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McChord Air Force Base, Wash.

Connecting Team McChord with the Combat Airlift Mission

June 12, 2009

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Team McChord trains NATO crew chiefs

By
Tyler Hemstreet
Staff writer

When the new NATO base in Papa, Hungary, becomes fully operational in the next few months, Team McChord can take great pride in the fact it played a role in helping establish an installation which will support airlift operations of 12 nations.

Five flying crew chiefs — three from Sweden, one from Norway and another from Estonia — completed an 18-day training course here Wednesday, preparing them to work aboard three NATO C-17 Globemaster IIIs which will be stationed at the new base.

The Strategic Airlift Capability Partnership, which includes 10 NATO nations and two non-NATO members (Sweden and Finland), acquired the aircraft to increase NATO's ability to transport large numbers of troops and supplies throughout the world.

After completing a month-long C-17 familiarization course at the 373rd Training Squadron, Det. 12 here, the five airmen received some hands-on training detailing some of the more difficult and non-routine issues C-17 flying crew chiefs encounter, said instruc-

tor Master Sgt. Matthew Roder, 62nd Maintenance Operations Squadron.

"We're training them on problems and tasks they won't see on a regular basis," Sergeant Roder said.

Though all of the crew chiefs have several years of aviation maintenance experience under their belts, working on the C-17 is new territory.

"I've been working with the C-130 (Hercules), which is basically an old aircraft and this is a new aircraft with new technology, so that has been quite a bit of a challenge," said Capt. Stig Henriksen, Norwegian air force.

The course was also challenging in that instructors had to slow down and explain some of the aircraft's many system acronyms, further testing the compressed timeline allowed for completion, Sergeant Roder said.

"It's an intense course. It's more or less trying to drink water from a fire hose," Captain Henriksen said. "But there are things with the transition course that we've been able to repeat. It's a very good course and the instructors are well aware of what we do need to learn. I'm very impressed."

The new base will have three U.S. Airmen waiting to receive the five new crew chiefs to help them get acclimated to their new aircraft. Despite the sup-



Photo by Abner Guzman

Master Sgt. Matthew Roder, 62nd Maintenance Operations Squadron, checks the intercom system aboard a C-17 Globemaster III while familiarizing NATO airmen with the back loadmaster station on the aircraft Tuesday.

port, the transition has brought a new way of doing business to the airmen.

"With the C-130 there were three mechanics aboard, now I'm going to be alone," said 1st Lt. Urban Rosberg,

Swedish air force, who's worked on C-130s for nearly 25 years. "But we'll also have support from Boeing engineers, plus we'll get the newest block of C-17s."

Airman's training, actions save a life with SABC

By
Tyler Hemstreet
Staff writer

While working part-time over the last year as a skate attendant at Sprinker Ice Arena in Tacoma, Staff Sgt. Wade Claypool, 62nd Maintenance Squadron, has seen his share of injuries happen out on the ice.

That includes everything from sliced fingers to broken ankles.

But he hadn't seen anything like what happened in February when a guest went into cardiac arrest inside the rink after a skating session.

Sergeant Claypool's Self-Aid and Buddy Care training and fast thinking played a major role in saving the guest's life, and he received an Air Force Achievement Medal from Col. Jeffrey Stephenson, 62nd Airlift Wing commander, during a ceremony May 28 at 62nd MXS headquarters.

It all started after the guest collapsed in front of the snack bar. He was unresponsive and had difficulty breathing.

"At first I didn't know what was going on," Sergeant Claypool said.

After rolling the guest over onto his back to get a better feel for the situation, Sergeant Claypool said things took a turn for the worse.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jonathan Frederick

Col. Jeffrey Stephenson, 62nd Airlift Wing commander, presents Staff Sgt. Wade Claypool, 62nd Maintenance Squadron, with an Air Force Achievement Medal citation during a ceremony May 28.

"His face was starting to turn blue," he said.

While staff members called 911, Sergeant Claypool retrieved an automated external defibrillator and applied electrical shock. The shock helped return the guest's breathing to normal, he said.

Paramedics arrived a few minutes later and took the guest out on a gurney. A couple of days later, the

guest underwent quadruple bypass heart surgery.

"It was a surreal night," Sergeant Claypool said.

The sergeant credits some of the techniques he learned in SABC class for giving him the tools and know-how to respond to the situation.

"(Sergeant Claypool) was able to use the initial steps (taught in the class) to be able to see what was going on with the patient and then know what to do," said Staff Sgt. Christopher Leaton, 62nd Maintenance Operations Squadron, SABC and CPR instructor. "Knowing how to use the AED works hand-in-hand with CPR."

One of the paramedics returned to the center a week later to let Sergeant Claypool know that his quick thinking and actions with the AED saved the guest's life.

"Often when paramedics respond to calls they see how a lack of skill and general knowledge by the general public can contribute to the deterioration of someone's condition," Sergeant Leaton said. "It's probably a neat thing for them to be able to see that someone was able to respond and help."

Although Sergeant Claypool is quick to downplay his hero status, he admits he is responsible for one key thing.

"I just shocked him. I'd hope anyone would do the same thing," he said. "It's important to pay attention (in the SABC class) because it really does matter."

DUI
hitboard

Received by a 62nd AMXS technical sergeant

20

Call Airmen Against Drunk Driving at 722-AAAD for a free ride home any weekend, holiday or wing down day from 10 p.m. to 4 a.m. For all McChord members with a military I.D. card.

Number of days since the last DUI at McChord. As of Thursday.

Countdown to success

Rodeo..... **38** days
Next MOBEX..... **91** days
Operational Readiness Inspection..... **136** days

Don't miss it ...

62nd Airlift Wing run

3 p.m. Thursday in front of Hangar 4.

Don't put boundaries on being a wingman

By

Maj. Jennifer Barnard
62nd Maintenance Squadron
commander

There's been a lot of emphasis placed on being good wingmen lately. Appropriately, that emphasis is focused on looking out for one another off-duty. However I'd like you all to also consider what it means to be a wingman on duty.

We're part of an amazing orga-

nization that has the structure to support each other. I would submit to you that we need to be wingmen at all levels; look out for your fellow Airmen whether it is of a personal or a professional nature. We can each do our part to build positive work environments and grow each other professionally. At the very least, you may find someone else's perspective interesting since we all come from different backgrounds and upbringing.

We can network with our peers

and make each other better Airmen. It can be related to safety, standards, uniforms, perceptions, professional growth, networking ... just about anything – and you never know when you're going to be able to help someone or they can help you just by being aware of one another's situation. It's true whether we're referring to peers in the same career field or peers in different career fields.

For example, a pilot or loadmaster might grow as an operator from

talking to a maintenance officer or propulsion technician. A maintainer might learn from talking to a medical technician. A medical technician might gain understanding from talking to someone in the civil engineer squadron. I could go on and on, but one way or another, we all support each other. All I ask is that you ponder that thought and try it – approach someone about what they do and be open to the opportunities that might arise from engaging in conversation.

No 'easy button' to real mission success

By

Lt. Col. James Ray
4th Airlift Squadron commander

Undoubtedly, you have all seen the office supply store commercial advertising the use of the "Easy Button." The person on the commercial hits the "Easy Button" and all of his problems are magically solved. We all know that isn't reality and to attain success in anything requires hard work and dedication.

Five months have passed since the wing passed its Nuclear Surety Inspection and Team McChord's state of readiness is stronger than ever. Last month, several members from our base made great strides in preparation for the upcoming ORI at the first fly-away mobility exercises.

For the last several months, the base has been performing at "surge" capacity to support war-fighter operations abroad. Great results do not come from the use of the "Easy Button," but from a daily focus on the mission.

This daily attention also means using limited time and resources wisely. The second you take your eye off the ball, setbacks will immediately occur. Fortunately, our base understands the importance of accomplishing the mission and each team member goes the extra mile to make sure every aspect of the mission is done exactly right. Professionalism is at the very heart of any mission success. Every individual on the base, military and civilian, has a distinct and important role to play. Although the duties can be quite different from organization to organization, the common thread you will find is dedicated professionals committed to the mission.

There are many crucial characteristics that define professionals. What exactly does it mean to be a professional? Most importantly, professionals have a sense of duty, which means doing whatever it takes to get the job done. For the greater good, they often voluntarily forgo free time and family time to meet the challenge at hand. Professionals do not shy away from the hard issues. They seek to achieve excellence in all they do. Professionals are experts in their field and pride themselves on accepting nothing less than perfection. Being a professional is rarely ever easy, but it is certainly rewarding, and it never comes with an "Easy Button."

The Sharp Airman ...

knows that Retreat sounds on McChord at 4:30 p.m. daily. They know to be aware and listen for it. If outside, they render

the proper military customs and courtesies; if in a car they stop and sit quietly until the last note has sounded.

Airmen are always invited to the base flagpole in front of Bldg. 100 every Thursday for the weekly formal Retreat.

PROFESSIONALS

of the week

62nd Medical Squadron

Staff Sgt. Natalie Lasher

Duty Title:
ADAPT program NCOIC

Duty section:
Behavioral health flight

Hometown:
Colorado Springs, Colo.

Why she's super:

Sergeant Lasher proved herself an outstanding and critical asset of McChord's Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention and Treatment program. As the NCOIC, she conducts substance abuse evaluations and provides counseling and treatment for Team McChord Airmen. She also serves as a liaison for first sergeants and commanders on substance abuse and fitness for duty concerns. Sergeant Lasher has been a leader in prevention efforts to curb driving under the influence of alcohol incidents and substance abuse through working groups, base briefings and commander's calls.



Staff Sgt. Melanie Pitts

Duty Title:
Community health NCOIC

Duty section:
Public health office

Hometown:
Kingsport, Tenn.

Why she's tops:

Sergeant Pitts is responsible for monitoring the health and wellness of the entire McChord community. She conducts daily disease surveillance to ensure timely identification of locally emerging disease trends. Her skills were recently put to the test and validated in the H1N1 influenza detection and control campaign. Sergeant Pitts also inspects the nearly 40 base food/public facilities to prevent food borne illness and disease outbreaks.



Do you have a story idea? Spread the news in The NW Airlifter!
Call Public Affairs at 982-5637 or e-mail us at
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Operation Air Force touches down at McChord

By

Tyler Hemstreet
Staff writer

McChord Airmen have a first-hand opportunity to show U.S. Air Force Academy cadets what life is like outside the classroom as seven cadets continue their three-week visit here as part of Operation Air Force.

The program gives cadets experience in several mission areas so they have a good background when it comes to choosing their career path in the Air Force, said base program director Capt. Jesse Higer, 62nd Operations Support Squadron.

During the visit, cadets spend time within the 62nd Operations Group, 62nd Maintenance Group and 62nd Mission Support Group.

"It's important for them to see as many facets of the wing's mission as possible," Captain Higer said.

The visit also provides an opportunity for cadets to take a break from studies and see the Air Force on an operational level, said Cadet 3rd Class Tim Clark.

"Coming here is a great way to see the mission focus," he said. "It's a lot different than daily life at the Academy."

While the highlights of the visit include a flight in a C-17 simulator and accompanying an aircrew on an off-station training mission, cadets also get the chance to shadow enlisted Airmen.

It's one of the few opportunities cadets have to work directly with the



Photo by Tyler Hemstreet

Airman 1st Class Josh McCord, 62nd Civil Engineer Squadron, right, instructs Cadet 2nd Class Steve Suhrie on the finer points of operating a bulldozer Thursday at the base's inert landfill as part of Operation Air Force.

enlisted force, Cadet Clark said.

But with graduation just two years away, the main focus for the incoming juniors is getting serious about the future path of their career.

"It gets the ball rolling on choosing an Air Force Specialty Code," said Cadet 3rd Class Sean Dronen. "This is the time to start really exploring what you want to do."

And that includes exploring as many career fields as possible.

"It's a good way to see other career opportunities instead of actually just hearing how it works," said Cadet 3rd Class Chris Batson, who despite a desire to become a pilot, was impressed by 62nd Security Forces Squadron Airmen during a ride-along patrol.

Although Cadets Dronen and

Clark said they also would both like to become pilots, the visit here provided more information about what advantages and disadvantages flying different aircraft offer.

"I can see the benefit of flying heavies ... it can offer more schedule flexibility to see your family, and I've been told mobility Airmen get to see more of the world," Cadet Clark said.



Mobility Airmen, aircraft transition Strykers to Afghanistan

By

Capt. Justin Brockhoff
618th Tanker Airlift Control Center
Public Affairs

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill. (AFNS) — Members of Air Mobility Command's hub for global airlift, air refueling and aeromedical evacuation here are "all in" with its commitment to support joint worldwide operations, kicking off efforts this week to airlift more than 300 Stryker vehicles to military forces in Afghanistan.

The term Stryker applies to a family of armored troop-transport vehicles used by the Army for ground operations.

One vehicle can carry up to 11 troops and weighs approximately 19 tons, depending on the variation, according to an Army fact sheet.

Moving the Strykers, which are

assigned to the 5th Stryker Brigade Combat Team at Fort Lewis, is being accomplished by a combination of sealift and airlift assets. The vehicles and equipment are being taken by ship for the majority of the trip around the world, and then Air Force assets take over to fly the last portion of the journey into land-locked Afghanistan.

AMC officials plan to move the 300-plus vehicles and support equipment, totaling nearly 9,500 tons, into Afghanistan over the next two months on C-17 Globemaster IIIs flown by military crews, and AN-124s, operated by commercial partners.

All efforts for the move are being closely coordinated by officials from the U.S. Transportation Command, headquartered at Scott Air Force Base. The 618th Tanker Airlift Control Center staff, also at Scott AFB,

is responsible for planning and executing the airlift missions.

"When requirements are identified to move large vehicles by air, the 618th TACC schedules those missions, tasks aircraft and aircrews to fly the missions, and obtains permission from other governments to overfly their countries while executing the missions," 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 staff 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 Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

In fact, for OIF and OEF alone, AMC aircrews have flown more than 363,000 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 U.S. forces all around the world," said Maj. Charlie Velino, the 618th TACC division chief who planned the Stryker airlift missions. "As combatant commands [such as U.S. Central Command, responsible for operations in Iraq and Afghanistan] identify new airlift requirements, we're continually working to plan new missions to meet their needs, in this case the need for Strykers, as fast and as efficiently as possible."

**Visit the 62nd Airlift Wing public Web site at
<http://public.mcchord.amc.af.mil>**



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IT'S A RESPONSIBLE DRINKING CULTURE.**



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

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Air Force officials release uniform board results

By

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

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — Air Force officials here have released the results of the 98th Virtual Uniform Board. While the board did not introduce new uniforms, the majority of the uniform-wear policy results improved upon existing uniforms.

The service's senior leaders said they intend to provide fully functional and appropriate uniforms to support all Airmen both stateside and deployed, with emphasis on the current uniform inventory, in response to Airmen feedback.

"We remain committed to fix, improve and upgrade uniforms in our current inventory," said Lt. Gen. Richard Y. Newton III, deputy chief of staff for Manpower, Personnel and Services and chairman of the Virtual Uniform Board. "Our goal is to provide the optimal uniform and equipment to Airmen in order to al-

low them to best carry out their mission," he said.

The general explained that the uniform team is committed to ensuring Airmen have a fully functional uniform at the right time and at the right cost to support the joint mission worldwide.

The Air Force's top enlisted Airman underscored the importance of ongoing analysis and constant response to wearer feedback.

"Our Airmen spend their hard-earned money on these uniforms, and we owe it to them to do the research, development and quality assurance necessary to guarantee every uniform item put on the shelf is right the first time," Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Rodney J. McKinley said. "The Virtual Uniform Board is essential because no one knows better than Airmen serving today what uniform changes are needed."

The board convened in 2008 with Airmen voting members from all major commands and most func-

tional communities. Representatives from the Army & Air Force Exchange Service, Defense Supply Center Philadelphia, Defense Logistics Agency, Air Force Uniform Office, Air Force Logistics and Air Staff members acted as non-voting advisors. Board members forwarded their recommendations to the Air Force chief of staff for a final decision.

Board members recommended and the chief of staff approved the green fleece formerly worn only as the All-Purpose Environmental Clothing System liner to be authorized Air Force-wide as an outer-wear garment. Senior leaders also approved adding the name, rank and service designators to the green fleece when worn as an outer-wear garment.

Other uniform enhancements include the addition of a small surname tape to the pocket flap of the APECS left sleeve.

While General Newton delegated the authorization of black-boots in

industrial areas to MAJCOMs in February, the concept, like many changes, originated from a Virtual Uniform Board input.

"We rely on feedback from Airmen about a wide variety of uniform issues. As such, the Air Force uniform team created the Virtual Uniform Board. The virtual uniform board capitalized on available technology that Airmen are familiar with, the Innovative Development through Employee Awareness (IDEA) Program," said Ruth Ewalt, chief of Air Force uniform programs and policy.

The intent of the Virtual Uniform Board is for Airmen to identify a problem and suggest an improvement, Ms. Ewalt said.

Airmen can provide uniform recommendations by going to the Air Force Innovative Development through Employee Awareness (IDEA) Program Web site at the Air Force Portal, <https://www.my.af.mil/gcss-af/USAF/ep/globalTab.do?command=org&channelPageId=->.



Arrive Alive!
**Don't Drink
and Drive!**

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



McChord Airmen

AROUND THE WORLD



Photo by Senior Airman Courtney Richardson

SOUTHWEST ASIA — Capt. Jonathan Bell, 62nd Security Forces Squadron, dives for the ball in a National Police Week outdoor volleyball competition during a recent deployment.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Elizabeth Weinberg

KYRGYZSTAN — Staff Sgt. Shawn Lundgren, 446th Civil Engineer Squadron, explains an explosive ordnance disposal demonstration at Manas Air Base during a recent deployment.



Command post acts as eyes and ears of base



Senior Airman Andrew Menard, 62nd Airlift Wing command post, establishes a 500 ft. cordon on a map of McChord to assist officials in preventing access to and from an area or building and limit casualties during a recent exercise.

There's never a dull moment inside the 62nd Airlift Wing command post. "When the phone rings, it could be anything," said Capt. Jared Wood, 62nd AW command post deputy chief.

And anything can include the notification of a fire alarm activation, medical response, power outage, law enforcement incidents or anything involving inbound and outbound aircraft.

"If it affects day-to-day operations, it comes through us," Captain Wood said.

The command post's No. 1 mission is to keep the wing commander aware of all issues that affect operations. Through two command post controllers — who rotate in 12-hour shifts to keep a 24-hour watch — the phones are always manned and there are two sets of eyes watching live video feeds from security cameras. There is also a monitor showing the location and status of each McChord aircraft departing or arriving at the base.

"We're the eyes and ears of the mission," said Senior Airman Andrew Menard, who

By
Tyler Hemstreet
Staff writer

was recently honored as the Air Force's Command Post Airman of the year. "It's our job to get the decision makers the information they need so they can be aware of situations and determine how to handle it."

That's accomplished as controllers query incoming calls to get as much information on a situation as possible before routing the information up through proper channels.

Using standardized checklists, the controllers work their way through command post leadership to determine whether wing leadership needs to be notified of an event immediately, or whether it can wait until the next day.

"If the situation requires it, we have no problem waking the commander up at 3 a.m. to notify him," Captain Wood said.

And since the command post is a central hub of all base operations, it helps keep track of the status of the mission as a whole, helping to identify problems or delays in missions or processes.

"While each unit is concerned with its individual role in the mission, we're following the entire sequence of events," Captain Wood said. "We're concerned with the whole process."

To remain sharp no matter what the circumstances, the command post routinely practices posturing for alerts sent down from Air Mobility Command headquarters and higher.

"It keeps us polished in our wartime skills," said Master Sgt. Bryan Barnett, 62nd AW command post superintendent.



Senior Airman Angela Kost, 62nd AW command post, uses the base giant voice system to send out a mass notification during a recent exercise.



Tech. Sgt. Ray Smittie III, 62nd AW, NCOIC of training for command post, center, stresses the burden of responsibility of assuming the role of senior controller while discussing a two-week upgrade training plan with Senior Airman Kieosha Height, left, and Airman Menard.



Airman Menard, Air Force Command Post Airman of the year, fields a call.

Photos by Abner Guzman

Reservists drive deployment support

By

Airman First Class Patrick Cabellon
446th Airlift Wing
Public Affairs

Support for ongoing operations doesn't always mean deploying overseas. Such is the case with Reserve transportation specialists from the 86th Aerial Port Squadron here.

The 86th APS has been filling in at McChord for deployed Airmen from the 62nd Airlift Wing's transportation operation. The Reservists have been called upon to assist with transportation throughout the base for both the 62nd and 446th AW.

"We have been helping out with whatever the 62nd Airlift Wing needs," said Master Sgt. Daniel Bridges, 86th APS. "We help take active-duty Airmen coming and going to billeting, off base, or wherever they need to go. If (the remaining) active-duty drivers go on 12 hour shifts, we go on 12 hour shifts."

On top of filling in for deployed active-duty drivers, the 86th APS has deployed Airmen as well. Four of the eight drivers from the 86th APS are currently deployed.

The 86th APS find themselves helping out the 62nd AW often because of McChord's host wing deployment commitments. As soon as one group of active-duty Airmen returns from deployment, another is sent — all without skipping a beat.

"I've been filling in for deployed active-duty Airmen since September of last year," Sergeant Bridges said with a nod. Overall, being spread thin has not increased stress or workload to unmanageable proportions, he said.

Supporting the base as a Reservist on active-duty is seen as an opportunity by Staff Sgt. Jennifer Hall, 86th APS, to do more than the usual on a unit training assembly weekend.

Among her driving duties she picks people up returning on rotator flights, and delivers aircrew to their aircraft as they depart on missions. But, Sergeant Hall is also taking the road less travelled with an assigned route to combat arms training. Each route is another opportunity to learn more about the base and all it has within its boundaries.

"Working with the 62nd AW has really given my whole experience a 'Team McChord' atmosphere," said Sergeant Bridges with a nod.

"It's been fairly easy, everybody pulls their end." concluded Sergeant Bridges.

Manas Air Base reaches out to 'Twitter' users worldwide

By

Tech. Sgt. Phyllis Hanson
376th Air Expeditionary Wing
Public Affairs

MANAS AIR BASE, Kyrgyzstan — Keeping up with online technology and its growing user demands can be daunting for communicators. But the 376th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs Office has hopped aboard the Twitter 'twain' at full throttle in order to keep the world abroad in the know about the base's goings on.

"I believe it is in our best interest to get on board. Twitter, as well as some of the other social engineering sites, is a great way to tell people about our mission and people," said Maj. Rickardo Bodden, 376th AEW public affairs officer.

The 376th AEW can be found at www.twitter.com/manasab. Twitter is one of the many free social network service jet streams, which enables users to disperse quick, 140-word or less, messages that are texted to "followers" or those who choose to receive information from a source variety in the millions.

"Social media is not going away. Over a few short years we have seen these types of communication mediums reach high levels of popularity and use," said Major Bodden.

"Our new media means of communication will reach new audiences and keep people informed who we otherwise might not have been able to reach," he said.

There are millions of text mes-

sengers in the world now. Manas AB is one of the many hatchlings from the Air Force's media arena, forging this mega mass communication method. Air Force bases and its agencies worldwide are flocking together in the constant pursuit to tell the Air Force story to audiences now, no longer beyond their reach.

Through personalized tickertape, Manas will be able to announce its latest news stories, videos and photo packages posted on the Web site www.manas.afcent.af.mil. The communications medium will also allow PA to promote, in short form, news releases on upcoming events or ones that just happened. Each story, photo and video that the PA team posts on the Web can be shared via e-mail, Twitter as well as other social media sites soon to be ventured into.

"With any networking or social media site, my goal is to put the Airmen in public view. Many people don't know what our Airmen do for the nation and how we are assisting local communities with numerous humanitarian outreach programs," said Major Bodden. "Just not enough people know about the great things Airmen are doing."

Although Manas AB's Twitter site, www.twitter.com/manasab, and other Web 2.0 entities can't be accessed from government computers here, people at Manas are able to get to many of these means via Wi-Fi.

"Thanks to our great communications squadron, we have morale



Maj. Rickardo Bodden points out the Manas Air Base, Kyrgyzstan, Twitter link to Tech. Sgt. Harry Kibbe as they make updates to the newly created site. The 376th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs Office put Manas AB aboard the Twitter 'twain' in order to keep the world abroad in the know about the base's goings on.

spots on base where these communication services are available 24-hours a day for our Airmen to get news, connect with friends and family and a host of other things," said Major Bodden.

"Everyone can benefit when they have information or at least have access to it. I think it is better to know than not know," he said.

"I hope to reach families, reporters, businesses, city leaders and especially our own Airmen here who may not have the complete overall picture of what is going on at Manas," said Major Bodden.

"I like to utilize it in line with one of our well-known leadership mottos, 'Mission first, Airman always,'" he said.



MC-12 aircraft flies first combat mission

By

Staff Sgt. Dilia Ayala
332nd Air Expeditionary Wing
Public Affairs

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq (AFNS) — The Air Force's newest intelligence, reconnaissance and surveillance aircraft flew its first combat sortie Wednesday over Iraq.

The MC-12 Liberty, assigned to the 362nd Expeditionary Reconnaissance Squadron, arrived in Iraq Monday and took off from Joint Base Balad at approximately 2:30 p.m. local time Wednesday for a four-hour mission.

"This is truly a success story," said Brig. Gen. Brian T. Bishop, the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing commander. "Our mission here is to deliver combat airpower and overwatch to the joint fight in-theater, and the MC-12 brings a huge ISR capability to employ in support of the ground commander."

"This is the first combat mission for the 362nd ERS, and it was a

huge success," said Col. Mike Fantini, the 332nd Expeditionary Operations Group commander. "The milestone continues the extraordinary program to push more ISR capability to the joint-force commander."

Landing at approximately 6:20 p.m. local time, the four-person crew was all smiles after completing the historic sortie.

"It feels good being out here and doing something good for the warfighter," said Capt. Jason Goodale, the pilot.

"The crew was great," the Sioux Falls, S.D., said the native deployed from Travis Air Force Base, Calif. "We performed like we trained. It is great to be part of something that is bringing a unique feature to ground forces."

Flying alongside Captain Goodale were Lt. Col. Phillip Stewart, the mission commander deployed from Langley AFB, Va., and a native of Silver Spring, Md.; and the two sensor operators: Senior Master Sgt. Bruce Hunter, deployed from Offutt AFB, Neb., and a native of Rock Springs,

Wy.; and Staff Sgt. Shaun Nelson.

"It was a great mission," Colonel Stewart said. "It couldn't have gone any better."

"It feels really good to validate the training we went through," he added. "I'm extraordinarily proud of (the Airmen of the 362nd ERS). They are a tremendous group of Airmen. All of them volunteered to come to a brand-new program not knowing what to expect because they believe in the mission and they believe in the men and women that we are protecting on the ground."

Designed to augment information gathered by other intelligence-collection capabilities operating in-theater, the MC-12 provides real-time full-motion video and signals intelligence and allow military leaders to make battlefield decisions.

"It's an awesome mission," said Sergeant Nelson, deployed from Tinker AFB, Okla., and a native of Lenox, S.D. "I think we are all excited to be a part of it. It's a big capability, and it's nice to be able to bring this capability to more and more of



Photo by Senior Airman Tiffany Trojca

The first MC-12 Liberty aircraft in-theater lands after its first combat sortie at approximately 6:20 p.m. local time Wednesday at Joint Base Balad, Iraq. The Air Force's newest intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance platform, the MC-12 is a medium-altitude manned special-mission turbo prop aircraft that supports coalition and joint ground forces.

the troops on the ground. The job satisfaction is amazing out here. You know you're making a difference. You know you're helping the guys on the ground. That's what we are here to do."



Steam plant shutdown

The base central steam plant shuts down Saturday and Sunday. The shutdown starts at midnight Saturday and concludes at 6 p.m. Sunday. The following buildings served with steam heat, steam-heated domestic hot water, and/or process steam will be affected: 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 12, 22, 100, 160, 180, 181, 301, 304, 308, 315, 328, 341, 423, 546, 565, 566, 567, 572, 574, 707, 708, 710, 717, 726, 729, 735, 737, 738, 742, 745, 746, 757, 774, 778, 1119, 1120, 1122, 1147, 1148, 1149, 1150, 1151, 1152, 1155, 1156, 1160, 1164, 1165, 1166, 1167, 1169, 1170, 1174, 1175, 1178, 1179, 1183, 1405, 1419, and 1422. Hot water should be available for most of the day Saturday. Also, limited shower facilities will be available at the base swimming pool. The annual shutdown is necessary to perform maintenance on plant equipment and distribution system that can only be done while the systems are out of service. For more information, call 982-2583.

Fitness center floor resurfacing

The fitness center gym floor and racquetball courts close for resurfacing Monday to June 21. Squadrons with physical training reservations should make arrangements with center staff to schedule another area within the fitness center annex. For more information, call 982-3292.

Retirement ceremony

The retirement ceremony for Chief Master Sgt. Darrell McKinney is 11 a.m. Tuesday at the Chapel Sup-

port Center. For more information, call 982-3069.

1st WS change of command

The 1st Weather Squadron change of command ceremony is 10 a.m. Wednesday in front of Bldg. 3077 on Fort Lewis. The incoming commander is Lt. Col. James Mackey and the outgoing commander is Lt. Col. Mark Lajoie.

8th AS change of command

The 8th Airlift Squadron change of command ceremony is 10 a.m. Thursday in Hangar 9. The incoming commander is Lt. Col. Stephen Ritter and the outgoing commander is Lt. Col. Albert Miller.

New Barnes and housing gate hours

The Barnes gate is now open 5:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. daily. The Woodbrook housing gate is open 6 to 9 a.m. and 3 to 6 p.m. weekdays. For more information, call the 62nd Security Forces Squadron at 982-5100.

MTI special duty opportunities

Airmen who missed the Military Training Instructor recruiting team's visit Thursday do not have to wait for the next visit to apply for an MTI duty. For more information, visit the Air Force Portal under "Lackland AFB - 37 TRW" or call DSN 473-1016/1018.

AFPC 'Spread the Word' briefing online

An electronic version of the Air Force Personnel Center "Spread the Word" briefing is now available online at: <https://ask.afpc.randolph.af.mil/pubaffairs/word/word.asp>.

af.mil/pubaffairs/word/word.asp. Briefing topics range from the assignment cycle and tempo banding to upcoming uniform changes and civilian hiring procedures. Personnel questions can be sent to the Spread the Word team at: stw.workflow@randolph.af.mil.

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."

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>.



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



Chief McKinley sends last 'Perspective'

By

Janie Santos
Defense Media Activity-San Antonio

SAN ANTONIO (AFNS) — In his last "Enlisted Perspective," the Air Force's top enlisted leader encourages Airmen to take advantage of all that the Air Force offers.

"I am very grateful to the Air Force and all the leadership over my 30 years that has provided me the opportunity to serve my country, raise my family, see the world, receive a first class education, learn many trades, make many friends,

and have the opportunity to lead other Airmen, said Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Rodney J. McKinley.

Chief McKinley said that he could never have imagined all of this would be possible as the Air Force has given him so much. As an Airman, you can rise to great heights, no matter where you are from, how poor you are, your ethnicity or gender.

"I am very proud to be an Airman and always will be," Chief McKinley said.

Chief McKinley's complete "Perspective" can be read online at: <http://www.af.mil/information/viewpoints/cmsaf.asp?id=484>.



Deployed Families Dinner
Get a Clue!
The Search for the Pink Panther
22 June at 1800
Chapel Support Center
RSVP by 19 June

<https://cma.jm.af.mil/org/62aw/default.aspx>
(access from DoD military computers only)

All Families with Deployed/Deploying Members or on TDYs & Remotes are Encouraged to Attend!

Disaster Preparedness by
Famous Dishes
Dinner & Desserts

For more info: Call (253)982-5556 or Email: 62aw.hc@mcchord.af.mil