

The NORTHWEST AIRLIFTER

Vol. 41, No. 17

McChord Air Force Base, Wash.

Connecting Team McChord with the Combat Airlift Mission

May 8, 2009

INSIDE

Master sergeant promotion list released Thursday,

Page 6

Team McChord's culture of excellence,

Page 8-9

AMC delivers MRAPs to Afghanistan,

Page 12

Joint document drafted

By

Rich Bartell

Fort Lewis Public Affairs

Representatives from McChord and Fort Lewis and got together last week and forged one step closer to completing the transition to one installation.

During the four-day memorandum of agreement workshop held April 27-30 at the Fort Lewis American Lake Club, representatives from both installations and numerous Defense Department agencies hammered out a document that will lead to the creation of Joint Base Lewis-McChord.

More than 250 people attended the workshop, including Col. Jeffrey Stephenson, 62nd Airlift Wing commander, and Col. Cynthia Murphy, Fort Lewis Garrison commander, as well as officials from Washington D.C., representing both services and the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

For more than three years, 14 groups from both bases have been preparing for the establishment of JBLM. Virtually every aspect of running a joint base was studied with an investment of thousands of hours focusing on 49 critical installation support functions. This intense and complex planning effort encompasses the consolidation of workforce, legal, logistic, property and financial issues.

The culmination of the workshop resulted in a memorandum of agreement, a document nearly five inches thick. By Sept. 30, the vice chiefs of the Army and Air Force will formalize the agreement with their signatures, paving the legal path for the start of

Joint Base Lewis McChord Jan. 31, 2010.

Colonel Stephenson commended the work of everyone involved in the development of Joint Base Lewis-McChord.

"We have a great working relationship between Fort Lewis and McChord, the Army and the Air Force. About 90 to 95 percent of the issues we've been talking about, we're in agreement," Colonel Stephenson said. "We've done a lot of homework and there have been a lot of subject matter experts here who have done great work."

According to many participants, the workshop was a success and forged stronger bonds between the two installations that will soon combine.

"The single most important success of the workshop is that by building trust and mutual understanding we strengthened the partnership between Fort Lewis and McChord," said Greta Powell, director of the Fort Lewis Joint Integration Office.

Powell was the moderator for the MOA workshop, and the JIO planned, coordinated, set up and ran the event.

Some of the biggest issues of the MOA were in dealing with employees, budgets and real estate.

The ins and outs of civilian employment concern many people on both installations.

Michelle Mitchell, regional director of the Army's Western Region Civilian Human Resources Agency, said McChord and Fort Lewis representatives were well prepared for the workshop.

See **JOINT BASE**, Page 6



Photo by Abner Guzman

Best laid plans

Master Sgt. Eric Dismuke, 62nd Contracting Squadron, reviews a renovation contract while performing a site visit of Bldg. 1422 Tuesday. The 62nd CONS is just one of Team McChord's many units which earned several accolades in 2008, as it won the Air Mobility Command Contracting Award for Outstanding Contracting Unit (Small). For a complete list of all the winners, see Pages 8-9.



Arrive Alive!
Don't Drink and Drive!

McChord, Fort Lewis fully prepared to respond to H1N1 flu

By

Lorin T. Smith

Madigan Army Medical Center
Public Affairs Office

Top medical officials from Madigan Army Medical Center, Fort Lewis and the McChord clinic reiterated the need for Airmen, Soldiers, civilians, retirees and their families to continue taking standard precautions to help reduce their risk of getting the H1N1 flu.

"Madigan Army Medical Center has emergency response plans in place to respond to a potential pandemic in the state of Washington," said Lt. Col. Chris Littell, chief of Epidemiology and Disease Control in the Department of Preventive Medicine. "We worked together to develop these plans to deal with emerging diseases, such as pan-

demia influenza, and will continue to promote awareness, prevention and preparedness in addressing the H1N1 flu outbreak."

CDC officials confirmed Wednesday one case of the H1N1 flu virus involving a military dependent at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., but the 11-year-old boy has since fully recovered, is not contagious and further monitoring is no longer necessary.

McChord Public Health officials are conducting daily disease surveillance and tracking any potential flu cases here, said Senior Master Sgt. John Lachance, 62nd Medical Squadron NCOIC of Public Health.

"We have a large supply of masks if needed, and plenty of hand sanitizing stations throughout the clinic to help with prevention efforts," Ser geant La-

chance said.

Fort Lewis and McChord officials are closely monitoring the H1N1 flu outbreak and are collaborating with local, state and federal health agencies. A small number of cases in Washington have been confirmed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and others are pending confirmation. "Nationally, the overall number of cases and severity of illness so far suggest this epidemic may behave more like human or seasonal influenza after all," Colonel Littell said.

Consistent with guidance from the CDC, certain hospitalized patients and high-risk groups will be screened for the H1N1 flu. If people are exhibiting mild flu-like symptoms, health providers recommend they stay at home and avoid contact with other people as

much as possible. If flu-like symptoms persist — especially fever — people are advised to call their primary care provider, who will determine the need for treatment and whether further flu testing is required.

"So far, fortunately, the majority of the nation's H1N1 flu cases have been mild with most patients recovering completely," Colonel Littell said.

Madigan has established an informational flu hotline at 253-968-4744 and an informational table has been set up at the front of the Medical Mall entrance. For more online information on the H1N1 flu, visit the CDC Web site at www.cdc.gov or Madigan's Web site at <http://www.mamc.amedd.army.mil/flu.htm>. To make an appointment with a primary care provider, call TRI-CARE at 1-800-404-4506.

Weekend Weather

FRIDAY SATURDAY SUNDAY



Hi: 61 Hi: 65 Hi: 62
Low: 41 Low: 41 Low: 42

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

Countdown to success

Next MOBEX..... **128** days
Rodeo..... **73** days
Operational Readiness Inspection..... **171** days

Don't miss it ...

Kindergarten registration

Clover Park School District elementary schools will register new kindergartners for the 2009-10 school year starting at 9 a.m. Monday. A list of schools is available at the district Web site: www.cloverpark.k12.wa.us.



Airman's Roll Call: Proposed Post-9/11 GI Bill

Editor's Note: *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.

Department of Veterans Affairs representatives began accepting sign-ups May 1 for the Post-9/11 GI Bill and Defense Department officials are working to get the word out on the proposed policy regarding the bill's transferability provisions to help servicemembers decide if the new benefit is right for them.

Proposals call for enlisted or commissioned members of the armed forces serving on active duty or in the Selected Reserve on or after Aug. 1 to be eligible to transfer their benefits as long as they qualify for the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

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.

The breakdown on this proposal:

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

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

- Those eligible for retirement after Aug. 1 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.

The servicemember's 36 months of benefits, the equivalent of four nine-month academic years, could be transferred to a spouse, one or more children or any combination.

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

Are you giving the Air Force your best?

By

Lt. Col. Will Phillips

62nd Aerial Port Squadron commander

Last month I had the opportunity to attend the noncommissioned officer academy graduation in Colorado Springs, Colo. The keynote speaker at the ceremony was Chief Master Sgt. David Spector, 20th Air Force command chief master sergeant. His message to the graduating class touched on the importance of excellence. He highlighted this theme when he asked the audience, "Are you outstanding, or are you out-processing?"

At a recent commander's call, I posed that question to my personnel. I reminded my personnel that the Air Force is at crossroads. Last March, the Secretary of Defense Robert

Gates released his proposed fiscal 2010 budget. In his budget, he recommended to expand the Army and the Marines, but to keep the Air Force and Navy's personnel numbers the same. Secretary Gates also recommended cutting many of the Air Force's acquisition programs. After reading Secretary Gates' recommendations, Chief Spector's question should hit home to everybody who is serving the Air Force in some capacity.

In today's Air Force, anyone who wants to continue to serve in our service must understand that failing to meet our service's standards will not work. A perfect example of some members failing to meet the Air Force's standard is with their preparation to take their physical fitness test. Since 9/11, the Air Force has made major changes with the fitness program. It has eliminated the bike test for

most Airmen and has replaced it with a more rigorous test. The Air Force also implemented wearing physical training gear, squadron PT and adding whether its military personnel fitness condition meets the service's standards on their appraisals. With all the changes the Air Force has made with the fitness program, some Airmen are still out of shape. In fact, it was briefed at the last status of discipline board that 22 percent of the Airmen discharged from Team McChord last quarter were forced to leave because they failed to pass their annual fitness test.

In today's Air Force and with 2009 being the "Year of the Test" for Team McChord, everybody should honestly ask themselves if they are truly being outstanding, or if their level of performance will force the Air Force to tell them to start out-processing.

The Sharp Airman ...

presents a professional military image in accordance with Air Force Instruction 36-3902.

- Procures and maintain all mandatory clothing items.
- Review and follow local supplements and procedures.

- Uniforms will be neat, clean, pressed, buttoned and properly maintained.
- Does not stand or walk with hands in pockets of any uniform combination, other than to insert or remove items.
- Does not walk in uniform while using cell phones, radios, hands-free headsets unless required in the performance of official duties using a government issued device.
- Does not smoke/use smokeless tobaccos, drink, or eat while walking in uniform.

PROFESSIONALS

of the week

10th Airlift Squadron

Tech. Sgt. Scott Tirevold

Duty Title:
C-17 Globemaster III evaluator loadmaster

Duty section:
Standardization and evaluation

Hometown:
Duluth, Minn.



Why he's tops:
Sergeant Tirevold's duty position as NCOIC of standardization and evaluation makes him responsible for conducting mission and airdrop evaluations for 47 loadmasters and seven evaluators. His superior technical proficiency and steadfast devotion to duty have led to the successful execution of numerous combat missions supporting both Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom, the White House, humanitarian relief and U.S. Army training exercises. He also oversees accurate maintenance of 23 consolidated trip kits, 54 flight evaluation folders and verifies the accuracy of all paperwork related to loadmaster upgrades.

Senior Airman Sean Ide

Duty Title:
C-17 loadmaster

Duty section:
Operations flight/loadmaster scheduling

Hometown:
Tacoma, Wash.



Why he's super:
Airman Ide works in the heart of squadron operations ensuring every mission is properly manned. On average, he maintains a daily contract of seven crews. His resourcefulness allows the squadron to nearly double that number in times of surge. Additionally, Airman Ide orchestrates monthly, quarterly and annual training for 50 members. As a loadmaster, he has airlifted more than 500,000 pounds of cargo and 250 troops into the area of responsibility in the past year. Aerial delivery of the cargo meant that 15 convoy trucks were removed from explosive-laden roads. His dedication to the mission while deployed to Manas Air Base earned him Outstanding Deployed Member of the Month Award.

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62ND AIRLIFT WING, MCCORD AFB, WASHINGTON

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Family Advocacy offers 'magic' parenting class

By

Tyler Hemstreet
Staff writer

Being a good parent is hard enough in today's world without the added stress of deployments and the high operations tempo Airmen deal with on a daily basis.

62nd Medical Squadron Family Advocacy Center professionals here are well aware of the challenges parents face and are anxious to give them the necessary tools to ease tension when it comes to parenting and discipline.

As part of that effort, Family Advocacy staff members are hosting a two-session "1-2-3 Magic" Parenting Class

from 9 a.m. to noon May 21 and 28 at the Airman and Family Readiness Center.

The class is based on the teachings of Dr. Thomas W. Phelan, and focuses on how to discipline without arguing, yelling or spanking, how to control obnoxious behavior, how to strengthen a parent's relationship with their child and a variety of other parenting topics.

"Parenting is difficult even when everything goes well," said Jeanne Morrow, 62nd MDS Family Advocacy outreach manager. "Imagine when you have deployments, finances and other stressors affecting the situation."

The class gives parents a chance to get together and share different expe-

riences and parenting techniques as well as get support from each other, Ms. Morrow said.

"It's nice for parents to feel like they aren't alone in their situation," she said.

The parenting techniques the class is structured around give concrete answers on how to react to various behaviors children display and straightforward tips on better handling the situations.

"We want to give parents as many tools and resources that we can to help them," said Vicky Lunghofer, 62nd MDS new parent support program nurse who will help teach the class.

Some of those tips include remind-

ing parents of how important it is to take care of themselves when their spouse is deployed.

"Kids can sense stress (in parents)," Ms. Lunghofer said. "They react to it."

And sometimes those reactions come in the form of negative behavior, she said.

"We're spending so much time on discipline, we're not noticing when they do good things," Ms. Lunghofer said.

The class will help parents find more opportunities for positive time with their child "which is what they really want," Ms. Morrow said.

For more information on "1-2-3 Magic" or to register for the class, call 982-1511.



Homeowners PCSing have various aid options

By
Capt. Justin Lonergan
 62nd Airlift Wing
 Legal Office

The economic downturn has affected Airmen here just as it has most Americans. Whether it is selling a house, finding a new place during permanent change of station season or just trying to make ends meet on a daily basis, Airmen should remember that they have numerous support options.

The economy is making this upcoming PCS season particularly difficult for homeowners looking to sell their real estate. Market values have dropped significantly in most areas, and market interest is making only small steps toward past levels. Congress, however, recently authorized changes to the Defense Department

Homeowners' Assistance Program, providing possible options such as cash reimbursement or government purchase when a servicemember's home sells for a depressed value or, even worse, not at all. Not everyone will qualify, however, and even those who do qualify should not expect to break entirely even. More concrete program guidance is expected within weeks, but for more information, visit the HAP website at <http://hap.usace.army.mil/>.

Homeowners are not the only servicemembers the economic downturn has impacted – renters have also felt the impact. For instance, servicemembers renting their homes have been displaced when their landlord entered foreclosure. In response to this growing problem, DoD officials changed the Joint Travel Regulation, allowing some

servicemembers to make quick, local moves at government expense if they lose their rented home. Even if one's rental home is not at risk, sometimes there is an option which allows renters to terminate their existing automobile or residential lease when they PCS or deploy.

Besides these options, servicemembers should remember that they have legal options on everything from lawsuits and evictions to credit card debt. The Servicemembers Civil Relief Act can help in some cases to actually put court proceedings or evictions on hold. Some may also qualify for lower interest rates on some pre-service debts. However, not everyone will qualify for SCRA protection, as each situation is unique.

Sometimes servicemembers just have trouble making ends meet. Now is the right time to start planning

for short- and long-term solutions. Whether it is emergency aid due to an unexpected situation or financial planning to insulate one's family in the future, resources like the Airman and Family Readiness Center, Military OneSource and the 62nd Airlift Wing Legal Office can work with Airmen to find the most workable options.

Airmen have the option to schedule a one-on-one appointment with the AFRC and the Legal Office to discuss one's individual situation and needs. Although not everyone will qualify for every benefit, the office staff members will work with Airmen to explore options and then follow through to assist them in processing their way through these programs. For more information, Airmen can contact the AFRC at 982-2695 and the Legal Office at 982-5512.

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



Health officials discourage aspirin use by troops

By

Gerry J. Gilmore

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — The Defense Department is directing servicemembers and government civilians deployed in overseas war zones to refrain from taking aspirin unless under a doctor's orders, a senior military physician said here today.

"Aspirin use for reasons other than medical indications is discouraged," said Army Col. (Dr.) Tony Carter, director for operational medicine and medical force readiness under the deputy assistant secretary of defense for force health protection, a component of the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs.

Military medical authorities also advise that troops slated for deployment to combat zones should cease taking aspirin at least 10 days before departure, Carter told Pentagon Channel and American Forces Press Service reporters.

Aspirin is "a platelet-inhibitor," Carter explained.

Platelets are small cells floating in the blood that induce hemostasis — the process that causes bleeding to stop through the forming of blood clots. Low amounts of blood platelets can lead to excessive bleeding.

"Those platelets serve an important role in stopping bleeding once it occurs," Carter said.

Then-Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs Dr. S. Ward Casscells III signed a March 12 memorandum that noted aspirin use by troops deployed in contingency areas could contribute to excessive bleeding in the event of wounding or injury.

Blood loss is the most common cause of preventable death associated with combat injuries, the memorandum said.

Carter recalled Casscells asking his staff if the military was discouraging aspirin use by people deploying to combat zones where they stood risk of injury. The answer at the time was no, Carter said.

The subsequent memorandum, Carter said, also directed the cessation of "over-the-counter access" to aspirin through Army and Air Force Exchange Service outlets or morale, welfare and recreation

activities in war zones. AAFES has jurisdiction over Army post exchanges and Air Force base exchanges.

AAFES is complying with the Health Affairs-issued memorandum, noting in a news release that its "operations in contingency locations are removing all products containing aspirin from their shelves."

The intent of the new policy, Carter said, is to "discourage the inadvertent use of aspirin" in combat zones. People who routinely take small doses of aspirin per doctor's orders to maintain vascular health should be all right, he said, but they should consult their physician.

Servicemembers and civilians could substitute over-the-counter, non-aspirin-based medications — such as Tylenol or Motrin — for treatment of colds, fever, muscle aches and other maladies, Carter said.

"I think we should take every measure possible to make sure that we minimize blood loss," Carter said. "And, not taking aspirin, unless you need to take it, is one of those mechanisms that we want to use."

New selective re-enlistment bonus list announced

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFNS) — Pentagon officials recently released the latest selective re-enlistment bonus list which contains 82 Air Force specialties.

The revised listing increased bonuses for one Air Force specialty code — contracting. Seventeen AFSCs will receive lower SRBs than previously offered and seven AFSCs were removed from the program.

"Since the bonuses announced in 2008 were successful, the Air Force has seen an increase in the

overall retention rates," said Michael McLaughlin, chief of Air Force re-enlistments at the Air Force Personnel Center here. "The contracting career field is the only career field in which we are still seeing significant shortages."

Air Force officials use SRBs as an effective retention tool to shape the force and address shortages in skill sets considered necessary to support the joint coalition fight, emerging missions and the nuclear enterprise.

A recent review of the program indicated that some AFSCs have regained manpower and no longer require the bonuses. Other AFSCs, however, require increases to achieve the required retention rates and skill sets.

All increases and additions will be effective May 1 and all decreases and deletions will go into effect May 31. Any re-enlistments or extensions of any length that have been conducted prior to the official message release will remain valid.

This release does not apply to Air Force Reserve or Air National Guard personnel.

For a complete SRB listing, visit AFPC's "Ask" Web site and click on the "military" tab. After that, select "active duty enlisted," then "Reenlistments" and click on "Selective Reenlistment Bonus (SRB)."

For more information about the SRB program, contact the re-enlistment office or the career enhancement element at your local military personnel flight or section.



From JOINT BASE, Page 1 —

Mitchell is responsible for 21 Army civilian personnel advisory centers, known as CPACs, with nearly 50,000 civilian and non-appropriated fund employees.

"There is a high level of involvement by both of the human resources chiefs," Mitchell said.

"They both know each other's processes and procedures. It is obvious there is a good communication flow between the Army and the Air Force."

Looking forward for JBLM, Mitchell said there may be more jobs for civilians.

"There is a potential for a recruitment surge. However, that will become clearer as we move forward," she said. "As far as the human resources issues go, the JBLM workshop has been a very collaborative effort."

Robert Urich, from office of the Secretary of Defense for Installations and Environment praised the workshop. According to Mr. Urich, the real estate of both installations will become the responsibility of the new joint base command.

"It's absolutely evident that there has been extensive preparation by Fort Lewis and McChord workgroups

for this MOA event," said Mr. Urich, a veteran of several other JOA workshops. "Additionally, logistics of the workshop have enabled work of this week to be effective and productive."

He said the biggest real property challenge for the new base is recognizing real property issues beyond space inside the fence lines of the two installations. There are several outlying sites that need to be addressed as well.

"This is a common challenge that we have seen in many of the other joint bases," Mr. Urich said.

Army Lt. Col. Terry Boyd of the Department of the Army Assistant Chief Staff for Installation Management has participated in five joint base MOA workshops.

"This has been a very successful workshop and it has done exactly what we hoped it would do, which is elevate decisions and determine exactly what the requirements are as we go forward," Colonel Boyd said.

The joint installation will have efficiencies down the road, he said.

"Maximum efficiencies will take a few years — probably about five years," Colonel Boyd said. "In terms of overall joint base environment, Lewis-McChord will become what we call the gold standard of joint bases."

Air Force officials to release master sergeant promotion list

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFNS) — The Air Force Personnel Center will post the selection list for master sergeant promotions on the Air Force Portal and AFPC public and military Web sites May 14 at 8 a.m. Central time.

This is the first time in 12 years the master sergeant and technical sergeant promotion lists have not been released simultaneously. The advent of the virtual enlisted promotion release application has facilitated the individual releases, allowing greater time for individual recognition in the respective ranks.

The technical sergeant selection list is scheduled to be re-

leased June 18.

In addition to the AFPC public Web site, the list will also be posted on the:

- Air Force Portal
- AFPC Spotlight
- Promotions page on the AFPC "Ask" Web site

Airmen can access their score notices via Air Force Portal and virtual Military Personnel Flight.

Accompanying promotion statistics will be released later this month.

For more information, visit the enlisted promotions page on the AFPC "Ask" Web site. You can also get more information through the 24-hour Total Force Service Center at (800) 525-0102.

He added that the transformation to a joint base will be invisible to most people.

"The military mission won't be impacted and the services will be the

same or better. However, in about five years, I'll bet that most people will step back and say that we are a lot better off being Joint Base Lewis-McChord," the colonel said.



McChord Airmen

AROUND THE WORLD



Photo by Staff Sgt. Joshua Garcia

SOUTHWEST ASIA — Master Sgt. Ramon Erpelo, 62nd Force Support Squadron, right, sanitizes and sets up equipment in the new Coalition Compound Dining Facility at an air base during a recent deployment.



Courtesy photo

SOUTHWEST ASIA — Master Sgt. Kathleen Dashnea, 62nd FSS, center, and her Personnel Support for Contingency Operations team receive the Desert Diamond Award for Excellence from the deployed wing's First Sergeant Council during a recent deployment.



Team McChord: Fostering a culture of excellence



Master Sergeant Eric Dismuke, 62nd Contracting Squadron, right, and project superintendent Dan Scholz discuss progress to a renovation project in building 1422 while performing a site visit of the area Tuesday. The 62nd CONS was recognized as the 2008 Outstanding Contracting Unit (Small) as part of Air Mobility Command's Contracting Awards.



McChord Airmen compete in a challenge during First Friday recently. The McChord Club was recognized as the 2008 Club of the Year as part of the Annual Air Mobility Command A1 Award Winners.



Tech. Sgt. Carlos Damian, 62nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron and instructor during a recent sport bike class, inspects a bike before taking the class on a ride. The 62nd Airlift Wing Ground Safety Office — which plays a big role in organizing and running the class — was awarded the 2008 AMC Distinguished Ground Safety Award (Large/Composite Wing).

Team McChord has a long history of outstanding performers. Below is a sample of the many award winners from last year.

2008 Award winners

62nd Communications Squadron

2008 Communications Awards

- Air Force Communications and Information Lieutenant General Harold W. Grant Award: 62nd CS
- Air Force Outstanding Information Assurance Program Manager: Audrey Dubay

62nd Contracting Squadron

2008 Air Mobility Command Contracting Awards

- Outstanding Contracting Unit (Small)
- Outstanding Contracting Officer: 1st Lt. Kellen Logan

62nd Security Forces Squadron

2008 MAJCOM Security Forces Annual Award

- Outstanding Security Forces Staff Level NCO of the Year: Staff Sgt. David Kechter
- Outstanding Security Forces Civilian Employee of the Year: Charles Thornton

62nd Airlift Wing Safety Office

2008 AMC Safety Awards Nominations for AF-level Safety Awards

- AMC Distinguished Ground Safety Award (Large/Composite Wing)
- AMC Distinguished Explosives Safety Award
- AMC Distinguished Nuclear Surety Award
- AMC Safety Office of the Year Award
- AMC Operational Risk Management Achievement Award
- AMC Explosives Safety Individual of the Year Award: Master Sgt. Dean Seibert

62nd Airlift Wing Command Post

2008 Fixed Command and Control Awards

- AMC Command Post Airman Controller of the Year: Senior Airman Andrew Menard

62nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

2008 AMC Media Contest

- Sports Writing Category: Tyler Hemstreet
- Radio Spot Production: Tech. Sgt. Oshawn Jefferson
- Radio Spot Production: Maj. Doug Edwards

62nd Medical Squadron

2008 AMC Medical Service Award

- Team Aerospace
- Small Base Health Promotion
- Base Bioenvironmental Engineering NCO: Tech. Sgt. Angela Suafoa

• Biomedical Equipment Repair Airman: Senior Airman Robert Hobart

- Field Grade Optometrist: Maj. Christine Stabile
- Medical Materiel Airman: Airman Bethany Pattee
- Ophthalmic NCO: Staff Sgt. James Gonzalez
- SNCO Pharmacy Technician: Senior Master Sgt. Mark Yurkovich

62nd Comptroller Squadron

2008 Financial Management Annual Award Winner

- Financial Management Civilian of the Year Payband II or GS-9: Jessica Summers

62nd Force Support Squadron

2008 Annual AMC A1 Award Winners

- Club of the Year
- Career Assistance Advisor of the Year: Master Sgt. Tammy Wagendorf
- Manpower Intermediate Civilian of the Year Base Level: Robert McAlpine
- Manpower Senior Civilian of the Year Base Level: Sylvia Maine
- Services Civilian Manager of the Year Base Level: Josh Boisvert

62nd Operations Support Squadron

2008 Air Force Outstanding Aircrew Flight Equipment Awards

- Outstanding AFE Category I Civilian of the Year: Cedrick Delcastillo

2008 AMC Air Traffic Control and Airfield Management Awards

- Air Traffic Civilian Controller in Charge of the Year: James Robson
- Airfield Management/Journeyman Civilian Technician of the Year: Urouse Williams

2008 Aviation Resource Management Awards

- Outstanding Arms SNCO of the Year: Master Sgt. Shawn Bitton
- Outstanding Arms Civilian Supervisor of the Year: Joseph Reulbach

62nd Logistics Readiness Squadron

2008 AMC Logistics Readiness Annual Individual Awards

- AF Vehicle Operations Airman of the Year: Senior Airman Mark Broadhead
- George F. Ruestow AF Logistics Readiness Senior Civilian Manager of the Year: Christopher Ferris
- AF Materiel Management Civilian Supervisor/Leader of the Year: Teresa Standish

• AF Transportation Civilian Technician of the Year: Terry Wheaton

62nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

• CMSAF Thomas N. Barnes Crew Chief of the Year: Tech. Sgt. Theodore Rohde

62nd Maintenance Squadron

• 2008 Lt. Gen. Leo Marquez Outstanding Munitions/Missile Maintenance Person of the Year

- Civilian Technician: James Fehr
- Civilian Manager: Herbert Wilkins

446th Airlift Wing

2008 Air Force awards

- Air Force Exceptional Innovator of the Year: Tech. Sgt. Christopher Parcasio, 446th Maintenance Squadron

2008 Air Mobility Command awards

- AMC Maintenance Effectiveness Award, Medium Aircraft Maintenance Category 446th Maintenance Squadron (in partnership with 62nd Maintenance Squadron)
- AMC Reserve Associate Maintenance Officer of the Year: Capt. Terry Rosenbalm, 446th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
- AMC Reserve Associate Maintenance Superintendent of the Year: Master Sgt. Mark Hewitt, 446th AMXS
- AMC Reserve Associate Maintenance Technician of the Year: Tech. Sgt. Thomas Raynor, 446th AMXS

Air Force Reserve Command awards

- AFRC Maintenance Section of the Year: 446th Avionics Maintenance Shop
- Airman of the Year: Senior Airman Channel Bolton-Sholl, 446th Maintenance Squadron
- Outstanding AFRC Aeromedical Evacuation Crew Member (Officer of the Year): Maj. Carolyn Newhouse, 446th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron
- Lieutenant General Leo Marquez Award (Supervisor Manager Category): Master Sgt. Kurt Schafer, 446th MXS
- Lieutenant General Leo Marquez Award (Technician Supervisor Category): Tech. Sgt. Thomas Raynor, 446th Maintenance Squadron
- Lieutenant General Leo Marquez Award (Technician Category): Senior Airman Ashley Durand, 446th AMXS
- AFRC Outstanding Civil Engineer Manager of the Year (Senior NCO Category): Master Sgt. Dean Peloquin, 446th Civil Engineer Squadron

Bagram officials stand up 4 new squadrons

By

Staff Sgt. Jason Lake
455th Air Expeditionary Wing

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan (AFNS) — Bagram Airfield officials have added four new squadrons to their growing list of units during an assumption of command ceremony here May 5.

More than 1,200 joint expeditionary tasking and provincial reconstruction team Airmen deployed to more than 40 forward operating bases and camps throughout Afghanistan will now be as-

signed to 655th, 755th, 855th or 955th Air Expeditionary Squadrons under the 755th Air Expeditionary Group.

“As our mission roles have increased, it became obvious we needed to reorganize the 755th AEG,” said Col. James Reed, the 755th AEG commander, before unfurling the new unit guidons. “These squadrons will be instrumental in taking care of our Airmen working side by side with the Army, coalition forces and the Afghan people fighting terrorism in Afghanistan.”

Colonel Reed said the leadership, management and expertise of the new squadron commanders and staff will

provide greater accountability, administrative control and support for Airmen.

The four squadrons coincide with International Security Assistance Force's regions of responsibility and provide support for Airmen in more than 130 different Air Force specialty codes.

The 655th AES located at Forward Operating Base Sharana and will oversee more than 200 Airmen at more than 20 locations within Regional Command East.

The 755th AES located at Kandahar Airfield will command approximately 300 Airmen in Regional Commands

South and West.

The 855th AES located at Camp Phoenix will have more than 525 Airmen in the Regional Command Capital area in and around Kabul.

The 955th AES will have more than 600 Airmen in Regional Command North to include Bagram Airfield.

In March, U.S. Air Forces Central also stood up the 504th Expeditionary Air Support Operations Group here to provide command and control over more than 125 air liaison officers, tactical air controllers and combat weather Airmen supporting missions throughout the country.



'Continuum of Service' video promotes total force options

WASHINGTON, (AFPN) — In an effort to retain highly skilled Airmen for a lifetime of service, Air Force leaders recently unveiled a Continuum of Service video to promote seamless changes in duty status in the total force structure.

The video gives Airmen an understanding of their service options and solicits feedback from its viewers.

"Development and caring for our Airmen is one of the Air Force's top priorities," said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz. "This development includes educating Airmen about the role of the total force,

active duty, Guard, Reserve and civil service."

Continuum of Service is a transformational initiative designed to enable the accession, retention and transition of Airmen between active duty, Guard, Reserve and civil service components using integrated personnel management policies and processes.

The general explained that the Continuum of Service initiative helps eliminate impediments to Airmen's service by identifying and updating legacy policies, leveraging technology and financial resources,

developing legislation and removing cultural bias.

"We are dedicated to identifying barriers and minimizing or eliminating them when possible," said Lt. Gen. Charles Stenner, chief of the Air Force Reserve.

Senior Air Force leaders emphasized retention of top talent depends on their ability to provide viable service options throughout an Airman's career. The Continuum of Service philosophy means giving Airmen over the entire length and all components of their service a management environment with seamless

movement between duty statuses required to support total force operations.

"This is one program we need to support and get right," Gen. Craig McKinley, chief of the National Guard Bureau, said in the video. "I've seen and helped military members who are struggling because of bureaucratic barriers and antiquated systemic problems. It's time to set the system straight and get this total force initiative on track."

To find out more about Continuum of Service, view the video at <https://www.safmr.hq.af.mil>.



AMC paves way for MRAP delivery to AOR

By

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

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill. — Air Mobility Command's hub for global airlift, air refueling and aeromedical evacuation is "all in" with its commitment to support joint worldwide operations, including efforts to deliver Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles to support the increasing U.S. presence in Afghanistan.

The vehicles, commonly referred to as MRAPs, feature V-shaped hulls and a raised chassis design to deflect underbelly blasts, and have proven to be lifesavers against improvised explosive devices.

The MRAPs are transported overseas to Iraq and Afghanistan by a combination of sealift and airlift assets, all working to fulfill requirements coordinated by the U.S. Transportation Command, headquartered at Scott Air Force Base, Ill. The 618th Tanker Airlift Control Center, also at Scott AFB, is the organization responsible for planning and executing the airlift missions to meet the MRAP need.

"When requirements are identified to move MRAPs or MRAP-like vehicles by air, the 618th TACC schedules those missions, finds an aircraft and aircrew available to fly the missions, and obtains permission from other governments to fly over their countries while executing the mis-

sions," said Maj. Gen. Mark S. Solo, 618th TACC commander. "And once those missions are airborne, our 24-hour operations floor acts as 'virtual crewmember,' fulfilling any mission needs for that aircrew to make things go as smoothly as possible."

The 618th TACC has been the lead for centralized control of AMC airlift, air refueling and aeromedical evacuation operations worldwide since its activation April 1, 1992. That coordination in recent years has included hundreds of thousands of point-to-point flights, called sorties, in support of Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom.

In fact, for OIF and OEF alone, AMC aircrews have flown more than 358,000 sorties, which includes transportation of more than 5 million passengers and 2.6 million tons of supplies since the operations began.

"We work very hard to meet the needs of our forces on the ground, and to-date in 2009 we've been able to coordinate airlift to move nearly 500 MRAPs to overseas locations, almost exclusively into Afghanistan," said Maj. Charles Velino, chief of the 618th TACC division that plans MRAP airlift missions. "As combatant commands [such as U.S. Central Command, responsible for operations in Iraq and Afghanistan] update their requirements, we're continually working to plan new missions to meet their needs, in this case their need for MRAPs, as fast as possible."

MRAPs were introduced in 2007,



Photo by Staff Sgt. April Quintanilla

Airmen load a Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle onto a C-5 Galaxy in this stock photo from Charleston Air Force Base, S.C. The 618th Tanker Airlift Control Center has coordinated movement of nearly 500 of these vehicles into Iraq and Afghanistan, to-date in 2009.

and since that time AMC Airmen, starting at the 618th TACC, have been working around-the-clock planning, coordinating and executing missions to rush the vehicles into Iraq and Afghanistan. In fact, an Air Force C-5 'Galaxy' delivered the 10,000th MRAP to troops overseas in late September last year.

"Delivering an MRAP overseas

is an extremely fulfilling mission," said Tech. Sgt. Jamey Caskey, a C-17 Globemaster III loadmaster who has delivered MRAPs to troops in Iraq and now plans missions as a member of the 618th TACC. "When you put one of those vehicles in the hands of the men and women on the ground, you know you're having a life-saving impact."



NCO brings calm over camp, Beethoven brings in buyers

By
Staff Sgt. Stacia Zachary
 AFCENT Combat Camera
 News Team

FORWARD OPERATING BASE GARDEZ, Afghanistan — Strains of classical music stream from the doorway of a weather-beaten building at this forward operating base in the middle of the Afghan countryside.

Housed within those whitewashed walls is a lone the Army and Air Force Exchange Service store. Staff Sgt. Eric Began, a member of the Paktya Provincial Reconstruction Team, is responsible for stocking the shelves and seeing to the needs of those on FOB Gardez. He also has taken on the responsibility of bringing a little culture to the desolate base sitting in a niche of the Afghan mountainside.

“There is little to come by here but people donate supplies on their way out or the extra goodies from packages from home that get mailed in,” said Sergeant Began, a Lancaster, Pa., native finishing up his 6-year enlistment. “Someone needs to be here to make sure what little we have is available. It’s the small comforts of home that are stocked.”

With only a few stragglers entering store, the staff sergeant found he had idle time on his hands. Intent on making the most out of his time, Sergeant Began started learning the piano.

“In January, I decided that I would teach myself how to play so I ordered some beginner books and started to learn how to read music,” he said. “Once I felt comfortable with the notes, I started out with easy Christmas music. At first it took almost a minute to find each key.”

After a while the sergeant decided to move on to other types of music. After hearing some classical music, he decided to learn a ballad by

Ludwig van Beethoven. Before long, that became too easy and he moved onto the concerto version of Fur Elise.

It is this melody that can be heard most often streaming from the listing doorway and attracts the attention of the FOB wayfarers.

“I like the spirit of (the music),” said Army 1st Lt. Justin Roman, 549th Military Police Company here. “It takes discipline to (learn the piano) and is a very productive use of his time. It’s important to make the most out of this time away from home.”

A self-confirmed jack-of-all-trades, Sergeant Began is on his third deployment in support of the war on terrorism. On all three deployments, he has been tasked as an Army asset. During his first deployment to Iraq, the sergeant provided convoy security as a driver and later as a .50-caliber gunner for anyone who needed a gun truck when leaving the confines of the base. On the second deployment, Sergeant Began was stationed in Kuwait as a line-haul truck driver.

Both previous deployments dealt Sergeant Began his fair share of frustration, often without an outlet to relieve the stresses of everyday life dealing with difficult missions and different personalities.

“On my last deployment, I was angry for an entire month and it took me a while to get over a lot of things,” he said. “On this deployment, I was reaching that point where I was getting angry at certain situations so when this opportunity presented itself for me to do something for me, I took it. Teaching myself how to play the piano has given me a certain calm that is helping me get through this deployment.”

One night in the early stages of learning the basic fundamentals of playing the piano, there was a storm and the power went out in his building. The ivory of the piano keys were luminous in the pale green glow of the keyboard’s



Photo by Staff Sgt. Shawn Weismiller

Staff Sgt. Eric Began, a member of the Paktya Provincial Reconstruction Team, relaxes at Forward Operating Base Gardez by playing the piano. Sergeant Began taught himself how to play the keyboard as a way to pass time during his deployment to Afghanistan.

reserve battery. This light allowed the sergeant to continue playing.

“Only the shadows of the keys were visible but there was enough light that I continued to play,” Sergeant Began said. “In that moment, alone in the dark with the rain pouring down, I was able to forget where I was. It was so peaceful.”

With only a few months left on his enlistment, Sergeant Began already has set his mind on his next adventure.

“This will be my last deployment and that’s a good thing,” he said. “I have learned a lot about myself and what I want (in life) from my time wearing this uniform. I’m ready to move on to college and other pursuits. Life is short and being (in Afghanistan) has showed me I need to experience everything life throws my way.”



Ice cream social and silent auction

Carter Lake Elementary PTA hosts a free ice cream social and silent auction from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. today at the school cafeteria. A wide variety of gift baskets put together by students are available for bidding. For more information, call Daphne Rechner at 507-4140.

Ginko Dr. closes Monday

Due to new housing construction traffic, Ginko Dr. and the park across the street closes Monday. The parking lot and restroom are scheduled to be demolished.

62nd CES retirement

The 62nd Civil Engineer Squadron hosts a retirement party for Fred Travis' 49 years in federal service at 11:30 a.m. May 28 in Bldg. 588. Those interested in attending can call Earlene Moody at 982-2971 or Ginny Gonzalez at 982-5597.

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.

McChord Multicultural celebration

The McChord Multicultural 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 Sergeant 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 Em-

ployment 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 Military Spouse Career Fair runs 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

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, diabetes 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.

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 Tuesday and Wednesday 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. Thursday thru May 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.

Madigan Annex TBI classes

Traumatic Brain Injuries Program education series classes for educators and healthcare providers are offered Thursdays at the Madigan annex on Fort Lewis. For more information, call the TBI nurse educator, Lindy Peterson, at 968-3161.

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.

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.



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



McChord Company Grade Officers Counsel Bowling Tournament

When: Tuesday 19 May 2009/ 1300
Where: McChord Sounders Bowling Center
Cost : \$10 per Player / 5 person teams



Open to everyone!

Prizes for top scoring male, female, and team

The CGOC volunteers off-duty time to give back to the base and community in forms of community service, scholarships, and other community based functions and opportunities. Proceeds go towards the CGOC annual \$500 scholarships awarded to military and civilian dependants pursuing higher education.



To sign up, call or email

Lt Michael Rajchel at 982-0656 or Lt Tiffany Sellers at 982-5561
michael.raichel@mcchord.af.mil - tiffany.sellers@mcchord.af.mil

NAMES TO NOTE

The following Airmen recently scored a 90 percent or better on their Career Development Courses.

- **Airman 1st Class Derek Haupt, 62nd AMXS (93)**
- **Airman 1st Class Andrew Hagen, 4th AS (93)**
- **Airman 1st Class Jacob Colley, 62nd AMXS (92)**
- **Senior Airman Daniel Cagle, 62nd Security Forces Squadron (92)**
- **Staff Sgt. Christopher Anderson, 62nd Force Support Squadron (92)**
- **Airman 1st Class Andrew Spaulding, 62nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron (91)**
- **Staff Sgt. Eric Burks, 62nd Airlift Wing (91)**
- **Staff Sgt. Joshua Goss, 62nd APS (90)**
- **Airman 1st Class Timothy Glover, 4th Airlift Squadron (90)**
- **Airman 1st Class Edward Feilen, 62nd Aerial Port Squadron (90)**

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

