



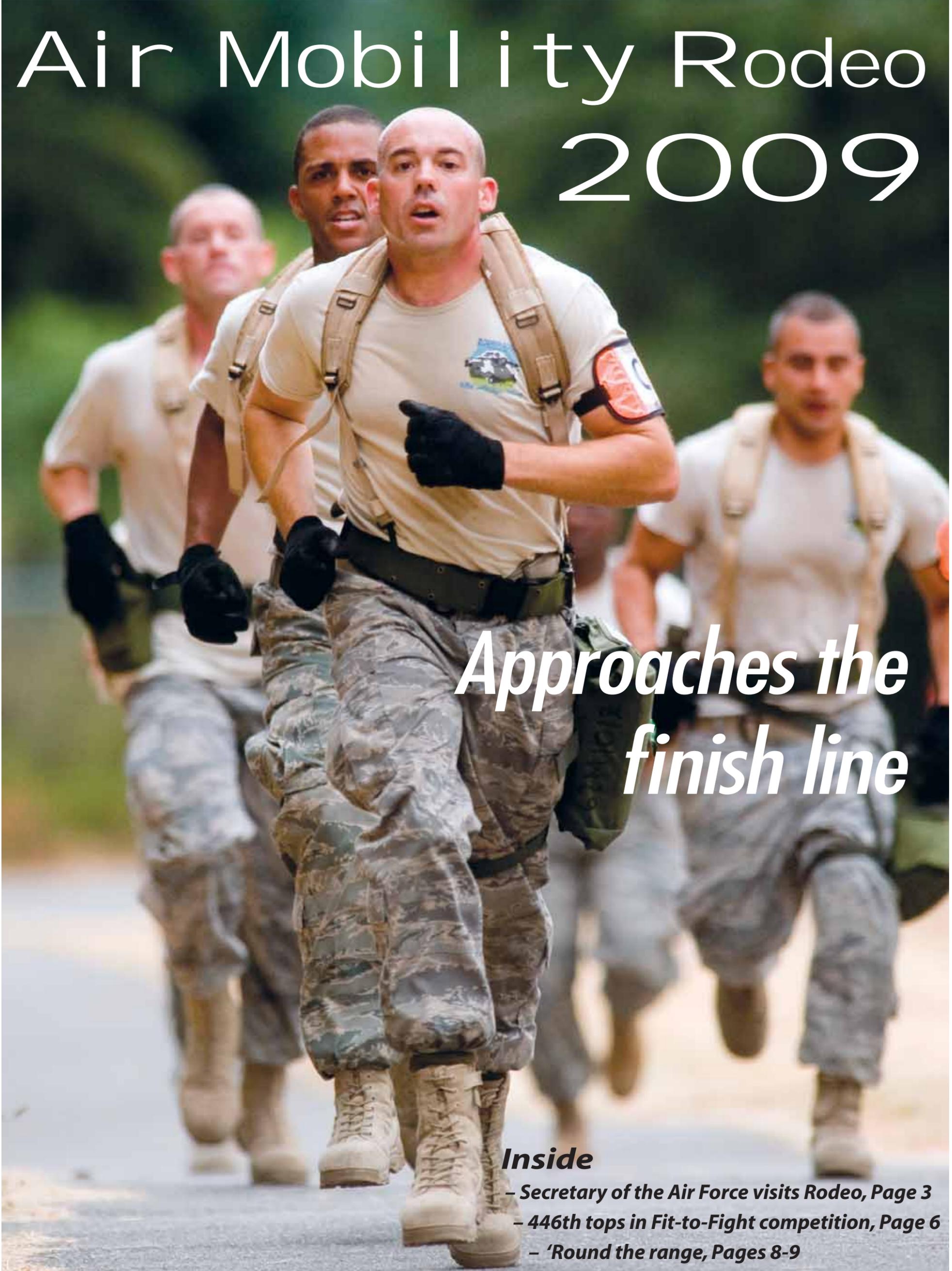
The NORTHWEST AIRLIFTER

McChord Air Force Base, Wash.

Connecting Team McChord with the Combat Airlift Mission

July 24, 2009

Air Mobility Rodeo 2009



*Approaches the
finish line*

Inside

- Secretary of the Air Force visits Rodeo, Page 3
- 446th tops in Fit-to-Fight competition, Page 6
- 'Round the range, Pages 8-9

AMC commander cites Rodeo as 'beneficial' in many ways

By
Tech. Sgt. Scott Sturkol
Rodeo 2009 Public Affairs

For Air Mobility Rodeo 2009, Gen. Arthur Lichte, Air Mobility Command commander, said the competition brings with it a plethora of shared knowledge and lessons learned.

In addition, General Lichte said the rich heritage and the people involved create an atmosphere that is not only for competing, but learning as well. More than 2,500 people from bases around the world are participating. For the AMC commander, Rodeo 2009 is an environment filled with possibilities.

"I have learned that Rodeo is very worthwhile for a number of different reasons," General Lichte said. "From my point of view, this will be absolutely fantastic because we're seeing lessons learned across the board from all the events. It's been very beneficial."

This year's Rodeo also features more competition on the ground, to include participation from contingency response wings from across AMC. General Lichte said their involvement is crucial, because they are AMC's forces who are "first to deploy."

"This year we are seeing more of the combat support skills people participate," General Lichte said. "They include security forces, command and control, communications and aerial port. These competitors are not only from Air Mobility Com-

mand, but from international partners as well."

The general said contingency response groups and wings participating in Rodeo are another "secret weapon" in AMC's arsenal so having them participate is a valuable opportunity.

"They are the first ones we're going to send (for deployment)," General Lichte said. "For them to be out here competing and sharing notes with the other contingency response units from around the world...that's where the real value is."

General Lichte also noted it is the people who are driving the mission who make Rodeo successful every time it is held.

"We can have a whole fleet of airplanes, but it's the people who make this mission happen," General Lichte said. "It's the people on the ground pushing the mission every day. It all does come down to people. To have those extra skills competing, it's just like any other event, it raises the spirit of everybody. People who come here have taken the opportunity to train back at their home station. They picked the brains of everyone within that wing to put the best team forward. And when they go back with all their lessons learned, they share that with their units. So in my mind it is a win for everybody."

Among the people visiting Rodeo are some noteworthy veterans. They include retired Col. Gail Halvorson, also known as the

"Candy Bomber" from the Berlin Airlift of 1947, original Tuskegee Airmen retired Lt. Cols. Bill Holomon and Edward Drummond Jr., and three veterans of the Doolittle Raiders of April 1942 - retired Lt. Cols. Richard Cole and Edward Saylor and retired Maj. Thomas Griffin.

"We have a very proud tradition and proud history in A-M-C and the Air Force," General Lichte said. "When we can bring out those who've gone before us, who set the standard, who taught us the business that we're about today, I think it is the right thing to do."

"I think it makes our Airmen get more personally involved when they have an opportunity to shake hands with the Candy Bomber, Colonel Halvorson, with Tuskegee Airmen or when they can talk to the Doolittle Raiders," General Lichte said. "Someday our young Airmen will be coming back to Rodeo and telling their war stories about what they did in Iraq and Afghanistan. I think it's just the right thing to do to pay tribute to those who've gone before us."

For the people associated with Rodeo 2009, General Lichte said he would like them to remember what a "great" location McChord is to hold the competition and for them to thank the people in the greater Puget Sound area for how well they have treated everyone.

"We've also had our local civic leaders come travel with their teams to show support for their

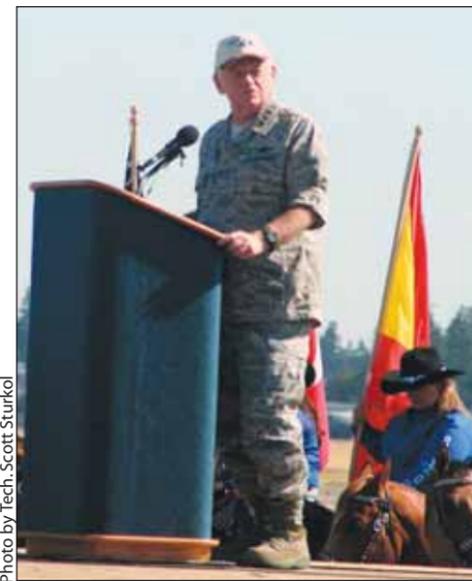


Photo by Tech. Sgt. Scott Sturkol

Gen. Arthur Lichte, Air Mobility Command commander, speaks during opening ceremonies for Rodeo 2009 Sunday at McChord.

communities back home," General Lichte said. "That's absolutely fantastic. We've had the great mentors come out and the Secretary of the Air Force is visiting. All this shows how important the Air Mobility Command mission is."

"When everyone is putting it on display through this week and they know they have support from the Secretary of the Air Force, from all those who have gone before them, and from the communities they live in, that's a powerful message to send to all our Airmen," General Lichte said.

Team McChord ... it has been a pleasure!

By
Col. Frank Rechner
62nd Mission Support Group commander

What a week this has been! As Rodeo 2009 draws to a close and our international and American partners prepare to depart the Great Northwest, another great chapter in McChord's history draws to a close.

This event could not have happened without the dedicated effort of a myriad of professionals around the globe, and the Rechner family was glad to be a small part of it. As Daphne, Joey, Jacob, Jeremy and I prepare to depart the installation as well, we are proud to have served within your 62nd Mission Support Group and as your extended family for the past two years.

I often think back to September 2007 ... on Labor Day, a water main broke in front of Hangar 3 opening a 30 by 60 foot sinkhole; the next

week, five different government agencies arrived on base to inspect the wing's Personnel Reliability Program and Prime Nuclear Airlift Force mission during a limited-notice Nuclear Surety Inspection; and in the middle of this we celebrated our 60th anniversary as a service. Ultimately, over 600 people attended the Air Force Ball when just two days before the event, only 250 people were signed up.

I look back to that month because it seemed that no matter what the 62nd MSG family did to overcome obstacles, another challenge was lying in wait. However, your efforts met every challenge head on. The water flow was stopped (just before the last tower was drained!), the inspection teams left confident that McChord Airmen could perform the nuclear airlift mission safely (and subsequently awarded Team McChord the highest grade), and over 600 people were fed by the 62nd Services Squadron in a fitting tribute to our proud heritage.

What the future holds, no one knows ... but as Shakespeare said in Julius Caesar, "if a man should know the end of the day err it may come, but suffice to say, the day will end and the end will be known." This narrative is especially pertinent as joint basing moves from the drawing board to execution. Although much hard work has been done over the last three years, the harder work still lies ahead as the implementation of plans are set in motion. Did we get it exactly right? Did we think of everything? While the answer may be "not exactly," the one thing about which I have no doubt is that all of Team McChord will approach this opportunity with the same energy, enthusiasm, and dedication as the string of September 2007 events described above. To put it simply, this base just doesn't know how to produce results that are anything less than stellar, and I can't wait to see your next achievement!

It has indeed been our pleasure to serve you.

The Sharp Airman ...

knows that even though Rodeo has just ended and the last vestiges of this great event are not yet stowed away, we must now shift our focus from competition and entertainment to preparing to demonstrate our war-fighting capability.

Our fly-away mobility exercise is just around the corner in September and the Operational Readiness Inspection is in October. Take a breath and catch some rest where you can because once again it will be a total team effort and every Airman will play a part.

Don't miss it ...

Rodeo 2009 Closing Ceremony 2 p.m. today in Hangar 4

EDITORIAL STAFF

62nd AW commander: Col. Kevin Kilb
Chief, Public Affairs: Master Sgt. Dean Miller
NCOIC, Public Affairs: Master Sgt. Chris Haylett
Chief of Internal and News Director: Staff Sgt. Eric Burks
Editor: Tyler Hemstreet
Photographer: Abner Guzman
Graphic artist: Lisa Lemmer
62nd Force Support Squadron contributor: Patti Jeffrey

62ND AIRLIFT WING, MCCORD AFB, WASHINGTON

The Northwest Airlifter is published by Swarner Communications, a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Air Force, under exclusive written contract with McChord Air Force Base. This commercial enterprise Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services.

Contents of the Northwest Airlifter are not necessarily the official views of or endorsed by the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force.

The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of

Defense, the Department of the Air Force or Swarner Communications of the products or services advertised.

Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

Advertising copy intended for publication should be submitted to Bill White, Advertising Manager, Business mailing address: P.O. Box 98801, Lake-wood, WA, 98498. Free ads can be e-mailed to: classads@ftlewisranger.com or call Swarner Communications at (253) 584-1212.

CONTACT NUMBERS

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

Mailing Address: 62nd AW/PAI
100 Col. Joe Jackson Blvd., Suite 1077
McChord AFB, WA 98438

Phone: (253) 982-5637 **Fax:** (253) 982-5025

E-mail: northwestairlifter@mcchord.af.mil

Secretary of Air Force speaks at Rodeo town hall

The following transcription of Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley's remarks at the Air Mobility Rodeo 2009 town hall Wednesday was provided by Tech. Sgt. Scott Sturkol, Air Mobility Command Public Affairs.

What a treat for me to be here with you today. I've been looking forward to this visit for many, many weeks. General Lichte, thank for this great opportunity and this invitation. You are having a wonderful week here at McChord. I just wanted to take a few minutes to thank you for what you are doing here and tell you how important we think your mission is. The men and women of Air Mobility Command are serving our nation and serving our Air Force 24/7 all around the world. You are doing an outstanding job. I want to thank you for that. But first, Joe Jackson, the Tuskegee Airmen, the Doolittle Raiders – gentlemen it is an honor to be in your presence. Thank you for not only the service that you gave to our nation, and the inspiration that you continue to give us for this generation. We thank you for the legacy that you left for our Air Force. You set us off on a very good start and we hope only to follow in your footsteps and chart an even more brighter future for our Air Force. Thank you for being here today with us.

I'd also like to thank our international partners for joining us. As General Lichte said, we have over 20 nations represented here. Some are in the competition and some are observers. We bid you welcome to the United States. We are so grateful you are here participating. Not just in the fun part of here of Rodeo at McChord, but you're participating in the competitions. We are learning from you. Hopefully you

are learning from us. We share a common interest in protecting the global common and in making coalitions which benefit all of our countries together in the fight against international terrorism. We appreciate the partnership that your presence here represents. This is extremely important to the United States. We welcome each and every one of you to this important event.

Also again, thank you to the community leaders who have come to join all of the competitors from around the United States. I knew I'd be meeting Airmen. I knew we had many special guests and international partners. I didn't realize how many civic supporters you all would bring with you to this competition. It's really been great to see you all here supporting our Airmen. We thank you for the community support that you provide our Airmen all around the world. It means everything to us to know that we can send Airmen into your community in a safe and secure environment. They go to a place where they are welcome and the community reaches out and says what can we do for you? We appreciate that very much. It is so important for Airmen and their families. Thank you for being here.

I have been impressed since the earliest days of my return last summer of the importance of the missions that you all are performing for us on a daily basis. I get to see the list at the secretarial level, the list of missions, activities and deployments that you all making. I have the opportunity to not only speak with our defense leadership, but with leaders from around the country about the importance of the

Air Force's role in the current fight. And a lot of that starts with the mobility positions that you provide from day one. You know America doesn't have global reach and global power without Air Mobility Command. You provide that global reach for the United States that allows our political and military leadership to offer the armed forces of the United States in security, in humanitarian relief, and to facilitate good relations between countries. And to meet common dangers when that is necessary too. That all starts with global mobility. Global mobility is enabled by the gray tales, by the tankers that support that air bridge, by the port operators, enabled by the tactical lift that moves people and goods around theaters of operation.

It also includes aeromedical evacuation when that is necessary. It provides, in the case of this conflict, the highest survival rate of any war today. That provides a tremendous capability. We are 'all in,' – active, Guard and Reserve – in this important mission from beginning to end. We will be there as long as the nation needs us.

I had an opportunity today to see various parts of Rodeo. It's been a great day. Of course, any day out of the Pentagon is a great day. Yes we do have an Air Force outside of Washington DC. And it is an honor to come see it and to be a part of this event today. I had an opportunity to watch the ERO competition, some of the loader competition. I saw some of the security forces out on the ranges today working very hard in the heat. They had full-up gear and gas masks. They were working very hard. I saw the convoy ops demonstration this afternoon. It's been a

wonderful opportunity to see the scope and breadth of all the things that AMC is providing.

You know our mission is to "fly, fight and win...in air, space and cyberspace." That's how we communicate. That's how we summarize what our Air Force is all about. At a more formal level, the role of the United States Air Force is to organize, train and equip forces for assignments to combatant commanders like Gen. Duncan McNabb, commander of US Transportation Command. So, I guess my summary for today is, General McNabb, the Air Force is organized, trained and equipped and ready to provide strategic reach, global reach, for whatever you and the President of the United States need done. We are here for you.

From interview after town hall:

Q - What have you seen, internationally speaking, and across the Air Force how this (Rodeo) will help build on the mobility lessons learned for the future of the Air Force?

A – I think the main thing I saw today was a mixture of experience of Airmen who have operated as teams in the past and perhaps new team members, or less experienced teams, who are coming to Rodeo and they are going to learn a lot from those whom they are competing with. They'll be able to grade their performance against that of their peers in a friendly and competitive environment. Our Air Force will benefit from that and our international partners are going to benefit from that as well. So it is a win-win for all who are concerned.

For the complete transcription, visit the McChord public Web site at: <http://public.mcchord.af.mil/>.



Local community leaders observe Rodeo competition

By
Tyler Hemstreet
Staff writer

Nearly 30 local civic leaders took part in a tour of the base to observe Rodeo activities Wednesday.

The tour was designed to give local leaders a taste of what's going on in the McChord community during Rodeo, said Bud McKay, 62nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs.

"They support us day in and day out, so we wanted to get them out here and show them what all the 'yee haw-ing' is about this week," Mr. McKay said.

The visitors had the opportunity to see a live Rodeo competition and experience a Ravens and convoy demonstration by the 62nd Security Forces Squadron, as well as socialize with Rodeo competitors and Air Mobility Command officials at Rainier Ranch.

After receiving an introductory briefing by Col. Michael Hornitschek, 62nd AW vice commander, and Col. Lisa Tank, 446th AW vice commander, the group filled a set of bleachers to watch the Israeli Rodeo team in the engine running on/off load competition.

As soon as the C-130 Hercules' loading ramp touched down on the flightline, a group of airmen



Local community civic leaders observe a Rodeo competition Wednesday.

sprinted to the aircraft and loaded and unloaded a pallet of cargo and a Humvee towing a trailer.

"This stuff never gets old," said Jordan Haines, a visitor representing Coinforce. "It's just a thrill to be standing on an Air Force base in the free world and being among members of the greatest military in the world."

Also on hand for the competition were Gen. Arthur Lichte, AMC commander, Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley and a group of remaining Doolittle Raiders.

"To see the Secretary of the Air Force, (General Lichte), and to be sitting in the same bleachers as three of the nine remaining Doolittle Raiders is pretty amazing," Mr. Haines added.

Several community leaders who attended the tour also participated in private Rodeo welcome mixers for both the international and U.S. teams earlier in the week.

Linda Smith, president of the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce, helped host a social event.

"At first when the international team members arrived, they were huddled in their own group, but by the end of the afternoon they were scattered throughout socializing with everyone," Ms. Smith said.

And although some leaders had been on the tour before, in past years, the event served to demonstrate how military units from around the world are continually improving processes and procedures.

"(The tour) does something different every time," said Carlene Joseph, a visitor with Harborstone Credit Union. "The 62nd and 446th (wings) always get together and do a great job. It's so organized."



New competition adds SPICE to Rodeo

By
2nd Lt. Erika Wonn
Rodeo 2009 Public Affairs

Air Mobility Rodeo 2009 competition has some SPICE in it for the first time.

Along with the usual montage of scheduled flying and ground events, contingency response wings from McGuire Air Force Base, N.J., Travis AFB, Calif., and Ramstein Air Base, Germany, are also competing to set up the Small Package Initial Communication Element, or SPICE, in a timed event.

The SPICE provides contingency response forces with electronic communications including Internet capabilities, secure and non-secure networks and military telephone capabilities. Because of the need for rapid mobility and immediately operational effectiveness all over the world, these SPICES are necessary for effective communication anywhere Airmen deploy.

Developed at Scott AFB, SPICE is built on an idea to create a smaller, easier-to-use communications hub for deployed situations. Senior Airman Richard Scott, from Air Mobility Command Headquarters at Scott AFB, works with the SPICE developers and is this year's lead umpire for the SPICE competition.

"Basically, AMC developed a prototype, and the other commands came up with their own versions working off of AMC's example," he said.

"When we deployed for Hurricane Gustav earlier this year, these units were used to bring communication to the Airmen there," said Tech. Sgt. Richard Rubalcava, a competing network infrastructure Airman from Travis AFB. "It's an effective communications platform. It's very helpful in situations where there is no existing network."

This year's competition requires the teams to build a SPICE from the ground up, with no existing structure or network available.

"The entire competition should last less than two and half hours," Airman Scott said. "Network infrastructure Airmen competing in the strenuous competition use the competition as a way to hone their skills. They also receive valuable feedback and lessons-learned that help make them more effective in their career field."

The new SPICE competition, Airman Scott said, shows how Rodeo is the place to make things happen.

"The practice and precision demonstrated by the mobility Airmen here directly reflects the job they'll do outside the competition," Airman Scott said.

"Our competitors are learning and getting better at not just building up SPICE, but making it better. We couldn't ask for more."



Photo by 2nd Lt. Erika Wonn

Airmen from the 615th Contingency Response Wing at Travis Air Force Base, Calif., put together a SPICE platform as part of Rodeo event at McChord. This is the first year the Rodeo has included a timed event for CRW Airmen to establish a SPICE platform.



446th Airlift Wing 'runs' away with top score

By

Airman 1st Class Patrick Cabellon
446th Airlift Wing
Public Affairs

Who's the fittest of them all at the ranch? That would be the 446th Airlift Wing Rodeo team that ran their way to the top score in the Fit-to-Fight competition Sunday here at Air Mobility Command's Rodeo 2009.

Five Airmen from the Reserve unit at McChord ran swiftly, bulled their way through push-ups, and crunched those abs to score a perfect 550 points.

The 446 AW Rodeo Fit-to-Fight team consisted of Staff Sgt. Ben Thomsen and Senior Airman Tyler Akers both from the Rodeo Aerial Port team, Maj. Dan Bishop from the Rodeo Aircrew team, Senior Master Sgt. Mark Cherrix from the Rodeo Maintenance team, and Staff Sgt. Jack Montez with the Rodeo Security Forces team.

The Fit-to-Fight competition measured physical aptitude through push ups, sit-ups, and a mile and a half run.

"Everyone made it under their target time," said Senior Master Sgt. Wendy Hutchins, Rodeo Aerial Port Team. "They all worked hard and trained hard for the Fit-to-Fight competition."



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Douglas Olsen

Maj. Dan Bishop, 313th Airlift Squadron, competes in the mile and a half run during the Fit-to-Fight competition.



'ROUND THE RANGE

Memorable moments from Rodeo 2009



Gen. Arthur Lichte, Air Mobility Command commander, salutes the military formations while riding next to Maj. Gen. Brooks Bash, AMC director of operations and Rodeo 2009 commander, during opening ceremonies here Sunday.



South Korean airmen head for the finish line while competing in the combat endurance course Thursday.



Members of the 62nd Aircraft Maintenance team maneuver equipment on the flightline while competing in the maintenance portion of Rodeo.



Staff Sgt. Christopher Johnson, 62nd APS, offloads a pallet while competing in the 60K Turner event.



Staff Sgt. Kyle Young, 62nd Security Forces Squadron, catches his breath following the Security Forces weapons competition on Fort Lewis.



Participants dressed in western attire wait inside Hangar 3 at McChord prior to Sunday's opening ceremonies.



German Air Force Master Sgt. Kai Hanno, a loadmaster on a C-160 Transall aircraft, scans the flightline before a takeoff from McChord.



Security forces squadron Airmen compete during Rodeo.



Airmen deploy two pallets from a C-17 Globemaster III aircraft during an air drop competition as part of Rodeo 2009 Tuesday near the Yakima Training Center in Yakima, Wash.



A member of the Israeli maintenance team performs pre-flight inspections at McChord Tuesday.



916th Air Refueling Wing maintainers remove a power cord from a KC-135R Stratotanker prior to launch during Rodeo competition.



Staff Sgt. Justin Hartman, right, guides Staff Sgt. Christopher Johnson, both 62nd Aerial Port Squadron, during the 10K forklift event Monday.

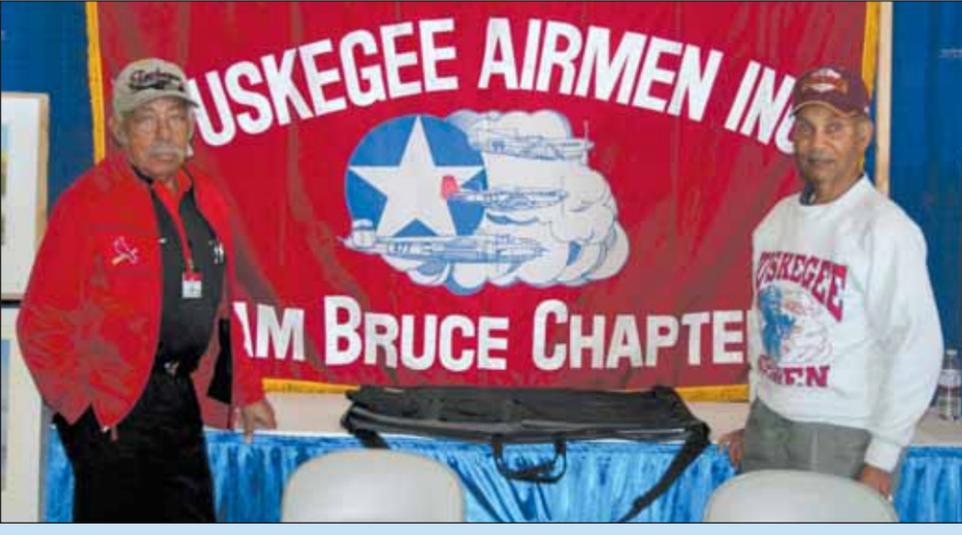


Captain Joseph Foss, 446th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, configures a C-17 Globemaster III for patient transport during Rodeo competition.



Tech. Sgt. Nicholas Thompson, 62nd AMXS, performs maintenance while on the flightline Tuesday during Rodeo.

Photo by Airman 1st Class Amber Kelly-Herard



Tuskegee Airmen

Tuskegee Airmen retired Lt. Cols. Bill Hammond and Ed Drummond visit Air Mobility Rodeo 2009 Wednesday to speak with Rodeo participants. The veterans also visited McChord Sunday to attend Rodeo opening ceremonies. Both were excited to see how the Air Force had changed since their days as Airmen.



Patient Loading System supports Rodeo 2009 events

By

Tech. Sgt. Scott Sturkol
Rodeo 2009 Public Affairs

For much of its service life of 50-plus years, the KC-135 Stratotanker has been an air refueler and cargo hauler. Since 2003, however, the tanker is also a primary aircraft for aeromedical evacuation missions across the globe.

The transition to AE missions was made possible by the development of the Patient Loading System. For Air Mobility Rodeo 2009 here, the PLS is in use for aeromedical evacuation competition and it's helping participants learn how to better work with it like they would in a deployed environment, said Master Sgt. Stacy Julian, superintendent of operations for the 446th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron.

"The PLS is ideally suited for what we're doing in Rodeo competition," Sergeant Julian said. "Besides the KC-135, it can also be used with the KC-10 Extender."

The PLS is a specially-crafted metal ramp that can reach up to the side-loading entrances of a KC-135 or a KC-10. Sergeant Julian said the stand can be palletized and carried to whatever location needs it.

"The PLS is definitely an easier way to load patients into the KC-135 or the KC-10," said Sergeant Julian, a 25-year AE mission business veteran. "I know, from being recently deployed myself, the PLS is fully in use in the deployed the-



Photo by Staff Sgt. Drew Shapiro

446th Airlift Wing aeromedical evacuation team members carry a gurney up the Patient Loading System ramp during a Rodeo competition.

ater. For example, I know it is used at Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan and throughout bases in the world to include bases in Europe and Asia."

Sergeant Julian said the system allows the KC-135 and the KC-10 to be an AE-capable aircraft and it opens more options to move critical case patients to get the help they need faster.

"That's why we also use it here in Rodeo," Sergeant Julian said. "Not only are our Air Force crews getting more practice in using it, but so are

our international teams. Having it here gives them familiarity with its capabilities."

Tech. Sgt. Seth Cullum, a KC-135R Stratotanker crew chief from the 931st Aircraft Maintenance Squadron at McConnell AFB, Kan., said the system is great for what it was designed to do.

"The KC-135, by nature is a plane designed to be a pure air refueler with the capability to carry some cargo," Sergeant Cullum said. "With this system, it helps us configure the plane to support patient sup-

port pallets and to get the patients in and out of the plane. I think it definitely is an excellent piece of equipment to have."

As part of the AE competition for Rodeo, the PLS is set up in a static configuration on a KC-135 to evaluate everything from pre-flight to before take-off duties.

"It's worked well for us," Sergeant Julian said. "Our competitors are using it and learning from its use. It's an all-around win-win for the AE world - all thanks to Air Mobility Rodeo."



Rodeo ground crews emulate safest standards

By

Tech. Sgt. Steve Wilkins
Rodeo 2009 Public Affairs

An aerial port team competing here performed in front of a surprise visitor Monday during the Tunner 60,000-pound Loader Obstacle Course as part of Air Mobility Rodeo 2009 events.

Retired Col. Gail Halverson, also known as the "Candy Bomber" from the Berlin Airlift of 1947, observed the Ohio Air Force Reserve and Wyoming Air National Guard maneuver through the strategically-placed traffic cones of an obstacle course, challenging their wit, patience and skill.

Rodeo competition focuses on the flight and ground skills of aircrews, security forces experts, aerial porters and aeromedical personnel, and maintenance team members. It provides a forum for Airmen and their international counterparts to share the best of tactics, techniques and procedures across the mobility air forces. Aircrews from seven visiting nations are also participating.

"They're really goin' at it out there," said Col. Halverson, also a World War II veteran.

Over the next three days aerial port crews from 24 air wings comprised of a driver with a single spotter maneuvering through their course with the agile vehicle carrying a pitcher of water perched on a saw horse will compete in the 10K Forklift competition.

Twenty-one air wings sporting a driver and four spotters will vie for honors in the 60K Tunner Loader obstacle course trials, an extensive obstacle

course lasting between eight and 30 minutes to complete today.

These forms of material handling equipment are the primary platform for loading and unloading all DoD general and special airlift cargo.

"When conducting a mission you want to have people who deftly operate equipment and vehicles safely," said Col. Keith Moncrief, chief of Air Mobility Command's Air Transportation Division at Scott AFB responsible for the competition. "The toughest thing during an airlift is to prepare for an air shipment [because the stress and tension of load fastenings] leaves less room for error than even on a boat."

"This is a scenario that allows us to look at safety first," said Chief Master Sgt. Kevin Moon, an aerial port chief at Yakota Air Base, Japan, serving as chief umpire for the loader competition.

Chief Moon said some crews will outperform other faster crews because their attention to detail and safety make the difference. In addition to driving through the course, crews must accomplish a safety brief, make sure the vehicle is loaded properly and follow guidelines for safe operation and direction.

Colonel Moncrief said there is also an aspect of in-transit visibility as every aspect of air transportation is inspected here, including asset reporting.

"It really mirrors the conditions you have in the field, in terms of operation and thinking about how to get things done," said Tech. Sgt. Anthony Munoz, 60K team chief for the 30th Airlift Squadron, an active duty associate of the 153rd Airlift Wing out of Cheyenne,



Photo by Staff Sgt. Carolyn Viss

(From left to right): Staff Sgt. Travis Wilt, 733rd Air Mobility Squadron, Kadena Air Base, Japan; Senior Airman Andrew Cramer, 732th Air Mobility Squadron, Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska; and Staff Sgt. Dustin Barboza, 734th Air Mobility Squadron, Andersen Air Base, Guam, direct Senior Airman Baltazar Valdez as he drives a 60,000-ton on/offload vehicle on the McChord flightline Monday.

Wyo.

Although the 153rd doesn't have a 60K on base, their command thought it would be a good idea if they were prepared should they ever need to operate one on a deployment. In fact, part of the reason Sergeant Munoz is at the lead for them is because he was deployed to Qatar, where he learned to operate the vehicle in the desert heat.

"We made the best with what we had," Sergeant Munoz said, emphasizing the experience in learning to work under time constraints, vying for excellence of operation while making safe decisions is worth the effort. "Mistakes

cost the Air Force money in vehicle or equipment repair, or in the healing of an Airman."

The judges were straightforward in their evaluations and tried to help them before and after their performance with constructive guidance, he added.

"It's like a horse jumping competition," said Brig. Gen. Lyn Sherlock, Director, Regional Affairs, Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of the Air Force, International Affairs, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C. "If you don't make that turn just right, the horse may not complete the next jump for you."



Mobility Airmen step up to make Rodeo 2009 successful

By

Airman 1st Class Amber Kelly-Herard
Rodeo 2009 Public Affairs

With more than 100 teams and 2,500 people, McChord is seeing a significant increase in its population due to the Air Mobility Rodeo 2009.

To support the increased numbers, McChord and other Air Mobility Command bases have pulled together many resources to ensure Rodeo's success.

The 62nd Security Force Squadron here is one of the organizations that provides Rodeo support 24-hours-a-day.

"We had to increase our amount of posts and coordinate our manning between our Airmen, augmentees and support from other Air Mobility Command bases," said Master Sgt. Jose Marroquin, 62nd SFS operations assistant superintendent.

The 62nd SFS also increased their manning to monitor traffic. Sergeant Marroquin said they had to open two more gates. His security forces Airmen filled those gate positions because McChord's civilian contractors are limited on the amount hours they can work. The 62nd SFS also put additional people on the flightline while events were taking place.

"I underestimated how large Rodeo is," Sergeant Marroquin said. "I've done air shows, but those are only three days and they are mainly in one area.

"Our guys may not be participating, but their job is ensuring that everyone is safe," he added.

The 62nd Force Support Squadron also had to make accommodations at base facilities for Rodeo.

"We have seen a huge increase from U.S. teams and international teams, which is good because it shows that fitness is still on the forefront, even with their busy schedules," said William Johnson, 62nd FSS fitness center athletic director. "Although our facility is small, it is an Air Force Services Agency five-star facility, and we make up for it in the quality of our equipment."



Photo by Airman 1st Class Amber Kelly-Herard

Airman 1st Class Adam Seiwell, 62nd Force Support Squadron, checks the identification of a vehicle passenger wanting access to the flightline Tuesday during Rodeo.

Mr. Johnson also said most Rodeo guests were impressed with the 15-inch television screens on the cardiovascular equipment.

The Olympic dining facility was another 62nd FSS organization supporting Rodeo.

"We did not increase our manning, but we have been serving about an extra 300 people a day," said Master Sgt. Rodell Nilo, 62nd FSS, dining facility manager. "It was great to see the international teams and we learned some stuff, such as we had to put pictures on the signs so they knew what food was being served."

To further stretch manpower, each organization provided volunteers to be Rodeo Wranglers.

"Wranglers have to make sure everyone is going where they are supposed to go and is where they are supposed to be," said Airman 1st Class Amanda Mead, 62nd Logistics Readiness Squadron.

The people behind the scenes are continuing to make the event as smooth as possible. For example, despite standing in the heat, Airman Mead said, "it is nice to be out of the office and see people from different parts of the world. I'm more than happy to do what needs to be done."



Congratulations to the following Airmen who recently scored a 90 percent or higher on their Career Development Course examinations!

- **Staff Sgt. Paris Carman**, 62nd Security Forces Squadron
- **Senior Airman Michael Chapman**, 446th SFS
- **Senior Airman Austin Ginter**, 446th Civil Engineer Squadron
- **Airman Jungmin Han**, 62nd Aerial Port Squadron
- **Senior Master Sgt. Cameron Pence**, 446th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
- **Airman 1st Class William Simmons**, 4th Airlift Squadron
- **Staff Sgt. Jared Simpach**, 86th Aerial Port Squadron

Congratulations to the following Airmen, recently selected as McChord's 2009 Lance P. Sijan USAF Leadership Award winners!

- Senior officer – **Maj. Jennifer Barnard**, 62nd Maintenance Squadron commander
- Junior officer – **Capt. Miriam Howard**, 62nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
- Senior enlisted – **Master Sgt. Edward Atchley**, 62nd Logistics Readiness Squadron
- Junior enlisted – **Senior Airman Darren Firth**, 62nd Operations Support Squadron

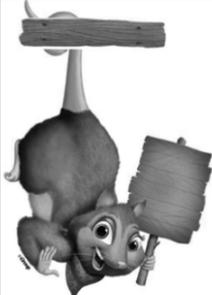
The McChord Chaplain Corps
Presents



Where Fearless Kids Shine God's Light
Vacation Bible School

Chapel Support Center
746 Col Joe Jackson Blvd, McChord Air Force Base
3-7 August 2009 from 9:00am to 12:00pm
For Children Entering Pre-School Through 5th Grade
Register Now!
For More Information Call (253) 982-5556








Employer panels

The Airman and Family Readiness Center hosts "employer panels" 8 a.m. to noon today in Bldg. 851. Various agencies will present their corporate/government profiles, career opportunities and job vacancies. To register, or for more information, call 982-2695.

62nd FSS change of command

The 62nd Force Support Squadron change of command ceremony is 10 a.m. Monday at the McChord Clubs and Community Center. The incoming commander is Maj. Deborah Dickensheets and the outgoing commander is Lt. Col. Christopher Lavallee.

62nd MSG change of command

The 62nd Mission Support Group change of command ceremony is 10 a.m. Tuesday in Hangar 4. This incoming commander is Col. Jerry Weldon and the outgoing commander is Col. Frank Rechner.

62nd MDS change of command

The 62nd Medical Squadron change of command ceremony is 2 p.m. Thursday in front of the 62nd MDS clinic. This incoming commander is Col. Catherine Bard and the outgoing commander is Col. John Andrus.

'Bundles for Babies' class

The Air Force Aid Society offers "Bundles for Babies" – a program for women in their second or third trimester of pregnancy or mothers of infants under 6 months of age. The three-hour class covers the costs of raising a child, important health topics such as stress and caring for

babies, and provides information on other Airman and Family Readiness Center and Air Force Aid Society programs. At the end of the class, attendees receive a "bundle" of goodies for the new baby. The next class is 9 a.m. Aug. 12 at the Airman and Family Readiness Center. To sign up, or for more information, call 982-2695.

Mandatory pre-separation counseling

Military servicemembers are required to complete the pre-separation counseling checklist at least 90 days prior to military discharge. Recommended attendance of the pre-separation class is within 12 months for those separating from service and within 24 months for those retiring. The class is offered bi-weekly on Thursdays from 8 a.m. to noon in Bldg. 551. Call the Airman and Family Readiness Center at 982-2695 for more information or to register.

Transition Assistance Program employment workshop

A TAP employment assistance workshop, provided by the Defense Department, the Labor Department, and the Veterans Administration is offered bi-weekly from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Bldg. 551. Topics include individual transition plans, resume development, effective job search, interviews, networking, and more. The workshop is facilitated by a trained Labor Department instructor experienced with the military transition and the current employment environment. Call the Airman and Family Readiness Center at 982-2695 for more information or to register.

Military Spouse Career Advancement Accounts

The Defense Department Military Spouse Career Advancement Accounts for military spouses of active duty and activated Guard and Reserve Service members worldwide offer eligible military spouses 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 Pro-

gram educational series classes for educators and healthcare providers are offered Thursdays at the Madigan annex on Fort Lewis. For more information, call the TBI program education specialist administrator, Bronwyn Pughe, at 968-3193.

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>.

New hours at wing self-help store

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



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

7:46

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

7:46

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

7:46

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

