The NORTHWEST AIRLIFTER

Vol. 40, No. 43

McChord Air Force Base, Wash. | Connecting Team McChord with the Combat Airlift Mission | October 17, 2008

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Photo by Abner Guzman

Bring it on!

Airmen secure protective suits and masks during ability to survive and operate training Sept. 29 to Oct. 3 at McChord. The training was in preparation for the mobility exercise this week. The MOBEX tests the 62nd Airlift Wing's ability to deploy, survive and operate in a combat environment and return home. According to the plans and programs staff, the MOBEX represents the first time that Team McChord has evaluated its war fighting capabilities since the last Operational Readiness Exercise in 2006.

Privatization plan set to transform base housing

By
Tyler Hemstreet
Staff writer

With effects of housing privatization already visible here, base officials are pleased with the progress and excited about what the future holds for the quality of life for families living on base.

"You can already see by the fencing around Cascade Village that things are starting to move forward," said Col. Jeffrey Stephenson, 62nd Airlift Wing commander. "In the next few months there will be much more activity as this partnership progresses."

Equity Residential, McChord's housing privatization partner, has already negotiated new leases with nearly 600 families and say many are looking at the project with excitement and anticipation.

"We really want to just build and expand on the real sense of community that is already here," said Cindy Mills, a senior neighborhood manager with Equity.

Improved, connected walking trails throughout the neighborhoods, a new community center and updated housing are things Equity officials hope will further add to the appeal of living on base, said Equity neighborhood manager Tracy Wilkinson.

"Those amenities are something the Air Force might not have been able to provide in the project timetable we're dealing with," Ms. Wilkinson said.

Initial construction projections for 2009 include 38 new homes being built, 54 undergoing major renovations, 141 undergoing renovations and completion of the community center.

Equity's ability to use its line of credit to secure funding, thereby speeding up the construction process, is something the company believes will produce tangible project results in a short amount of time, she said.

It all translates into a good situation for those living on base, Colonel Stephenson said.

"Airmen and their families will enjoy the new amenities of housing privatization and have the benefit of living in a community of neighbors

See HOUSING, Page 14

Joint Base Lewis-McChord Web site launched

By
Rich Bartell
Fort Lewis
Public Affairs

The latest information concerning soon-to-be Joint Base Lewis-McChord can be found on the Internet at http://info.lewis-mcchord.army.mil.

The recently launched Web site features news and information on the development and creation of Joint Base-Lewis McChord.

For more than three months, a team of Army and Air Force employees and contractors have worked together to develop the Lewis-McChord joint basing Web site.

"Everything about the Lewis-McChord joint basing Web site, from its concept and development to its dynamic content has been truly a joint effort," said Capt. Suzanne Ovel, 62nd Airlift Wing's joint basing public affairs officer.

"We strove to ensure that the site represents the spirit of what will be Joint Base Lewis-McChord, and I believe we succeeded," said Captain Ovel.

The site offers joint base information in several forms including downloadable videos, interactive graphic maps, news articles and frequently asked questions. According to Joe Jimenez, Fort Lewis joint base public affairs specialist, the recently launched Web site is the best place to find current information on Joint Base Lewis-McChord.

"As we move closer to becoming a joint base in January 2010, more people are paying attention to what may change on both bases. This site is already beginning to make a complex process easy to understand," said Mr. Jimenez.

Local community members have given the site a collective thumbs-up.

"Fort Lewis and McChord Air Force Base are so very important to our region. This new Web site is a great way to get information on the new joint base – it's more than just a snap shot of information," said Gary D. Brackett, manager of business and trade development for the Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber.

Jeff Brewster, director of communications and government relations for the City of Lakewood says the Web site is helpful for communities surround the bases.

"The new Joint Base Lewis-McChord website provides an abundance of useful information for surrounding communities to learn more about the details of the upcoming merge of these installations," he said.

Please visit the Joint Base Lewis-McChord Web site at http://info.lewis-mcchord.army.mil.

Road Closure

Lincoln Blvd., from Barnes to Outer Drive and 16th Street, from Barnes to Commissary Street is closed for paving through Nov. 7. The Shoppette will remain accessible and detour signs are in place.

Weekend Weather

FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Hi: 61	Hi: 59	Hi: 56
Low: 48	Low: 38	Low: 45

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

Countdown to success

Nuclear Surety Inspection	83	days
Rodeo	276	days
Operational Readiness Inspection	381	days

Don't miss it ...

MOBEX

The mobility excercise begins today.

Airman's Roll Call: Energy at the forefront

Editor's note: Airman's Roll Call is an Air Force leadership tool designed for supervisors at all levels to help keep Airmen informed on current issues, clear up confusion, dispel rumors and provide additional face-to-face communication between supervisors and their teams.

Soaring fuel prices and the push by more and more Americans to "go green" are constant reminders of the energy crisis we face here in America and around the world. The Air Force is the federal government's largest consumer of energy. While individual Airmen can't necessarily control the amount of fuel we require for our aircraft, we can all do our part to ensure we conserve energy in other ways.

As you know, October is Energy Awareness Month and our theme this year is "Secure Today's Energy, Fuel Tomorrow's Mission."

This theme fits with the Air Force's overall energy strategy to reduce our demand for energy, increase our energy supply and change our culture to make energy a consideration in all we do.

Several leaders, organizations and Airmen around the Air Force are doing just that. Here are some initiatives that have been undertaken by the Air Force to make the Air Force a little more "green," and save a few bucks along the way:

To reduce demand, the Air Force continues to pursue energy efficiency and alternative sources at our facilities and in our ground vehicle fleet. We employ more than 5,800 flex-fuel vehicles and have reduced the energy intensity at our facilities by nearly 18 percent since 2003.

To increase our energy supply, the Air Force is in the middle of testing and certifying our airframes on an alternative fuel blend. This fuel will be better for the environment and will help reduce the Air Force's demand on foreign oil. We are also exploring and developing alternative sources of energy at our bases, such as the photovoltaic array at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., an array that provides $1 million in annual savings to the base.

To change our culture, we are instilling energy awareness through focused leadership efforts, energy-specific training, adjusting the curriculum at the U.S. Air Force Academy and other schools to ensure energy awareness is addressed, and effectively communicated.

While those mentioned above are large-scale energy initiatives, individual Airmen are also in a position to make a huge impact in the Air Force's overall efforts to conserve energy.

Keeping our mission performance edge sharp

By
Chief Master Sgt. Rodney Billinghurst
62nd Maintenance Group
superintendent

The mission is really why we're here. Our actions, resources and organizational structure are almost exclusively mission-driven. We're developed, deployed and employed to accomplish the mission. Rightfully, our mission must be the primary consideration behind our planning, decision-making and execution.

As we look out on both our day-to-day requirements and the challenging year in front of us, there's no time like the present to sharpen our mission focus. A great place to start is by refreshing ourselves on the key services or support our unit or section provides to our wing's overall mission. From there, we can look even closer to home, right down to what we personally do for our section and how well we do it.

At this point it's valuable to ask a few questions: How well are we doing our mission-essential tasks? Are there mission performance aspects within our own control that we can improve upon? Is our section 100 percent focused and contributing effectively? Are we as individuals totally focused and delivering peak performance? The answers to these basic questions are keys to prioritizing what to do next — improving important mission activities within our grasp.

At all levels, our own self-analysis and improvement efforts can bolster our effectiveness. This can be simple. Intensify the focus on upgrade training and job knowledge. We can also identify and improve our teamwork toward mission effectiveness through our professional relationships and interaction. Whether we're steering and prioritizing our subordinates' efforts, keeping teammates focused, or supporting the full spirit and intent of our superiors' initiatives, when there's room to improve our mission performance we need to identify it and do it.

As we forge ahead into a demanding year, I encourage you to hone your mission performance edge and while you're at it, take pride in knowing that your focus provides the performance, support and execution behind a vital source of airpower that we're here to deliver — combat airlift!

The Sharp Airman ...

correctly wears the Improved Rain Suit with the Airman Battle Uniform.

Interim Wear Guidance

- The IRS will have appropriate ABU rank affixed to the rank tab.
- If worn, the IRS will be clean and in serviceable condition.
- The IRS will be zipped, snapped and buttoned. Underarm venting may be unzipped as needed.
- The IRS will be worn outdoors only. It must be removed in the office environment.
- The IRS hood will only be used when precipitation warrants its wear. Proper headgear will still be worn.
- Authorized headgear worn with the ABU will also be worn with the IRS.

Professionals
of the week

62nd Force Support Squadron

Staff Sgt. Jason Dumaliang

Duty title:
Noncommissioned officer in charge of evaluations

Duty section:
Force management operations

Hometown:
Guam

Why he's tops:
Sergeant Dumaliang was a crucial member in the merging of the military personnel flight and the commander's support staff during the base level service delivery model. Previously, he was the NCOIC of employments and provided the only continuity available when forming the force management office. Applying his knowledge and expertise, he successfully trained all former CSS personnel on various employment programs. Sergeant Dumaliang currently heads the evaluations program and has been applauded by unit liaisons with having one of the best evaluations process.

Tom Sharp

Duty title:
Lead maintenance

Duty section:
Lodging

Hometown:
Lakewood, Wash.

Why he's super:
Mr. Sharp has worked at Evergreen Inn since 1987 and has responded to over 54,000 service calls. He is currently overseeing the distinguished visitor room upgrade in Bldg. 423, where 16 rooms are receiving new carpet, drapes and furniture. He is the services project manager, providing guidance to the 62nd Civil Engineer Squadron and a contractor for a $2.6 million renovation project for Bldgs. 1149 and 1150. His extensive job knowledge was instrumental in room design, the Saflok key system and the new ready maid sign system.

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62ND AIRLIFT WING, MCCHORD AFB, WASHINGTON

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

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AAFES adds flair to McChord base exchange

By
Tyler Hemstreet
Staff writer

People can expect to see a lot of changes in the coming weeks at the base exchange.

Army and Air Force Exchange Service officials and base leadership teamed up to add a variety of amenities, new stores and services and hints of decorative flair in order to breathe new life into the BX and food court.

"In collaboration with base leadership, we're thinking outside the box in order to make the BX a more friendly and inviting place to shop," said Patrick McGhee, AAFES general manager. "What's neat is the speed we're doing this at."

Recent changes to the food court include bold shades of color painted on interior walls and ceiling, leather couches and chairs in the Wi-Fi lounge area and a new Popeye's Chicken restaurant.

"With hamburgers and chicken being the top two sellers in AAFES food courts, we wanted to get chicken into the McChord food court," Mr. McGhee said. "We wanted to get the free Wi-Fi in here for the Airmen and give them a comfortable place to surf the Web or do their work."

AAFES also added a fresh sushi restaurant across from Starbucks to give Airmen and their families more meal choices, Mr. McGhee said.

The changes haven't been lost on customers.

First Lt. Patrick Knight, 4th Airlift Squadron, and his wife, Jennifer, were lounging Wednesday morning on a couch in the Wi-Fi lounge area surfing the Web. The couple was recently transferred here from Vance Air Force Base, Okla., and immediately took a liking to the BX.

"We walked in here and we were pleasantly surprised … it's nice," Lieutenant Knight said. "The Wi-Fi has been convenient so far because we don't have our phone or Internet hooked up at home yet."

More changes are planned for the food court and mall area, as work on a children's game room is set to be completed Nov. 1, Mr. McGhee said.

"Parents can let their children play in a safe environment and surf the Web in the meantime," he said.

Recent changes inside the main store also include a new Coach store and the expansion of the Power Zone inside the electronics section.

"The continuous improvement and addition of services at the BX and food court are quality of life improvements our Airmen and their families deserve," said Chief Master Sgt. Cary Hatzinger, 62nd Airlift Wing command chief. "This directly reflects on AAFES' responsiveness and desire to meet the needs of this community."

Photo by Tyler Hemstreet

1st Lt. Patrick Knight, 4th Airlift Squadron, and his wife, Jennifer, surf the Internet Wednesday in the Wi-Fi lounge area of the food court inside the base exchange.

Wing historian trains for historic journey to AOR

By
Senior Airman Kirsten Wicker
62nd Airlift Wing
Public Affairs

A deployment is not an uncommon event for most Airmen around McChord, but for a civilian military historian, it may take a little getting used to.

Dr. Haithe Anderson, 62nd Airlift Wing historian, ventures on her first deployment in January to Southwest Asia for six months attached to the 386th Air Expeditionary Wing.

The mission of the 386th is to provide intra-theater combat airlift and precision electronic attack and to conduct airbase operations, intra-theater casualty evacuation and execute combat support in the area of responsibility.

"My job will be to capture what is going on out there," Dr. Anderson said. "Essentially the same thing I do here."

To prepare for her journey, the former Ohio State college professor donned a flak vest, boots and helmet and picked up a rifle to complete combat skills training, the same course all Airmen must complete before they deploy.

"I learned field techniques like crawling, climbing and moving as a unit. I also learned how to guard a stronghold and when circumstances call for a person to shoot, who you are allowed to shoot and when," she said.

Photo by Abner Guzman

Dr. Haithe Anderson, 62nd Airlift Wing historian, fires an M16A2 rifle during the qualification portion of the combat skills training course in preparation for a 120-day deployment.

Dr. Anderson also completed ability to survive and operate training, with full chemical gear, including learning how to wear the gas mask correctly.

"The gear is heavy and I'm a smaller person, so it was harder moving around," she said. "It was an eye-opening experience."

According to base officials, only one other civilian has deployed from McChord in the last decade. Dr. Anderson is the first to go to the area of responsibility with combat skills training and in uniform. A fuel cell civilian deployed for 90 days to Incirlik Air Base, Turkey, over a year ago.

"The historian position is a former Air Force Specialty Code, reserved for second enlistments and designed for deployment," said Darrell Davis, 62nd Logistics Readiness Squadron installation deployment manager. "Recently, the Air Force transitioned the position into a civilian position, but it remains a deployable job even though it is filled by civilian personnel."

"She is going into the AOR so all rules that apply to active duty apply to her," he said. "She has to be qualified on all requirements that an active duty person would have to. She wears a uniform and knows how to carry and fire a rifle."

In addition to training requirements, preparing to deploy also entails learning as much as she can about the location and job specifics.

"I expect to work long, long days," said Dr. Anderson. "I will have three days to work with the historian who is there now, learning about the program already in place. I'll take over from him fairly quickly and stay pretty busy."

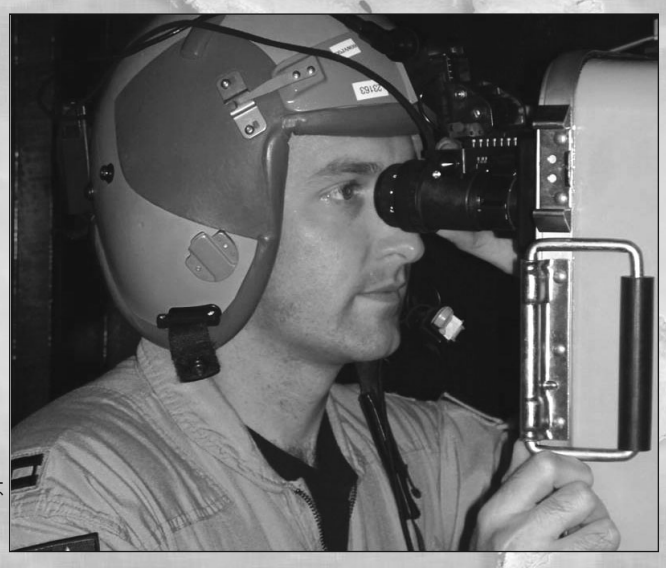
While this is her first deployment, the training and anticipation hasn't deterred her enthusiasm for the adventure ahead.

"I was excited when they told me I was up to go," she said. "I'm an adventurer at heart. I expect to learn a lot about living in the desert and I'm excited to see a real dub dub."

A dub dub is a large green lizard native to the region where Dr. Anderson will be assigned.

McChord Airmen

AROUND THE WORLD



Courtesy photo

INCIRLIK AB, Turkey -- Capt. Chris Robinson, 4th Airlift Squadron, prepares a pair of night vision goggles for a mission during a recent deployment.

Courtesy photo

INCIRLIK Air Base, Turkey -- Capt. John Cortney, 7th Airlift Squadron, prepares to fly a mission during a recent deployment.

Special leave accrual now available for Airmen

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFNS) — Airmen who were recalled from or unable to take annual leave this past year for reasons such as support for contingency operations may be allowed to accumulate more than 75 days at the end of a fiscal year.

Special leave accrual applies when deployments or assignments to designated operational missions at the national level prohibit members from using leave. It applies to active duty and Reserve personnel under Title 10 of the U.S. Code, and includes Air National Guard members who performed full-time training or other full-time duties for 30 days or more.

"Special leave accrual is designed to prevent Airmen from losing accrued leave if they're unable to take normal leave due to significant and unforeseen operational requirements," said Master Sgt. Licci Barham, superintendent of customer support operations at the Air Force Personnel Center here.

Airmen cannot use their major command's recovery time policy as a reason for reinstatement when accrued leave could have been taken in its place, she added.

Airmen who meet the criteria for having special leave accrual should contact their local military personnel section for additional guidance or call the 24-hour Air Force Contact Center at (800) 616-3775.

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

Catalina Noguez plays with 8-month-old Sophia Fisher in the living room of her home Wednesday.

From right, Iris Noguez, Adrian Rodriguez and Mauricio Noguez have fun on playground equipment at a McChord park while Catalina Noguez swings the younger children.

In-home childcare offers parents safe, fun option

By
Tyler Hemstreet
Staff writer

McChord Air Force spouse Catalina Noguez had no problem trading in her days as an architect and dealing with permits and plans for the role of a licensed childcare provider.

"I decided to take a break from my career," Mrs. Noguez said. "I love kids and I was always babysitting for other people, so I thought why not get paid for it?"

The mother of two found exactly what she was looking for working out of her home as a licensed child care provider with the family child care program run by the 62nd Force Support Squadron, which also manages the Child Development Center here.

The program offers military spouses and retirees who live on or off base the chance to run an independently owned and operated business providing care for children, said acting family childcare coordinator Shelia Hayes, 62nd FSS.

Family childcare providers have access to the program's free lending library where they can check out everything from toys and playpens to first aid kits, Ms. Hayes said.

Providers must complete the required training offered by the 62nd FSS, obtain the required insurance coverage, have their house pass inspections from several agencies and clear a background check before they can be a part of the program, Ms. Hayes said.

The program currently has 12 providers who care for 120 children, with each responsible for no more than six children at a time, she said.

"The program has more of an at-home feel … we get to bond more with the kids," said Mrs. Noguez, who watches six children each day.

All Defense Department ID-card holding families can send their children to a provider in the program.

Capt. Jennifer Goetz's three-year-old son, Dominic, has been going to the family childcare program for nearly two years.

"It's structured better for his personality," said Captain Goetz, a member of the 62nd Mission Support Group. "He's not really a go-with-the-group type kid. With FCC he gets the individual attention and is around other kids at the same time."

The FCC provider also allows Dominic a bit more flexible schedule during the day when it comes to activities and more chances for small field trips, Captain Goetz said.

"The providers I've had have been outstanding," she added.

Since almost half of the current providers participate in a subsidy program, parents pay the same rates that they would at the Child Development Center, Ms. Hayes said.

Because the providers are familiar with the military lifestyle, many offer childcare during swing shift hours and on the weekends for the children, as well as evening hours and during extended duty hours associated with exercises.

Another reason why the program works well is the highly-trained providers are part of the base community. They also undergo an evaluation once a month to ensure their skills are current.

"They work hard keeping their homes clean, safe and ensure the correct developmentally appropriate equipment is there," Ms. Hayes said.

Photos by Abner Guzman

Chase Brooks, age 2, waits patiently while Mrs. Noguez prepares his lunch plate. Following strict FCC program guidelines, Mrs. Noguez provides a well-balanced, home-made meal of teriyaki chicken, rice, fruit and milk for lunch.

8th Airlift Squadron ramps-up training before deployment

Capt. Javier Orama, 8th Airlift Squadron, pilot, reviews pre-flight checklists prior to departure on a local training flight Thursday.

By
Tyler Hemstreet
Staff writer

Months of careful planning go into preparing for each deployment, ensuring aircrews are ready to accomplish the mission downrange. Training plays a large role in that preparation.

As the 8th Airlift Squadron prepares to deploy at the end of the month, squadron training officials are busy ensuring pilots and loadmasters current on their training before deploying.

"We starting looking at this six months ago," said 8th AS training manager Shon Zawada. "We had to look at things and forecast out."

While some of the training can be fulfilled in the base simulators, other training – such as high altitude tactical arrivals and certain night airdrops – must be accomplished in the actual airplane, Mr. Zawada said.

During standard operations, both flying sorties and simulator requirements are distributed evenly between the three flying squadrons. However, when preparing for a major deployment, a majority of the missions are shifted to the tasked squadron, said Maj. Doug Edwards, director of operations for the 8th AS.

The number of flying sorties for the 8th AS has tripled this month, and 95 percent of all simulator requirements have gone to the squadron, Major Edwards said.

If pilots aren't up to date on certain training before deploying, the mission can be jeopardized.

"There are certain items that they'll be grounded on," Mr. Zawada said.

To ensure mission success, 8th AS planners and schedulers are in constant contact with squadron members to make sure everyone is on track.

"It's a constant thing for (Airmen)," Mr. Zawada said. "(The training) is something they have to stay on top of."

Aircrews have been busy practicing maneuvers common on downrange missions such as air refueling, low-level flying and tactical takeoffs and landings, said 1st Lt. Christopher Blake, a co-pilot with the 8th AS.

"It's been more difficult with the short timeline," said Lieutenant Blake, who will be deploying for the first time. "Nothing is different as far as what people are doing, it's just they're doing it more than usual. People are working pretty hard."

Lieutenant Blake recently completed four local flying missions in one week.

"I'm very proud of the members of the 8th taking personal responsibility to ensure all of their pre-deployment requirements are met," Major Edwards said. "As the force has grown leaner, more weight now rests on the shoulders of our Airmen, and they've risen to the challenge without missing a beat."

With various crews flying across the country fulfilling Air Mobility Command missions, sometimes it's hard to complete specific training due to an instructor pilot not being on the flight, Mr. Zawada said.

A little shuffling of schedules and flexibility with available aircraft can result in aircrews are meeting requirements with great efficiency.

"I haven't had any problems," Mr. Zawada said. "We find a way to get it done."

And that's a fact that comes with the responsibility of the mission.

"We have a worldwide mission that's 24/7/365," Major Edwards said. "We've been tying up all the loose ends to ensure we're ready to go for an extended period of time."

Photos by Abner Guzman

Capt. Shaun Maloney, 8th AS, steps off the bus and makes his way to the aircraft for Thursday's training flight.

8th AS pilots complete preflight planning before a training mission at the squadron's one-stop launch facility.

Photo by Abner Guzman

Fit teens

Airman 1st Class Mallory Paul, 62nd Force Support Squadron fitness specialist, instructs Kayla Harris, a high school teen, on the proper use of weight training equipment during a Tone Program orientation at the main gym Friday. The McChord Teen Exercise Program educates teens between the ages of 13 to 15 on the proper use of cardio and weight equipment. Teens will be issued a Tone identification card when they complete the orientation and may use the treadmill, upright and recumbent bikes, stair stepper, and elliptical trainer as well as the Life Fitness weight circuits without parental supervision. Tone is part of Fit Factor, an Air Force Youth Fitness incentive program open to youth between the ages of 6 and 18. Stay on track to "Get Up, Get Out and Get Fit!". For more information contact the McChord Youth Center at 982-2203.

Photo by Sandra Cooper

Ready, set, ignite

Senior Airman Steve Martinez, 446th Civil Engineer Squadron, left, Fire Captain Sean Harding, center, and Staff Sgt. Tyler Mart, both 62nd CES, perform an auto extrication demonstration during the McChord Fire Department open house Friday as part of Fire Prevention Week Activities. This year's theme, Prevent Home Fires, focused on decreasing unattended cooking fires. During the week, the fire department demonstrated response capability and awareness of seatbelt safety. Games and activities for children were also a part of the week's activities.

Harvest Festival 2008

Oct. 26
2 to 4 p.m.

Chapel Support Center, Bldg. 746

The Harvest Festival is a free event.
Games, prizes and treats for kids and families!
For more information, call 982-5556.

0-0-1-3

The medical standard is one drink for women or two drinks for men if a daily drinker.

For periodic drinking, the standard is to keep the blood alcohol level or blood alcohol content under 0.05.

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

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

DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE

Health care briefing

The McChord Clinic hosts a health care briefing 2 to 3 p.m. Oct. 29 at the McChord Clubs and Community Center. The briefing is open to active duty, family members and retirees and gives a general overview of health care issues and updates on medical services at the McChord Clinic. For more information contact 1st Lt. Sarah Lindsay at 982-0336.

Retirement ceremony announcement

A retirement ceremony for Lt. Col. AnneMarie Scott, 62nd Airlift Wing, is 1:30 p.m. Oct. 31 in the 4th Airlift Squadron auditorium, Bldg. 1141. For more information, contact 1st Lt. Lisa Perdelwitz at 982-7617.

MPF customer service hours

Customer service hours for all military personnel flight services have changed except for passports and in-processing. The new hours are 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays, beginning Nov. 1. Services are available 7:30 to 9 a.m. for appointments and emergencies only.

Passports and in-processing

New customer service hours for passports and in-processing are still from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. for walk-ins and 3:30 to 4 p.m. for appointments and emergencies only. In-processing is now 9 a.m. to noon for walk-ins and 7:30 to 9 a.m. and 1 to 4 p.m. for appointments and emergencies only. Hours for all other services remain the same.

Quarterly awards luncheon

The quarterly awards luncheon is 11 a.m. Nov. 3 at the McChord Clubs and Community Center. Reservations for seats to the luncheon must be purchased by Oct. 24. Contact your unit first sergeant or unit representative for tickets. For more information, contact Master Sgt. Bruce McPherson at 982-2208.

Retirement ceremony announcement

A retirement ceremony for Master Sgt. Robert Holder, 62nd Communications Squadron, is 10 a.m. Nov. 4 in the Chapel Support Center, Bldg. 746. For more information, contact Tech. Sgt. Jennifer Stafford at 982-9827.

Road closure

Lincoln Blvd., from Barnes to Outer Drive and 16th Street, from Barnes to Commissary Street is closed for paving through Nov. 7. The Shoppette will remain accessible and detour signs are in place.

Clinic closed Nov. 18

The McChord Clinic closes Nov. 18 instead of its usual second Tuesday of the month, due to Veteran's Day.

Virtual out-processing applications

The virtual out-processing application available online through the virtual military personnel flight is mandatory for active duty members at each installation. Due to manning losses, the military personnel flight no longer provides this face-to-face service. Appointments for final out-processing, retirements and separations remain available. In November, assignment notification letters will be sent directly to the member and not through MPF.

Catholic classes

The McChord Chaplain Corps Catholic community welcomes adults interested in learning more about the faith. Adult programs begin this month; all are welcome. For more information, contact Karen Lynch at 982-8178 or Karen.lynch@mcchord.af.mil.

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 2.

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:
12:00 p.m. 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

Rape Aggression Defense course

Free RAD courses are scheduled throughout October. Classes are from 1 to 4 p.m. each Tuesday and the courses are open to women ages 16 and older. Prior self defense experience is not required. For more information, call 982-0457.

Community response

Have a concern, question or complaint? E-mail the action line http://public.mcchord.amc.af.mil/main/contactus.asp. The inbox is monitored daily and inquiries are sent to the appropriate base agency for response. Team McChord is encouraged to use this system to resolve issues, after first using the chain of command.

Area Defense Counsel appointments

ADC customers must now call and schedule appointments instead of entering on a walk-in basis. For an appointment, call 982-2240.

CAC security concerns

Airmen are reminded not to not allow any person in an unofficial government capacity (i.e. commercial businesses, hotel or motel, bank, etc.) to take control of, scan, swipe or photocopy common access cards.

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with a common sense of culture, shared values and security," said Colonel Stephenson. "Other benefits include the convenience of support facilities and organizations nearby, the formal and informal family support networks critical during deployments, and elimination of a costly commute from off-base saving time, fuel, and money."

NATO air chiefs discuss challenges, solutions

By
Maj. Chris Karns
Air Force Foreign
Liaison Division

WASHINGTON (AFNS) -- Nineteen NATO air chiefs gathered to discuss how to meet the security demands of a changing world at the chief of staff of the Air Force-hosted 2008 NATO Air Chiefs Conference Oct. 5 through 12 here.

The theme for this year's conference was "The Community of Airmen: Solutions to Common Challenges," as the air chiefs met at various air bases to discuss the future strategic environment.

Conference topics included interoperability and modernization, 21st century threats and challenges, lessons learned in Afghanistan, training opportunities, energy strategy, cyberspace, space and unmanned aircraft systems used in peace and at war.

"The requirement for increased global vigilance, reach and power must also include a clearly defined Air Force role with respect to global security challenges," said Gen. Norton A. Schwartz, the Air Force chief of staff. "With limited resources, the need to address threats and issues collectively, as a community, is now a necessity for all nations."

The conference sparked ideas and a common understanding as to the future direction and needs of NATO air forces.

"The strategic environment requires Air Force modernization, interoperability and respective Air Forces working together to achieve security objectives. All of this must be done in a tough budgetary environment where systems are becoming more difficult to maintain, air space issues exist and competition is fierce for the services of skilled Airmen," said Belgium Lt. Gen. Gerard Van Caelenberge, Belgium's air component commander.

General Van Caelenberge is also the former director of the European Air Group. The air group aims to improve the interoperability of the air forces of Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Spain and the United Kingdom.

As air forces become smaller, there is a risk airmen could lose their identity, General Van Caelenberge said. "It is vitally important that air forces continuously develop an airman culture that is complementary to air doctrine and place a strong emphasis on educating and instilling the values desired in airman warriors and leaders."

During the conferences, the air chiefs not only addressed challenges and issues of concern, but also discussed the need to enhance interoperability via exercises and shared thoughts on required future capability.

With the emergence of new missions such as cyber, the need for air forces to fully leverage, understand and integrate the cyber capability is apparent, said Bulgarian Lt. Gen. Simeon Simeonov, the chief of staff of Bulgarian air force headquarters.

It was also discussed there will be a growing reliance on and demand for unmanned aircraft systems due to their reduced personnel footprint and intelligence gathering capability.

With a growing reliance on intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, the need for space capability becomes apparent. Global space capabilities include communications, positioning, navigation and timing, ISR, weather and strategic missile warning and defense, which are critical to the joint warfighter.

With the space domain becoming a more contested environment, there is a driving need for international approach and cooperation.

"Space is the future and the need to build a common, integrated approach to use space assets and facilities is required now," said Romanian Lt. Gen. Constantin Croitoru, the chief of Romanian air force staff. "The need to fully leverage space as well as develop commonalities between NATO partners is very important. Similar to the air component, taking steps to integrate coalition partners in space training, exercises and building a coalition space cadre and team is extremely important."

Another aspect of the conference was the opportunity to renew relationships and commitments to one another.

"We are a team and a family. This (relationship) is important as we need to rely on one another to solve future challenges," General Croitoru said. "This conference provided a perfect platform to discuss common ideas, attitudes and served as a bridge toward developing common solutions to issues impacting us all. This was a very enjoyable experience."

Countries represented at this year's conference were Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The week-long conference included visits to the Pentagon; Nellis Air Force Base, Nev.; Sheppard AFB, Texas; Peterson AFB, Colo.; and Ramstein Air Base, Germany.

Air Force Energy Strategy

Reduce Demand, Increase Supply and Change the Culture so that we can Secure Today's Energy and Fuel Tomorrow's Mission

Secretary tours Joint Base Balad, shares AF vision

By
Senior Airman Thomas Trower
332nd Air Expeditionary Wing
Public Affairs

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq (AFNS) — The secretary of the Air Force visited Joint Base Balad Monday to learn about the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing's contributions to the war on terrorism and to share his vision for the future of the Air Force.

Secretary Michael B. Donley toured the Air Force Theater Hospital, the 46th Expeditionary Reconnaissance and Attack Squadron, and the 66th Expeditionary Rescue Squadron.

Secretary Donley addressed the Air Force's top five near-term priorities: Reinvigorate the Air Force nuclear enterprise, partner with the joint and coalition team to win today's fight, develop and care for Airmen and their families, modernize the aging air and space inventories, and reclaim its acquisition excellence. He said the best way to accomplish these goals and recapture the Air Force's long-standing reputation of excellence is to return to basics.

"We have to maintain precision and accountability across the board, not just in the nuclear mission," he said. "Just because we're at war doesn't mean we don't follow the technical orders or the checklists. I think that if we get back to the Air Force core values — integrity first, service before self and excellence in all we do — and we live those core values every day, we're going to be just fine."

The 22nd secretary of the Air Force said he is often asked what the Air Force provides to the current conflict, and he always gives the same answer — one that is focused on airlift and air refueling, special operations, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, and aeromedical evacuation.

"As I watch the deployment pattern and visit with the Airmen out here in the theater, I know that the Air Force is 'all in' fighting the war on terrorism," he said.

The secretary said he reminds people of the "air bridge", which the Air Force provides through its airlift and air refueling capabilities, allowing servicemembers to carry out their missions.

"That air bridge is a national asset that we sometimes take for granted, but it underpins essentially what our global capability is all about," he said. "The expeditionary nature of today's military depends on this air bridge and air tanking capability."

In addition, Air Force special operations forces have fought alongside warfighters from other services since the earliest phases of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Operation Iraqi Freedom in Iraq, Secretary Donley said. The special operations Airmen have played a key role in ensuring America's ability to conduct precise and effective airstrikes at any time and place without warning.

He praised Airmen for successfully integrating air, space and cyberspace capabilities to make unmanned aircraft systems a powerful force multiplier above the battlefield.

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