that issue, the general said.

General Schwartz also indicated Air Force leaders plan to consider adapting an inventory of manned fighters with a "light strike" platform optimized for irregular warfare operations. A turbo prop aircraft dual-purposed for pilot flight training and building partner capacity may be on the horizon, he said.

"We want to minimize things that are single-purpose ... the way ahead is to have assets that can easily work both lower-end and higher-end kinds of requirements," the general said. "There is a legitimate need to talk about the light strike and building partner capacity roles, and we certainly intend to have that discussion in the coming months."

The general added that senior leaders would explore the development of an air wing dedicated to irregular warfare during this summer's discussions. He emphasized the Air Force's overall mission against the landscape of counterinsurgency and irregular warfare.

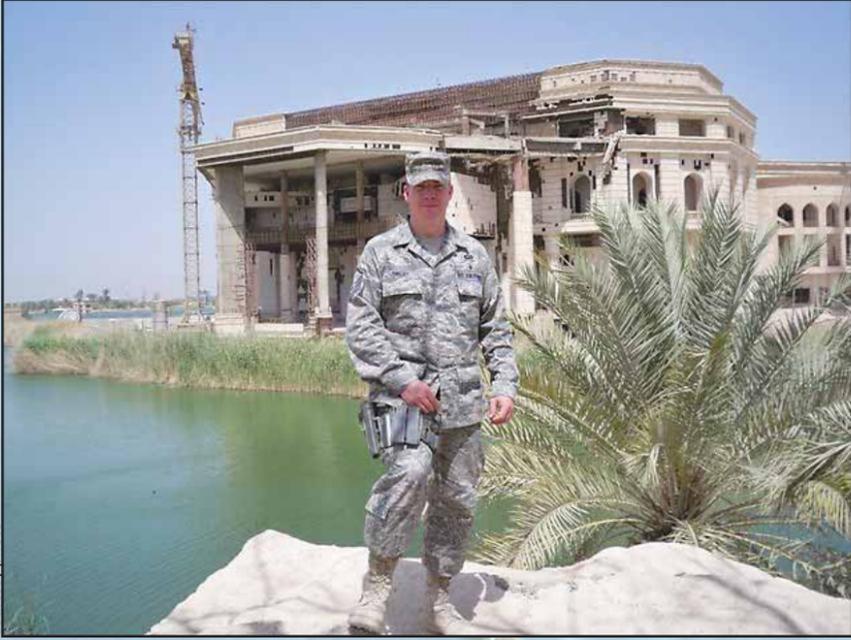
"We are part of the larger tapestry of Department of Defense capability," General Schwartz said. "Our basic strategy is to do whatever is necessary to make the defense team successful."

Bring it on at Alpena, Team McChord!



McChord Airmen

AROUND THE WORLD



Courtesy photo

IRAQ — Master Sgt. David Swory, 62nd Force Support Squadron, stands in front of a palace during a recent deployment.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Elizabeth Weinberg

KYRGYZSTAN — Airman 1st Class Andrew Morris, 62nd Aerial Port Squadron, left, talks with Lt. Gen. Gary North, commander for 9th Air Force and U.S. Air Forces Central, after giving a briefing on aerial port operations during a recent deployment. General North gave Airman Morris a commander's coin for his work at Manas Air Base.



(Left) Airman Allbritton inspects the landing gear hydraulic lines for defects as part of a maintenance check.

(Center) Michael Madayag, 62nd MXS, drains fluid from nose landing gear steering actuators while preparing to pressure test the parts.

(Right) Airman Gosvenor places aircraft parts in a wash tank for cleaning.



62nd MXS hydraulics section thrives on success

BY
Tyler Hemstreet
Staff Writer

The look of great pride on Tech. Sgt. Benjamin Maxwell's face says it all.

The NCOIC of the 62nd Maintenance Squadron's hydraulics shop doesn't mince words when it comes to the success rate his 10-person shop boasts.

"If they break it, we can fix it," Sergeant Maxwell said.

And he's right. Last year, of the 246 hydraulic components his shop was authorized to fix, 243 were fixed — a 99 percent success rate.

Those components include nose gear landing struts and actuators, aircraft brakes and any of the many other hydraulic components in the C-17 Globemaster III.

Most of the shop's work consists of inspecting hydraulic components on C-17s during their scheduled home station checks. It's a process that can be delicate at times, as groups of maintenance Airmen clamor over the aircraft — all trying to finish their checks within the allotted time the aircraft is out of the flying rotation.

"It's like an orchestra out there — everyone is moving together," Sergeant Maxwell said.

Nevertheless, it can be challenging trying to get to all the hydraulics, said Airman 1st Class Timothy Allbritton, 62nd MXS.

"Sometimes there are people everywhere," he said. But that didn't stop Airman Allbritton and his coworkers from recently locating and changing a pair of failed spoiler actuators on one aircraft.

"It was interesting doing that procedure for the first time ... everybody was learning something on that job," Airman Allbritton said.

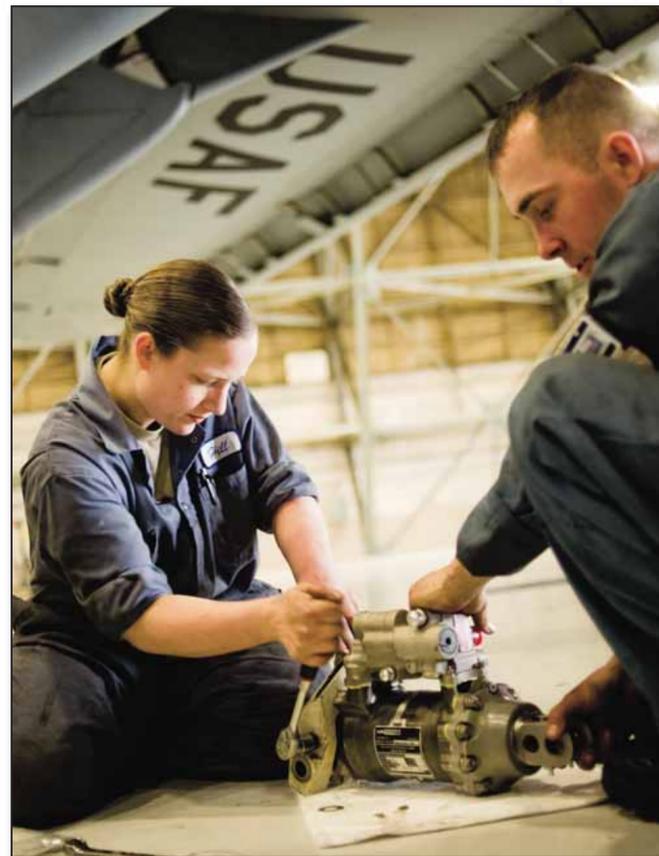
That learning carries over onto the shop floor as hydraulics teams work hard to repair failed hydraulic components from off the flightline and send them back to supply fully operational.

"If the guys on the flightline identify a problem, they'll replace the part and send the failed one to us," Sergeant Maxwell said. "It's up to us to overhaul it, repair it and send it back into the supply system."

Seeing that job through to get the part back into the system is also a carefully-tracked process, as damaged pieces sometime require a stop in other maintenance shops to either be further inspected, painted or have other components repaired.

"Sometimes it all comes back to us in pieces ... it's a pretty big process," Sergeant Maxwell said.

But as illustrated by the success numbers, that's done very little to slow the shop's productivity.



Sergeant Hill attaches a mounting bracket to a replacement spoiler actuator while working under the wing of a C-17 in hangar 1 as part of a home station check as Tech. Sgt. David Timney, 446th Maintenance Squadron, looks on.



Airman 1st Class Jerrell Gosvenor, left, Airman First Class Timothy Allbritton and Staff Sgt. Heidi Hill, all 62nd Maintenance Squadron, perform the shop's first-ever C-17 Globemaster III nose landing gear strut repair.

Airman field-tests modified PT uniform in Iraq

By

Staff Sgt. John Gordinier
332nd Air Expeditionary Wing
Public Affairs

either," said the native Glastonbury, Conn., deployed from Dyess Air Force Base, Texas. "The new pants and coat are also more breathable, and they don't make the 'swish, swish, swish' sound when you walk or run."

Overall, Airmen here notice the modified uniform and are quick to ask questions and touch the new fabric.

"The first thing people notice is the difference in material," Airman Debiase said. "When they get up close, they notice the lighter and more comfortable material. Second, they notice the PT uniform doesn't make the swishing sound when I move. Third, they notice my shorts are longer. I have pockets for keys, wallet or an MP3 player. I have received a lot of good feedback from curious Airmen.

"Another great quality about the coat and pants is that it is still waterproof," Airman Debiase added. "Yesterday, it rained for the first

—— See **PT UNIFORM**, Page 12

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq (AFNS) — An Airman here was selected to field-test the Air Force's modified physical training uniform while deployed here to provide feedback to Air Force leaders at the end of the testing process.

Senior Airman James Debiase, a 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron emergency manager, was asked to field-test the modified PT uniform, and after wearing the uniform for five days now is very impressed with the changes thus far.

"I can describe the new uniform with one word: comfortable," Airman Debiase said. "The uniform is made from a much lighter material. It is more flexible, and it breathes better.

"When I start sweating, the new uniform seems to absorb the sweat better than our current PT uniform, and it doesn't weigh down as much



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Lionel Castellano

Senior Airman James Debiase, a 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron emergency manager, goes for a run to try out the Air Force's modified physical training uniform under consideration to replace the current PT uniform recently at Joint Base Balad, Iraq. Airman Debiase was selected to field-test the PT uniform while deployed here from Dyess Air Force Base, Texas, and to provide feedback to leadership.



From **PT UNIFORM**, Page 10 —

time since I received the uniform, and the water just beaded off the coat and pants with ease.”

Another change in the uniform is the sizing.

“With the normal PT gear, I had to buy a large-sized shirt with XXL- or XXXL-sized shorts to fit me properly,” Airman Debiase said. “This modified uniform is a large; every item is large — pants, coat, shirt and shorts — and it fits me perfectly.”

So far, Airman Debiase said he hasn’t found a problem with the uniform yet, and he is going to report the pluses and minuses of the uniform to Air Force leaders at the end of the month. However, he will be wearing the modified PT uniform

for the remainder of his deployment.

“I am really excited and thankful for this opportunity,” he said. “It’s not every day you get the chance to participate in something that can make a difference and a change throughout the entire Air Force.”

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.

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

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



DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE



Wingman Program performance

Comedian Bernie McGrenahan performs twice daily May 27 and 28 at the base theater. Mr. McGrenahan leads a one-man comedy show which focuses on alcohol and drug awareness.

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month

The McChord Multi-cultural Committee hosts a celebration featuring a band, performers and singers from 12:30 to 3 p.m. May 23 at the B/X food court.

62nd MXS retirement

The 62nd Maintenance Squadron hosts a retirement ceremony for Chief Master Sgt. Robert Thomas, 62nd MXS superintendent, at 1 p.m. May 15 in Hangar 9.

Spouse Employment Training Scholarship

The Air Force Aid Society offers the Spouse Employment Training Scholarship to spouses of active-duty Air Force members through a partnership with Clover Park Technical College. The scholarship is for the Certified Nursing Assistant program, and the next academic term begins June 29.

Applications for the Spouse Employment Training Scholarship are available at the Airman and Family Readiness Center (Bldg. 551/552) and the applications must be turned into the center no later than 4:30 p.m. May 29. For more information, call the AFRC at 982-2695.

Military Spouse Career Fair

The fair is 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. May

20 at the American Lake Club at Fort Lewis. The event will offer ideas and opportunities for spouses of all services and highlight training or education available to help enter a chosen career field, financial resources that can assist in launching a career, classes to assist with resume development and interviewing skills and a dress for success fashion show. For more information, call the Airman and Family Readiness Center at 982-2695.

Military Spouse Career Advancement Accounts

The Defense Department is expanding the Military Spouse Career Advancement Accounts - MyCAA - for military spouses of active duty and activated Guard and Reserve Service members worldwide beginning in mid May. MyCAA will officially open its doors for eligible military spouses worldwide to receive up to \$6,000 of financial assistance to help pay for licenses, certifications and education in high growth, high demand portable career fields. For more information, visit <http://www.militaryonesource.com/skins/MOS/home.aspx> and click on the link "Military Spouse Career Advancement Accounts" at the bottom of the Web page under "Military Programs."

Retiree Health Fair

Madigan Army Medical Center hosts the 2009 Retiree Health Fair from 7:30 to 11:30 a.m. May 15 at the American Lake Club on North Fort Lewis. Preventive health screenings, resources and information will be available to all retired military beneficiaries, including the pneumonia vaccine, legal advice, nutrition care, dia-

betes information, cholesterol testing and pain management. It is recommended attendees bring shot records and note-taking materials. For more information, call Dr. Teresa Bruder at 253-966-3757.

Military Spouse Appreciation Day bowling

Military spouses with a sponsor assigned or attached to McChord bowl free at Sounders Lanes here from 4 to 6 p.m. May 8, Military Spouse Appreciation Day. For more information, call 982-2695.

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month celebration

An Asian Pacific American Heritage Month celebration is 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. May 13 in the main ballroom at the McChord Clubs and Community Center. For more information, call 982-6596.

ID card office closure

The identification card office in the customer service mall of Bldg. 100 is closed May 12 - 13 for hardware upgrades.

Commissary case lot sale

The McChord commissary May case lot sale honoring Asian Pacific American Heritage Month is 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. May 14 - 16. Free food samples, giveaways, and activities are scheduled May 16. For more information, call Victoria Best-Rush or Peggy Russell at 982-3285.

'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.



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



Proposed Post-9/11 GI Bill transferability rules explained

By

Donna Miles

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFNS) — With Department of Veterans Affairs representatives ready to begin accepting sign-ups for the Post-9/11 GI Bill today, Defense Department officials are working to get word out on the proposed policy regarding the bill's transferability provisions to help servicemembers decide if the new benefit is right for them.

Bob Clark, the Pentagon's assistant director for accessions policy, called the Post-9/11 GI Bill that takes effect Aug. 1 an important new benefit. In addition to providing broader educational benefits, it includes a provision that enables enrollees to transfer their benefits to immediate family members.

This long-sought-after provision is expected to be a boom for the military, Mr. Clark said, attracting and retaining the skilled force it needs.

"The Post-9/11 GI Bill is going to

be an extremely good benefit to attract bright, young Americans to serve in the military," he said.

"The transferability is going to be a tool that will allow us to retain members who have earned that great benefit and share it with their family members and continue to serve," Mr. Clark said. "This gives them the opportunity to share those benefits that they have earned with those they love."

The rules for Post-9/11 GI Bill transferability are in the final stages, and Mr. Clark said Defense Department officials expect few changes, if any.

In a nutshell, any enlisted or commissioned member of the armed forces serving on active duty or in the Selected Reserve on or after Aug. 1 will be eligible to transfer his or her benefits as long as he or she qualifies for the Post-9/11 GI Bill in the first place and meets specific service requirements, Mr. Clark explained.

He emphasized that, by law, anyone who has retired or separated from the service before that date, even if it's

July 31, won't be entitled to transfer his or her benefits. Also excluded will be members of the Individual Ready Reserve and Fleet Reserve.

Most servicemembers who have at least six years of military service as of Aug. 1 and agree to serve an additional four years qualify, he said. But Defense Department officials have proposed measures to cover several categories of servicemembers whose circumstances don't fit neatly into this formula.

For example, those with at least 10 years of service but who can't serve an additional four years because of a service or Defense Department policy also would qualify, Mr. Clark said. They must, however, serve the maximum time allowed before separating from the military, he said.

"What we did not want to do was to penalize those people who had a service policy or statute that would not permit them to commit for the full four years," Mr. Clark explained.

Another Pentagon proposal would cover servicemembers who will reach the 20-year service mark, making

them retirement-eligible, between Aug. 1, 2009, and Aug. 1, 2013.

Mr. Clark explained the breakdown, which basically enables those affected to transfer benefits as long as they complete 20 years of service:

- Those eligible for retirement on Aug. 1, 2009, would be eligible to transfer their benefits with no additional service requirement.

- Those with an approved retirement date after Aug. 1, 2009, and before July 1, 2010, would qualify with no additional service.

- Those eligible for retirement after Aug. 1, 2009, but before Aug. 1, 2010, would qualify with one additional year of service after approval to transfer their Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits.

- Those eligible for retirement between Aug. 1, 2010, and July 31, 2011, would qualify with two additional years of service after approval to transfer.

- Those eligible to retire between Aug. 1, 2011, and July 31, 2012, would qualify with three additional years of service after approval to transfer.

