

# The NORTHWEST AIRLIFTER

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McChord Air Force Base, Wash.

Connecting Team McChord with the Combat Airlift Mission

September 18, 2009

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## History on display at AF Ball Sept. 26

By  
Tyler Hemstreet  
Staff writer

This year's Air Force Ball has all the makings of what any marquee social event should require: fabulous décor, great food, a prestigious guest list and a proud heritage.

All will be on display starting at 6 p.m. Sept. 26 in Hangars 3 and 4.

Headlined by Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz, the guest list also includes Lt. Gen. Robert Allardice, current 18th Air Force commander and former 62nd Airlift Wing commander; as well as current and former 62nd AW leadership, said Maj. Daniel Dobbels, chairman of the Air Force Ball committee.

"It's a great opportunity for folks to hear from General

Schwartz directly, as well as meet and speak to many former wing commanders and command chiefs," Major Dobbels said.

The theme of the ball will touch on many great moments in McChord's long history and have historic displays, photos and McChord-based aviation memorabilia displayed throughout the hangar. Different entrees will be available throughout, giving people the chance to see many artifacts.

"It's a little different format instead of sitting down and having a plate served to you," Major Dobbels said. "This way people can walk around and socialize and not be tied to their tables. I think it will be well received."

Enlisted Airmen should wear the semi-formal or mess dress uniform, officers should wear mess dress and civilians should wear a civilian equivalent.



Photo by Abner Guzman

## Mighty Arrow success!

Team McChord Airmen return home Thursday after participating in Mobility Exercise Mighty Arrow. All participating Airmen and evaluators are expected home today from the Alpena, Mich., Combat Readiness Training Center. The MOBEX was a final flyaway opportunity for Airmen to perfect vital combat skills as a team before the Air Mobility Command Operational Readiness Inspection in October. In support of Mighty Arrow, Team McChord flew 36 dedicated C-17 missions to deploy and return more than 850 Airmen and 140 tons of cargo. Additional missions were flown as scenario-driven MOBEX requirements. For more on the MOBEX, see Pages 8-9.

## Medics ready Team McChord for flu season

By  
Tyler Hemstreet  
Staff writer

With the flu season upon us, 62nd Medical Squadron officials have implemented a vaccination plan and are urging Airmen and their families to get vaccinated.

Vaccination is the most important way to prevent catching or spreading the flu, said Col. (Dr.) Catherine Bard, 62nd Medical Squadron commander.

"From purely a readiness viewpoint, we encourage vaccinations to help mitigate mission degradation due to illness," Dr. Bard said. "But in a larger sense, it is done to prevent potential complications resulting from the flu, including unnecessary hospitalizations or even deaths."

Since the H1N1 is a new strain, individuals will not have immunity, thus a new vaccine has been created and individuals will be given the new H1N1 vaccine in addition to the seasonal flu vaccine in order to provide the greatest protection this flu season, said Capt. Nilani Jayatilaka, 62nd MDS chief of public health.

Recently, the Federal Drug Administration approved the H1N1 vaccine for distribution. The 2009 H1N1 vaccines induce a robust immune response in most healthy adults eight to 10 days after a single dose, as occurs with the seasonal flu vaccine. The new H1N1 vaccine is expected

to be available for active duty servicemembers within the next few months.

Influenza is an illness with symptoms consisting of fever (temperature at or greater than 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit), sore throat, cough and general malaise. It is transmitted from person-to-person by contact or by droplets from coughing or sneezing. Symptoms of the flu usually last from five to ten days and can vary in intensity based upon the individual.

If individuals catch the flu, they are encouraged to cover their cough with their sleeve or tissue and throw the tissue away. It is also recommended they wash their hands often with soap and water and use hand sanitizer when water is not available.

"When folks think they have the flu, the easiest way to prevent the spread to others is to simply go home," Dr. Bard said.

As for treating the flu, over the counter Tylenol or Motrin, decongestants and throat lozenges will help lessen discomfort. Antibiotics, however, are not useful in the treatment of viral infections. Airmen should remain at home for at least 24 hours after the fever has resolved without having to use medication to control the fever, she said.

"You don't need to be seen or evaluated by a medical professional unless you develop complications such as difficulty breathing, drinking or eating, fever uncontrolled with medication, a severe headache or rash or you are concerned because your symptoms are not resolving or im-

proving within a few days of the initial fever," Dr. Bard said.

McChord is receiving the seasonal flu vaccine in shipments containing approximately 500 doses per delivery.

For family members and retirees, the McChord Medical Clinic offers seasonal flu vaccination drives Oct. 5 and 14 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. and Oct. 24 from 9 a.m. to noon. TriCare Prime patients enrolled at the McChord Medical Clinic may walk in for vaccinations anytime during those hours. Children must be registered in DEERS. Children ages 10 and older must present with a valid ID card. Parents must accompany children up to age 18 and bring the child's shot records. Influenza vaccinations are also given during normal clinic hours, weekdays from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The clinic advises that vaccination not be given prior to Oct. 1 to maximize effectiveness. Information regarding H1N1 (Swine) Flu vaccination for active duty and family members will be made available at a future date.



Congratulations to the 62nd Airlift Wing's newest lieutenant colonels. For a full list of names, see Page 15.

### Weekend Weather

FRIDAY      SATURDAY      SUNDAY



Hi: 73  
Low: 54



Hi: 68  
Low: 50



Hi: 74  
Low: 51

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

### Countdown to success

Operational Readiness Inspection..... **36** days

Joint Base IOC..... **134** days

### Don't miss it ...

### Deployed Families Dinner

The Chapel Support Center hosts a dinner for family members of deployed Airmen at 6 p.m. Sept. 28. For more information or to register, call the chapel at 982-5556.

# AF birthday: Opportunity to recognize 62 years of success

By

**Gen. Arthur Lichte**  
Air Mobility Command commander

On Sept. 18, 1947, our Air Force became a separate branch of the military. Since then our unequalled accomplishments have helped provide a beacon of hope for men, women, and children all over the world.

Throughout our command's rich history, we have evolved from Air Transportation Command to Air Mobility Command, which now encompasses airlift, air refueling,

aeromedical evacuation, and everything required to support these core competencies. During this transition, the United States Air Force and its mobility component have played a vital role in our Nation's defense and to providing relief to those in need around the world.

The Air Force's birthday is an ideal time to celebrate this heritage and the people that have made and continue to make it all possible. During the Berlin Airlift, our veteran Airmen delivered 2.2 million tons of cargo to a city desperately in need. Today, our AMC, AFRC, and ANG Airmen continue this honor-

able tradition as they work together to achieve unprecedented results around the globe.

Our success does come at a price as evidenced by the many sacrifices of our Airmen and their families. While our people work long hours and endure time away from home, their families remain steadfast in providing unyielding support and care for our personnel as they make history every day.

Every member is vital to the continued success of the Air Force and AMC. Commanders and supervisors must continue to promote safety awareness and accident pre-

vention. It is imperative that everyone be a good wingman to family and friends. Many of the Airmen who are no longer with us might still be alive today had a friend or loved one intervened in their time of need.

Take time on Sept. 18 to remember and recognize the superior contributions our Air Force has made to this great nation. Also take time to remember the sacrifices that Airmen and their families have made to found the freedoms that we enjoy today. For that, I am honored and thankful to be among you wearing the Air Force uniform.

# Seeing fruits of airdrop labor a great thing

By

**Capt. Scott Byrum**  
10th Airlift Squadron

CENTCOM, Area of Operations — We've all had those moments. Where we stand on the precipice ... certain that the actions and words we take and choose over the next few moments will inevitably change the outcome of our lives, and perhaps the lives of hundreds. That time, usually a countdown from 30 to 10 seconds, where you have measured with a micrometer and now stand poised to cut with an axe. That's when you hear Capt. Thomas "TP" Parker, 10th Airlift Squadron, cry, "JUST SLING IT!"

Then you think to yourself ... a battalion of Marines will have enough to drink, eat, and shoot tomorrow ... and, man, do I love my job.

Airdrop aircrews from the 10th Airlift Squadron operating from here have been happily plugging away — putting up record numbers in a daily at-

tempt to resupply the troops at forward operating bases throughout Afghanistan. The days aren't quite as long as the grueling trip from Turkey to Afghanistan and back, but with the extended ground times, endless orbits and alert sequences, it starts to add up. However, you won't find many complaints from anyone in the 817th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron OL-B, the squadron's airdrop component stationed here. No complaints, that is, until it's time to move to a different deployed location. The unity of purpose this unique mobility mission engenders has created an incredibly tight-knit unit, and I don't think any one of us would trade this opportunity for anything.

The reason... the beauty... is that we immediately see the fruits of our labor. We hear repeatedly that we are supplementing provisions for troops down to their last canteens and magazines. We have the luxury of hearing the voices of the controllers over FM radios and hear the relief as they see their next meal fall on the dropzone. We are humbled seeing troops

on their way back to their respective bases, sitting at bus stops on their layover, thanking us for the support they received downrange.

But that's when that troop turns to you on the bench and says they never received an airdrop. That's when they mention they got every morale package their parents sent them from a C-17 flying an airland mission. No, not every soldier or marine is out in unreachable regions of the Afghan desert. Most sit in tents and huts in places we are all familiar ... Bagram, Kandahar and others. To these troops the C-17 and its crews still mean necessity, provisions, a bit of comfort and a bit of home. I write all this to say that those of us down here are lucky to see the immediate effects of our effort. We love what we are doing and feel privileged to put into combat the rewards of our extremely challenging currency requirements.

We just wanted you to know that we also have the luxury of seeing the impact Team McChord is having on the entire AOR. Well done, team, well done.

## The Sharp Airman ...

Knows to be credible, leaders must have humility, commitment and the ability to enhance the organization by drawing out the unique strengths

of each member. The Sharp Airman also knows they must get their hands dirty from time to time. Only by being at the front will the leader be able to feel the pace and progress, as well as the problems.

Lastly, the Sharp Airman knows credibility is very fragile and takes years to earn through persistent, consistent and patient leadership; yet credibility can be lost with one thoughtless remark, act or broken agreement.

## PROFESSIONALS

of the week

### 22nd Special Tactics Squadron

#### Staff Sgt. Christopher Keeler

**Duty Title:**  
Special tactics combat control operator

**Duty section:**  
22nd STS/Red Team

**Hometown:**  
Merced, Calif.

#### Why he's tops:

Sergeant Keeler arrived at the 22nd STS as a new 3-level and quickly progressed to meet the demanding role as a joint terminal attack controller. He has deployed twice to support ongoing efforts in Operation Enduring Freedom. Currently deployed, he is an essential member working alongside a U.S. Army Special Forces team. He has been critical in completing 16 combat patrols, resulting in 105 enemy killed and capturing key enemy leaders. He controlled 60 hot landing zones, ensuring safety of flight and delivery of 50 tons of mission essential equipment and 65 key coalition members.



#### Staff Sgt. Zachary Wahlers

**Duty Title:**  
Special tactics combat control operator

**Duty section:**  
22nd STS/Blue Team

**Hometown:**  
Tampa, Fla.

#### Why he's super:

Sergeant Wahlers is currently attached to a remote U.S. Army Special Forces team located in Afghanistan as part of a six-month deployment. He and his team have completed 47 missions in the past three months and been in direct enemy contact on four separate occasions. During these missions, Sergeant Wahlers controlled 25 sorties of aircraft and devastated the enemy with 18 kills by close air support ordnance. He and his team have also recovered and destroyed two enemy weapons caches and taken part in five key leadership engagements with local elders. Sergeant Wahlers controls all drop zone resupplies for his area crucial for resupply for an entire coalition team in this remote region.



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# General Newton: People are priority No. 1

By

Master Sgt. Paul Dean

Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (AFNS) -- "The Air Force is a great way of life and we are going to make it even better," said Lt. Gen. Richard Y. Newton III, deputy chief of staff for manpower and personnel at the 2009 Air Force Association Air & Space Conference and Technology Exposition at the National Harbor in Oxon Hill, Md.

General Newton emphasized his perspective that people issues are integrated into each of the priorities Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley and Chief of Staff of the Air Force Gen. Norton Schwartz laid out in 2008.

The general met with more than 150 conference attendees during a standing-room only briefing on personnel issues ranging from managing the force to celebrating the Year of the Air Force Family.

During his talk, the general noted how taking care of Airmen and their families is part of Air Force heritage, having its origins in the birth of the organization.

"I know that data point number one is Airmen and all of our people. They are the heart and soul of the organization," he said.

"I want us to be 'best in class,' the standard-bearer," General Newton

said, comparing the Air Force to its sister services.

"An Airman is absolutely a weapons system," said General Newton, talking about some of his priorities: shaping, sizing and enhancing the quality of service; warrior and survivor care; the Year of the Air Force Family; diversifying the workforce for the 21st century; and changing the Air Force culture, specifically with the implementation of the new fitness Air Force Instruction in 2010.

Previous drawdowns are being reversed and the shape of the Air Force is changing as active duty end strength is matched by complimentary increases in the Reserve and the civilian workforce. The general foresees Air Force civilians becoming more involved in future deployments.

"We all have to come up together because of the total force application," General Newton said. "Our jointness affects how and where we serve together," General Newton said.

Warrior and survivor care will continue to emphasize recovery, rehabilitation and reintegration. General Newton said the Air Force is committed to lifetime support of wounded warriors and their families.

"These people are overcoming obstacles I can't even contemplate," said the general. "We have a sol-

emn obligation, a lifetime obligation to them. We will help them stay in uniform for as long as they want to serve or enable a successful transition for those who don't want to or can't."

Air Force officials currently are working with more than 500 combat wounded warriors and their families.

Taking care of Airmen and their families is one of the objectives during the Year of the Air Force Family, which kicked off in July. Along with specific program improvements in the areas of health and wellness, housing and development education, the initiative also includes Air Force Family Week November 1 to 7 and a planned Single Airmen Summit scheduled for February.

General Newton cited a recent study that found quality childcare to be the number one concern of Airmen with families.

"We are building capacity and successfully reducing wait times to address this," he said.

The general also noted planned improvements to video conferencing capability, allowing better communication during deployments, and to a video conference reading program.

With an ever-changing cultural mix in the general population, General Newton highlighted the importance of mirroring the positive outcomes of diversity in the Air Force.

"This is a strategic imperative," he said. "A lack of diversity has consequences. There is finite talent and we are competing with the other services, corporations and academia for it."

The general noted that now is the time when the general officers who will "form the bench in 2038 and 2039" are entering the force.

"We are in a war for talent," he said, encouraging today's leaders to "get in touch with your affinity groups and sell the Air Force."

With the January implementation of the updated physical fitness AFI fast approaching, General Newton explained the intent and goals of the deliberate changes.

"This is a drive to make fitness a part of our culture, part of our way of life," General Newton said. "It isn't a 'gotcha' program, it's about creating an atmosphere where people want to improve and be more fit for the rest of their lives."

Improvements to base fitness centers are intended to make getting and staying fit more convenient and rewarding to Airmen. And once implemented, an online assessment tool will offer Airmen suggestions for improvement based on the component scores of their assessments.

"Every day is a new beginning in my job," said General Newton. "It's our people that will make us the most relevant Air Force we can be."



Courtesy photo

## Future training site

McChord leaders broke ground on a \$45 million C-17 Weapon System Trainer Sept 8. The new trainer is expected to be completed and online by August 2010. The wing goal for the improved simulator is to reduce overall training in the air by approximately 20 percent, making more aircraft available for combat missions and reducing aircrew training costs. The simulator will support aircrew from the 62nd and 446th Airlift Wings, as well as visiting aircrew. From left are Marsha Tanaka, WJA Design and Collaborative; Lou Matz, Boeing Site manager; Lt. Col. John Frey, 62nd Civil Engineer Squadron commander; Lt. Col. JR Twiford, 7th Airlift Squadron commander; Col. Kenny Weldon, 62nd Mission Support Group commander; Lt. Col. Robert Cook, 62nd Operations Support Squadron commander; Jeff Bowers, Bowers Construction president; Lt. Col. Jim McGann, 62nd Operations Group deputy commander; Col. David Pavey, 446th Operations Group commander; Col. Kevin Kilb, 62nd Airlift Wing commander and Col. Anthony Wright, Seattle District Army Corps of Engineers commander.



# McChord celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month

**By**  
**Tyler Hemstreet**  
 Staff writer

From now until Oct. 15, food, dancing and storytelling will paint a celebratory picture across McChord as part of Hispanic Heritage Month.

The month-long celebration kicked off Tuesday with a bilingual book reading at the Child Development Center, which continues each Tuesday and Thursday until Oct. 15. The celebration also includes a food sampling today from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Chapel Support Center.

"We wanted to make the events visible and accessible so everyone on the base could partake in the festivities and enjoy them," said Capt. Maria Gomez-Herbert, 62nd Medical Squadron, one of the many organizers of the series of events. "We couldn't have done it without all the great volunteers on the committee. Everybody contributed something to make it great."

The food sampling features catered Latin American food from local restaurants — including the serving of pupusas, hand-made corn biscuit-like flat bread made using a maize flour dough used in

Latin American cuisine — as well as other samples made by volunteers.

There will also be various posters of different Latin countries and a display on the history of Hispanic Heritage Month, said Staff Sgt. Rachel Sabathne, 62nd Maintenance Operation Squadron.

"It's a chance for everyone to get a better understanding of the different cultures that will be represented," Sergeant Sabathne said. "I got involved because I wanted to be part of something that was different from my culture."

From 1 to 3 p.m. on Sept. 24, Airman 1st Class Jared Brzostek, 62nd MOS, will host story time at the base library, highlighting a host of bilingual books the staff has picked out for the month-long observation.

On Oct. 2 as part of First Friday at the McChord Clubs and Community Center, the Heritage Room will be decked out in Latin flair and a Zumba instructor will host a fitness class, which gives people the chance to learn basic salsa dance moves while getting a good cardiovascular workout.

Hispanic Heritage Month will close out Oct. 15 with a commemorative brick laying at 3 p.m. at Memorial Grove.



Graphic by Randy White

Despite the heavy operations tempo and the Operational Readiness Inspection preparation, Captain Gomez-Herbert said the committee worked hard to keep the events simple so as many people as possible could enjoy them.

"We want folks to be able to en-

joy a little taste of culture without having to scramble their schedule," she said. "I think we've put together a combination of events that really makes that a possibility and enables everyone to get out of the office for a minute or two and do something different."

## McChord Events

15 September to 15 October, Tuesdays and Thursdays, Bilingual Book Readings at Child Development Center  
 POC: SSgt Tanya Williams

18 September 1100-1300: Food Sampling at Chapel Support Center. Come kick off Hispanic American Heritage Month by sampling delicious foods from all over Latin America  
 POC: SSgt Rachel Sabathne

24 September 1100 and 1500: Story Time at McChord Base Library  
 POC: A1C Jared Brzostek

2 Oct First Friday! Come out to first Friday and sample local cuisine with a Latin Flair!

15 October: Commemorative Brick Laying at Memorial Grove to mark closing of Hispanic American Heritage Month.

**For the latest McChord news, visit [www.mcchord.af.mil](http://www.mcchord.af.mil)  
 (From government computers, visit [www.mcchord.af.mil/](http://www.mcchord.af.mil/))**



# JAG announces law school programs

By  
62nd Airlift Wing  
Legal Office

Applications for the Funded Legal Education Program and Excess Leave Program will be accepted from Jan. 1 through March 1, the 62nd Airlift Wing Legal Office announced this week. Interested officers are encouraged to compete for acceptance into the program.

"Our Air Force missions are constantly changing, and commanders deserve to have access to legal advisors with a broad background of military experiences," said Maj. Tiffany Dawson, 62nd AW staff judge advocate. "The FLEP and ELP will ensure that we can continue to maintain a corps of officers whose military experience complements their legal training, providing commanders with the highest caliber of legal support."

According to Major Dawson, Air Force JAGs do more than just provide legal assistance. In addition to prosecuting and defending clients brought before courts-martial, JAG officers routinely participate in nearly every facet of the Air Force mission, including developing and acquiring weapons systems, ensuring availability of airspace and ranges where those systems are tested and operated, consulting with commanders about how those systems are employed in armed conflict and assisting commanders in the day-to-day running of military installations around the world.

"Every facet of every Air Force mis-

sion is bound by elements of the law," Major Dawson said.

The FLEP is a paid legal studies program for active duty Air Force commissioned officers. The FLEP is an assignment action, and participants receive full pay, allowances and tuition. FLEP applicants must have between two and six years active duty service (enlisted or commissioned) and must be in the pay grade O-3 or below as of the day they begin law school. The FLEP is subject to tuition limitations, and positions may be limited due to overall funding availability. The Air Force Institute of Technology establishes the tuition limit, and the 2010 academic year is set at approximately \$16,000 per year. This amount may change year to year.

The ELP is an unpaid legal studies program for Air Force officers. ELP participants do not receive pay and allowances, but remain on active duty for retirement eligibility and benefits purposes. ELP applicants must have between two and ten years active duty service and must be in the pay grade O-3 or below as of the first day of law school.

Applications for FY10 FLEP and ELP will be accepted from January 1 through March 1. Both the FLEP and ELP programs require attendance at an American Bar Association accredited law school. Upon graduation and admission to practice law in the highest court of any state, territory of the United States or a federal court, candidates are eligible for designation as judge advocates. To be considered for FLEP or ELP, applicants must have completed all application forms, applied



Photo by Senior Airman Tiffany Trojca

**Capt. Karen Jordan and an Iraqi investigator look over legal files recently in Baghdad, Iraq. The investigators collect evidence and witnesses for trials. Captain Jordan is a lawyer for the 732nd Central Criminal Court of Iraq. The FLEP and ELP ensure that the Air Force can continue to maintain a corps of officers whose military experience complements their legal training, providing commanders with the highest caliber of legal support for missions across the world.**

(acceptance is not required at the time of application for FLEP/ELP) to at least one ABA accredited law school, received their Law School Admissions Test results and completed a staff judge advocate interview by March 1. Officers must also provide a letter of conditional release from their current career field.

Selection for both programs is competitive. Applications meet a selection board in early March, and selections

are made based on a review of the application package using a "whole person" concept. AFI 51-101, Judge Advocate Accession Program, Chapters 2 and 3, discuss the FLEP and ELP. For more information and application materials, visit <http://www.airforce.com/jag>, contact the base legal office or contact Capt. Afsana Ahmed at [afsana.ahmed@pentagon.af.mil](mailto:afsana.ahmed@pentagon.af.mil) or 1-800-JAG-USAF.



# Airmen receive UCMJ disciplinary actions

By

Capt. Sean McConnell  
62nd Airlift Wing Legal Office

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

- An Airman 1st Class was found in violation of Article 112a – Wrongful Distribution of a Controlled Substance – for wrongfully distributing oxycodone to a fellow Airman. The punishment imposed was a suspended reduction in rank to Airman and 14 days of extra duty.

- An Airman 1st Class was found in violation of Article 112a – Wrongful Distribution of a Controlled Substance – for wrongfully distributing oxycodone to a fellow Airman. The punishment imposed was a reduction in rank to Airman and 14 days of extra duty.

- An Airman 1st Class was found in violation of Articles 107 and 86 for signing a false official statement and failing to go to a place of duty. The punishment imposed was a reduction in rank to Airman, 14 days of extra duty and a reprimand.



Photo by Capt. Patrick Brady-Lee

# Windfall discovery

Col. Glenn Rosseau, 62nd Operations Group commander, presents John Ryan, 62nd Operations Support Squadron, a check for \$10,000 Wednesday at the group standup as part of the 62nd Airlift Wing's IDEA program. Mr. Ryan established a new air refueling track over eastern Washington which allows crews to begin training closer to McChord and end closer to Moses Lake, saving McChord fuel costs as well as those for the tanker fleet from Fairchild Air Force Base. The expected savings to the Air Force is more than \$2.3 million per year.



McChord Airmen

# AROUND THE WORLD



Courtesy photo

**WEST TIMOR** — Staff Sgt. Carrie Conley, 446th Aerospace Medicine Squadron, receives coconuts from a group of locals as a sign of thanks after giving candy to some Timorese children candy while on deployment in support of Pacific Angel and its continuing humanitarian mission.



Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Sharon Elkman

**BALAD AIR BASE, Iraq** — Tech. Sgt. Dennis Wright, 86th Aerial Port Squadron, conducts training on a 60K Tunker for a fellow aerial porter during a recent deployment. Reservists from McChord's 86th and 36th Aerial Port Squadrons were deployed to Iraq December 2008 to May 2009.



# Mobility Exercise Mighty Arrow



Team McChord survives and operates!



# McChord Star winner headed to AMC competition

By  
Tyler Hemstreet  
Staff writer

The sweet, soulful sounds of country music lyrics flooded through the 62nd Maintenance Squadron's Non-Destructive Inspection office, drowning out the talk of aircraft maintenance ever so briefly.

The melody wasn't coming from a radio turned up past a respectable volume, but from Airman 1st Class Rachel Kleist, 62nd MXS, who was performing an ad hoc sound check for her fellow Airmen while holding a pen as a microphone inside a tool room in the squadron shop.

"If I need any opinions on how I sound, sometimes that's where I sing," Airman Kleist said.

The mini performances and critiques paid off as Airman Kleist recently bested two other McChord Airmen in the finals of the "McChord Star" talent competition to move on to Air Mobility Command's Icon finals Oct. 26 at Scott Air Force Base, Ill.

Singing Alicia Keys' "Ain't Got You" as part of the Rythm and Blues night theme during the final night of competition, Airman Kleist wowed the panel of judges.

"What made Rachel a stand out was her ability to adapt each week to the different styles of music to include Country, '80s, Standards and R&B," said Tech. Sgt. Brad Turner, 62nd Airlift Wing NCOIC of chapel operations and one of the

judges. "Each week she brought it and ensured her place at the top. Rachel sings from the heart with a voice that is pure and honest. Every note grabs you and demands you listen."

After singing in a choir in high school, Airman Kleist entered into some local talent contests, but her desire to perform waned after getting nervous and forgetting some lyrics at one competition.

But the desire to sing competitively returned eventually.

"It was a slow process but I finally got to a comfortable level with my voice and performing," she said.

And while Airman Kleist admits she's a bit nervous about performing at Scott AFB, she is more than comfortable with the song she's chosen to perform, "Anyway" by Martina McBride. "She's my role model," the Airman said. "I enjoy country music more than everything else and I love the message she portrays with her music."

And Airman Kleist will likely be in top performing shape. After the competition she was approached by Sergeant Turner and asked to join the Contemporary Worship Team.

"I felt her voice and personality would complement our team well," Sergeant Turner said.

She gratefully accepted, adopting another singing support group.

"We're like a little family," Airman Kleist said.

A family that will likely build up and critique one of their own as she attempts to bring the AMC Icon trophy back to McChord.



Airman 1st Class Rachel Kleist, 62nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, heads to Air Mobility Command's talent competition, "AMC Idol," Oct. 24 at Scott Air Force Base, Ill., to compete against other singers from across the command. Airman Kleist beat out two other singers in the finals of the base wide "McChord Star" competition.

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



# AF launches new civilian employment site

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**By**

**Staff Sgt. Steve Grever**  
Air Force Personnel Center  
Public Affairs

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RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFNS) — Air Force Personnel Center officials here have developed a new Air Force civilian employment Web site to educate potential applicants and the general public about available civilian jobs, the eligibility and application process and finding job opportunities in various specialties and ca-

reer fields.

“Over the next five years, the Air Force plans to hire 20,000 more civilians into civil service,” said Michelle LoweSolis, Civilian Force Integration director at AFPC. “The new civilian employment Web site is a proactive approach to arm job seekers with every tool they need to confidently apply for Air Force jobs.”

Ms. LoweSolis also said the new site will help clarify the Air Force’s current civilian hiring process and provide site visitors with detailed information about available career

fields. The site also helps explain federal employment benefits and educates visitors on student job opportunities.

The launch of the new civilian employment site also aligns with AFPC’s roll out of the “Your Future” employment marketing and recruiting campaign in September.

“The overall strategy of the ‘Your Future’ campaign is to help market and brand the Air Force as a premier civilian employer,” said Shirlene LeBleu, the Force Renewal and Development Division chief at AFPC’s Civilian Force Integration

Directorate. “The initiative, once released Air Force-wide, will help fill civilian vacancies more quickly by targeting qualified, local candidates as well as increase employment opportunities for military dependents.”

Air Force civilian employment opportunities can be found at the new Web site, <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/afcivilianjobs>. For more information about civilian employment, please call the Total Force Service Center at 1-800-525-0102 or e-mail [tfsc.sa\\_feedback@randolph.af.mil](mailto:tfsc.sa_feedback@randolph.af.mil).



# Combined Federal Campaign kicks off Tuesday

**By**  
**Tyler Hemstreet**  
 Staff writer

The base Combined Federal Campaign kicks off Tuesday with an 11:30 a.m. luncheon at the McChord Clubs and Community Center.

Federal employees and servicemembers can participate in CFC and make contributions to a wide variety of charities in cash, check or payroll deduction. CFC was established in 1961 and allows millions of federal employees and military personnel to contribute to thousands of local and national non-

profit organizations.

Last year local federal employees pledged more than \$1.2 million to local, national and international charities during the 2008 CFC of South Puget Sound.

By visiting [www.cfcgive.org](http://www.cfcgive.org), those interested in contributing can research charities using key words to search the campaign's database.

Pledges made by Federal civilian, postal and military donors during the campaign season support eligible non-profit organizations that provide health and human service benefits throughout the world.

The campaign runs through Nov. 8.

## Combined Federal Campaign unit representatives

### Project officers for McChord:

Lt. Col. Scott Eucker (982-0893),  
 Tech. Sgt. Michael Dauback  
 (982-5362)

### 62nd Mission Support

**Group:** Tech. Sgt. Laura Kattner  
 (982-2532)

### 62nd Security Forces Squadron:

Tech. Sgt. Marc Provencher

### 62nd Maintenance Group:

Tech. Sgt. Anthony Hendry  
 (982-6851)

### 62nd Aircraft Maintenance

**Squadron:** 2nd Lt. Jonathan  
 Schmidt

### 62nd Civil Engineer Squadron:

2nd Lt. Blaine Guenther

### 62nd Airlift Wing:

Staff Sgt. Heidi Hill (982-3059)

### 62nd Medical Squadron:

Senior Airman Debra Alvarez  
 (982-8777)

### 62nd Aerial Port Squadron:

2nd Lt. Justin Fischer

### 62nd Force Support Squadron:

Master Sgt. Erica Bairos

### 62nd Maintenance Operation Squadron:

Tech Sgt. Georgia Darakos

### 62nd Logistics Readiness

**Squadron:** Staff Sgt. Stephan Lasher

### 62nd Communications

**Squadron:** Master Sgt. Denielle Eiler

### 62nd Operations Group:

Senior Master Sgt. Robert Cissell  
 (982-3593)

### 22nd Special Tactics Squadron:

Master Sgt. Bryan Nelson  
 (982-2150)

**446th Airlift Wing:** Kathleen Brazell (982-3883)

**AFOSI DET 305:** Special Agent Trisha Krull (982-5503)



# AF engineer builds relationships on PRT in Afghanistan

By

**Capt. Darrick Lee**  
Provincial Reconstruction Team  
Kapisa/Parwa

KAPISA PROVINCE, Afghanistan (AFNS) — Although the formula for success in Afghanistan may be complex to some, it is commonly agreed that the war cannot be won by military might alone.

According to Army Gen. Stanley McChrystal, the International Security Assistance Force commander, the current strategy used by coalition forces in the region focuses on a three-pronged approach: improve security, establish government processes and focus on infrastructure development.

On the frontlines of the development effort are provincial reconstruction teams. Originally implemented in Iraq, they now are the primary force in Afghanistan used to help create roads, schools, medical facilities and other necessary structures.

While the actual construction is performed by Afghans, coalition engineers provide the mentoring and expertise to ensure projects are completed on time and up to standard.

First Lt. Anthony Raffaele is a civil engineer with the Kapisa and Parwan PRT in Afghanistan.

Lieutenant Raffaele is deployed as part of a joint engineering team consisting of civil engineer Airmen, Afghans and members of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Serving as an engineer with a PRT in Afghanistan is not a typical civil

engineer job. There's a fair amount of risk involved, since most of the projects are located in Afghan communities away from the security of Bagram Airfield, where his team is headquartered. In fact, Lieutenant Raffaele travels to and from his worksites by embedding with the Army on combat patrols, sometimes on foot.

This requires him to be prepared for combat, as most insurgent attacks against PRTs occur while travelling to and from their objectives. Part of his preparation included three months of combat training with the Army's 189th Training Brigade at Camp Atterbury, Ind.

There, Lieutenant Raffaele learned how to survive outside the wire, with training in convoy operations, mounted gunnery and hand-to-hand combat.

His training was not confined to combat skills. As part of his duties, his team learned how to interact with Afghans, including learning the local language, observing Afghan culture and interacting with civilian agencies contributing to the coalition effort.

With less than two months in theater, he's provided oversight and guidance on the construction or repair of 14 roads, 14 schools, two court-houses, one mosque and one medical clinic.

According to Lieutenant Raffaele, the relationships that build during the construction process is just as important as the project itself. He draws similarities between his mission at his home station and his mission as an engineer in Afghanistan.



U.S. Army photo

**First Lt. Anthony Raffaele is deployed with the Kapisa/Parwan Provincial Reconstruction Team in Afghanistan. The team is there building schools and streets in order to help empower Afghans and encourage them to separate from insurgents.**

“Our nuclear mission (at F.E. Warren) is designed to deter others from launching attacks against the U.S.,” the lieutenant said, “but here, the PRT is used as a deterrent by empowering the people to separate themselves from insurgents. If they are able to create and sustain the structures they need, they may become less likely to be influenced by insurgents.”

Building structures while simultaneously building relationships is not an easy task, especially when bridging two cultures to accomplish one mission. He said baby steps must be taken sometimes to implement new ways of doing things or overcome shortcom-

ings that can hinder progress.

“Everything is not always as safe as we would like on site,” he said, commenting about the differences between construction in the United States and in Afghanistan. “Once, I saw Afghan workers laying hot asphalt wearing nothing but sandals. Issues like these are issues we work through together.”

Lieutenant Raffaele offers advice to others in his career field.

“Learn as much as you can at home station,” he said. “No matter what shop you work in, all of your trades, and then some, will be used when you deploy.”



# Airman sheds 70 pounds, ready to take on marathon

By

Master Sgt. Stephen Delgado  
Air Force Public Affairs Agency

WASHINGTON (AFNS) — As last Thanksgiving passed and the leftovers were all gone, one Airman had an epiphany about his portly self.

Nearly a year later and 70 pounds lighter, Senior Master Sgt. Ken Holcomb is getting ready to run the Air Force Marathon Saturday at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. He plans to blog the race on his site, <http://fatsergeant.blogspot.com/>, every step of the way.

"I hadn't failed a physical fitness test, but I wasn't excelling," said Sergeant Holcomb, the Air Force Public Affairs Agency media center superintendent. "I ran a marathon in 2007, but with my job, it was getting harder to get out for regular runs. I realized that I was getting way too heavy and was not in the physical shape I wanted to be in."

He decided meeting the standard wasn't enough.

The new standards of the Air Force Fitness Program require Airmen to test twice per year, which Sergeant Holcomb thinks is a good idea.

"I used to procrastinate when it came to fitness. The new standards will help someone stay in shape as a way of life instead of just trying to pass a test.

"I wanted to lead by example, so I started to set short-term goals," he said. "I had a physical fitness test coming up, and I wanted to do well."

Through his blog site, the new-found athlete describes what has become his strict regimen of running, weightlifting and eating right.

"Vegetables and fruit are a major part of my diet," he said. "I enjoy vegetables a lot more

now than I used to."

Sergeant Holcomb cut down on processed foods, simple sugars and white flour.

"I've learned that my body was made to process food, not to eat food that is processed," he said.

Sergeant Holcomb joined a running club to help him train and to workout with other people. He also goes to the gym with his 15-year-old son to lift weights and do strength training.

"I just celebrated my 25th anniversary in the military, so I set a trifecta of goals," he said.

By sticking with his regimen, Sergeant Holcomb has reached two of the three goals he set.

The first goal he accomplished was to attend his 25th high school reunion weighing the same as he did when he graduated. The goal of getting a perfect score on his physical fitness test for the first time in his career was also met.

"I was very pleased with the time I accomplished the 1.5-mile run. I did it in 9 minutes and 27 seconds, which is a good enough time for an 18-year-old Airman to pass," the 43-year-old said.

Sergeant Holcomb's third goal is to run and finish the 26.2-mile Air Force Marathon.

He said running marathons can be humbling.

"I'll be running and think I'm doing well, and then a 75-year-old person will pass me. I want to be 'that person' when I'm older. I do take satisfaction in realizing that I'm running faster at age 43 than I did when I was 18."

Catch up with Sergeant Holcomb during the marathon at: <http://www.facebook.com/USairforce>, <http://airforcelive.dodlive.mil/>, <http://twitter.com/afpaa>, <http://www.youtube.com/user/AFBlueTube>, <http://www.flickr.com/photos/usairforce/>.

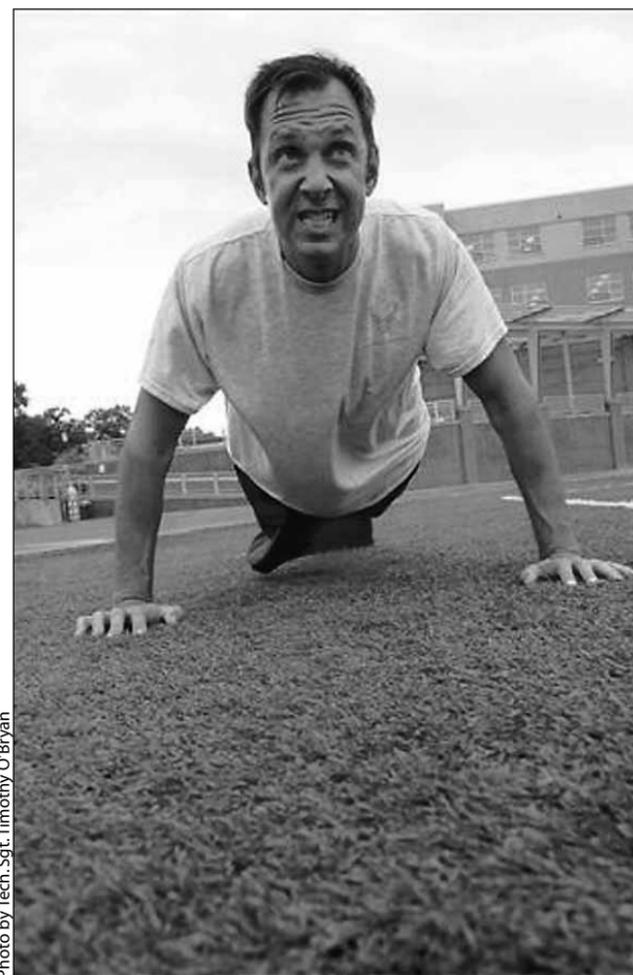


Photo by Tech. Sgt. Timothy O'Bryan

**Senior Master Sgt. Kenneth Holcomb performs push ups for his recent fitness test in Washington, D.C. Although he needed to do 40 pushups to pass that portion of the test, Sergeant Holcomb did 50 and earned a perfect score.**



**ASBBC blood drive**

The Armed Services Blood Bank Center hosts a blood drive 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sept. 25 at the Chapel Support Center. Everyone eligible to donate is encouraged to do so on a walk-in basis. The blood collected at the blood drive will arrive in Iraq or Afghanistan approximately two weeks from the time it is donated.

The process of donating blood takes approximately 45 minutes and includes registration, interview and physical screening and the actual collection of a pint of blood.

Some people may not be eligible to donate if a year has not passed from returning from a deployment to Afghanistan, Iraq and eastern Turkey, which carry certain restrictions from donating. However, many of the other countries in the Middle East that the military travels to are acceptable. Kuwait and Qatar have no restrictions.

It is recommended donors weigh at least 110 pounds, are at least 17 years old, have been feeling well for the last three days and have eaten before donating. For more information on event and to find out one's eligibility, visit the ASBBC Web site at <http://www.militaryblood.dod.mil/default.aspx>.

**Plastic bags drive for CDC**

The 8th Airlift Squadron is sponsoring a plastic bag drive to help offset costs for the Child Development Center, which needs bags to put soiled clothes and dirty diapers into. A collection recycle container is set up directly outside of the main entrance to the commissary. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Gabriel Reams at 982-7357.

**OSC hosts jewelry event**

The Officers' Spouses' Club hosts a jewelry event 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday at the McChord Clubs and Community Center.

**Traffic notice**

Due to increased heavy inbound traffic at McChord's main gate off Bridgeport Rd., the 62nd Security Forces Squadron is requesting base personnel utilize the Barnes gate (near Burger King) when feasible, especially during high peak hours (7:30 to 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.). Directions to the Barnes gate are as follows – from Interstate 5: take exit 123. Make a right off exit ramp, and follow for one mile. Make a left turn onto 150th St. Follow for approximately three miles. Make a left at the stop sign at 150th and Perimeter Rd. Follow Perimeter Rd. for one mile then make a left turn at the light onto Barnes Ave.

From Spanaway Loop, turn onto Perimeter Rd. Follow Perimeter Rd for approximately 1.5 miles to intersection of Perimeter and Barnes Ave.

For more information, call 982-5100.

**Deployed Families Dinner**

The next Deployed Families Dinner is 6 p.m. Sept. 28 at the Chapel Support Center. To reserve a seat or for more information, call 982-5556.

**Base housing available**

Family housing is available on base for both immediate and future move-in dates. For more information, contact the McChord Family Housing office at 589.0523.

**Lost and found' items**

The 62nd Security Forces Squadron is currently in possession of numerous items of personal property such as bicycles, keys, etc. These items were found on or near McChord and may be reclaimed by contacting the Security Forces investigation section, located at Bldg. 160. For more information, call 982-5936.

**Limited service at McChord Clinic**

The McChord Clinic is open 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays. The clinic includes both the 62nd Medical Squadron, which serves active duty beneficiaries, and the McChord Medical Clinic, which serves family members and retirees. Please direct any questions or concerns to the 62nd MDS group practice manager at 982-2304.

**—NAMES TO NOTE—**

The following Airmen were recently selected for promotion to lieutenant colonel:

- **Maj. Jennifer Barnard**, 62nd Maintenance Squadron
- **Maj. Robert Brenzel**, 62nd Operations Group
- **Maj. Deborah Dickensheets**, 62nd Force Support Squadron
- **Maj. James Dooley**, 62nd Comptroller Squadron
- **Maj. Jack Jackman**, 62nd Contracting Squadron
- **Maj. Robert Povlich**, 62nd Communications Squadron
- **Maj. Dean Richardson**, 62nd Airlift Wing
- **Maj. Michael Snodgrass**, 8th Airlift Squadron

The wing hosts a promotion ceremony at 2 p.m. Sept. 30 at the base theater.



### 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

