

Wing passes readiness inspection

By Sandra Pishner
 Wing Public Affairs

McCHORD AIR FORCE BASE, Wash. – With validation from the Air Mobility Command Inspector General, Airmen from the 446th Airlift Wing can rest easy knowing they are ready and capable of going to war. After a week of demonstrating their skills, the Reservists earned an overall rating of Satisfactory for the wing.

The 446th AW went to “war” alongside the active-duty 62nd Airlift Wing here and the 319th Air Refueling Wing, Grand Forks, N.D., and 944th Aeromedical Staging Squadron, Luke AFB, Ariz., June 11-17. Most of the warriors went to Alpena, Mich., while others set up forward operating bases at Hunter Army Airfield, Ga., and Cherry Point Marine Corps Air Station, N.C. In all, more than 700 Airmen participated in the inspection.

The 62nd and 446th Airlift Wings were able to achieve great success by partnering together to wow the IG team.

According to Maj. Carla Pelster, 446th Operations Flight chief of exercises and evaluations, the AMC/IG has moved away

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Photo by Master Sgt. Tom Martin

Master Sgt. Lyle Lane, 446th Airlift Control Flight, observes a foreign object damage team preparing the parking ramp for aircraft following a simulated attack at Hunter Army Airfield, Ga. Members of the 446th Airlift Wing took part in an Air Mobility Command inspected operational readiness inspection, along with the 62nd AW at McChord and the 319th Air Refueling Wing, Grand Forks AFB, N.D., and 944th Aeromedical Staging Squadron, Luke AFB, Ariz., June 11-18.

Joint exercise tests combat medical skills

By Master Sgt. Al Eakle
 622nd RSG Public Affairs

AUGUSTA, Ga. – McChord 446th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron Reservists and other Reservists from around the country deployed to Augusta, Ga., June 10-19 to participate in the Army Reserve’s largest medical exercise, Golden Medic 2006.

The 446th AES sent more than 25 personnel to participate

in the exercise. More than half of the 200 Airmen at Golden Medic have deployed for Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

“Air Force Reserve Command has participated in this exercise from the beginning,” said Chief Master Sgt. Tim Pittman, a key exercise planner from Headquarters AFRC, Robins Air Force Base, Ga.

“We started out with a handful of people and continue to

expand participation every year.”

Set in a Southwest Asia scenario, Golden Medic test the ability of Air Force and Army medical and support units to evacuate casualties from the battlefield to a hospital outside the region.

At the airport, Airmen set up a tanker airlift control facility. The facility served as a mini-base operations and controlled the flow of military

aircraft flying into and out of the airport.

Ambulances and helicopters moved the patients from the front lines to the rear through a series of Army medical facilities.

At the forward edge of the battlefield was the Air Force’s mobile aeromedical staging facility. Patients enter the Air

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July 25 is the deadline for articles in the August issue of **The 446th Associate Press**.

All articles and photographs must be turned in to the 446th Airlift Wing Public Affairs office, Bldg. 1214, Room 124 by 4 p.m.

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Now is the time to catch up on training tasks

By Brig. Gen. Eric Crabtree
Wing commander

The first thing I want to say is thanks to all of the people who planned, organized and participated in the wing's recent operational readiness inspection.

The smooth flow of personnel in and out of town and the number of areas rated Excellent by the inspection team is a tribute to the entire wing. No inspection is easy, but the Air Mobility Command ORI scenarios are among the most challenging in the Air Force. Be very proud of the effort you put into succeeding.

Family focus

The question now is what we should focus on as the Summer progresses and the rest of the fiscal year winds down. Certainly the opportunity to have family days and unit picnics is a prime opportunity for all of us to say thanks to an important group of supporters.

If your family or significant others have questions or concerns about support, health care, counseling, etc., please have them come prepared to ask the questions they need answered. That's part of why we have family days.

We also have them to get our unit families together to share experiences and form connections that will help us all during the tough times that come with Reserve duty.

Training tasks

The second set of items to

focus on are the many training events we have been directed to accomplish. Many of them are computer-based training and can be individually accomplished. Some of them, like Sexual Assault and Response Training, require a group discussion setting. Whatever the method, work with your unit training monitors to find out what you need to accomplish and take the time and initiative to get it done. We have a slight reprieve until the next set of wing inspections and everyone should take advantage of it to catch up.

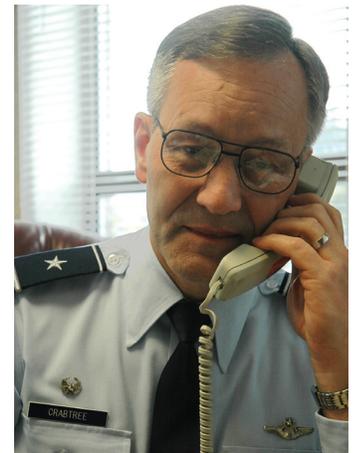
Travel cards

Another focus for the wing leadership is the Government Travel Card program. We have been below the Air Force Reserve Command-mandated level on the number of delinquent accounts for several months now. Our weakness is in the dollars that are over 60 days past due. Take a look at your statement when you get it and make a plan to get it paid off as soon as possible. It is a matter of individual financial responsibility to keep track of the account and not let it get into the delinquent category.

The Air Force Audit Agency is currently conducting an audit of our accounts to see if the cards are being properly used. Be careful how you are using your card and ask before you make a charge if you are unsure about the legality.

Fitness

Please continue to focus on fitness as the nice days of summer pass. I took my fitness



Brig. Gen. Eric Crabtree

test last month and I can tell you it does not get any easier as my age advances. It takes a planned and methodical approach to be ready for testing. Certainly the nice weather months are the best time to take the test. However, be mindful of the heat and the chances for dehydration as the thermometer climbs.

Safety

Finally, be safe with all of your activities and keep your families and friends safe. Besides the sports activities we emphasize, there are the home repair projects we undertake this time of year. Ladders can be very dangerous tools if you don't use them properly. So can lawn mowing equipment, chainsaws, woodworking tools, etc. Please take the extra time to ensure you're being safe in whatever you do. You are our most valuable asset.

Thanks!

Thanks again for the excellent work on the ORI; you are the best in the Air Force!

Care and Share serves Reservists

By Staff Sgt. Nick Przybyciel
Wing Public Affairs

McCHORD AIR FORCE BASE, Wash. – Founded by McChord Reservists for McChord Reservists, a program known as Care and Share is an avenue of support for 446th Airlift Wing Airmen facing financial emergencies.

Since Air Force Aid does not cover traditional Reservists, Care and Share fills the void in financial assistance that exists for citizen Airmen, according to Brig. Gen. Eric Crabtree, 446th AW commander.

As a non profit organization operated independently from the Air Force, Care and Share relies on private contributions in order

to provide their services. This year, they're hoping to raise at least \$15,000 in donations from McChord Reservists.

"People come in and they're not just in need, but they're in dire straits," said Tech. Sgt. Michael Bray, 446th Mission Support Squadron Family Readiness Office.

Care and Share recently came to the rescue when an Airman in the wing lost his apartment to a fire. Although several members of the wing donated furniture and clothing to the fire victim, there were still some essentials that were not procured. With Care and Share, the donations were supplemented with money aid to help provide the Airman with shelter.

"Without Care and Share, there is only

a limited amount of help we can offer for an emergency like that," Sergeant Bray said. "The program is there to fill a gap. As a Reservist, it's hard to meet the criteria for a lot of the aid programs ... that's where Care and Share comes in."

The organization is recruiting representatives from each squadron to assist with fund drives, help get the word out about the Care and Share mission and take part in the planning of future events.

If you would like to participate in the organization contact the Family Support Center at (253) 982-2755. If you know an Airman in need of Care and Share's assistance, direct him or her to your squadron's first sergeant.

ORI

Continued from Page 1

from Expeditionary ORIs, where many units bring many different capabilities to the fight, to the wing ORI concept where the entire wing goes as one and associate units participate with their host unit.

"We were the first host-associate wings to complete an ORI under this new construct," said Major Pelster. "McChord has never done an Initial Response before, and both wings received an excellent in this area."

Col. Stanley Dougherty, Inspections Division chief from Scott AFB, Ill., said Team McChord is more than ready for any wartime tasking and can sustain combat operations during hostilities.

"I can gladly report to General (Duncan) McNabb (commander of Air Mobility Command) that both of these wings are mission-ready," he said during the ORI outbrief June 21. "Congratulations!"

Brig. Gen. Eric Crabtree, 446th AW commander, said "The number of areas rated excellent is a tribute to the hard work and dedication people in the wing put forth. Everyone should be proud that they were able to demonstrate combat readiness in a simulated theater while fighting an actual war in another. There is no question - McChord is a superior team of people!"

The superior team of people General Crabtree speaks of includes Reserve and active duty Airmen.

"Active duty and Reserve logisticians

and maintainers worked together seamlessly to successfully generate 100 percent of aircraft missions and deploy all personnel well under the AMC/IG time constraints," said Major Pelster.

The entire wing team also came together in the arena of Ability To Survive and Operate.

"In the past, the wing has struggled with ATSO," said Major Pelster. "We received an excellent in this area. All 446th

AW members participated in an intensive ATSO, SABC (Self-aid and Buddy Care), and weapons familiarization class in at least one practice fly away. The wing Airmen trained hard for the ORI and can be proud of their accomplishments."

With the ORI over, General Crabtree sees Reservists taking advantage of a small lull in the action to catch up on other training requirements levied by higher headquarters.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Wendy Beauchaine
Tech. Sgt. Laura Harmon, judge advocate inspector with the Air Mobility Command Inspector General, discusses war time legal requirements with Tech. Sgt. Erika McFarlane, 446th Airlift Wing Judge Advocate Office.



Photo by Master Sgt. James Clements

Citizens of Paraguay wait in line for their chance to see the American military medical doctors and dentists during an annual medical readiness exercise and humanitarian aid effort.

Reservists provide care in Paraguay

By Senior Airman Paul Haley
Wing Public Affairs

MCCHORD AIR FORCE BASE, Wash. – More than 2,300 teeth were pulled and 1,000 eyeglasses handed out in Paraguay, courtesy of American military people, including two Reservists from the 446th Aerospace Medicine Squadron.

Working in temperatures averaging 105 degrees Fahrenheit, with 90 percent humidity, Master Sgt. James Clements an optometry technician, and Maj. (Dr.) George Gonzales, a dentist, deployed to Paraguay as part of an annual medical readiness training and evaluation exercise.

The annual humanitarian aid exercise provides medical and dental care to people in third world nations where such services usually aren't easily accessible. The patients are so remote, they may have eye conditions not normally seen in the U.S., such as advanced glaucoma and cataracts, as well as serious traumatic eye injuries, said Sergeant Clements. However, he continued, the biggest challenge is the sheer number of people.

"It's very intense," he said. "They need someone with lots of experience in the eye care field."

Experience in eye care as well as with this type of deployment is something Sergeant Clements has, including going to Belize as part of this exercise in 2005. For

Major Gonzales, the deployment was a new experience.

"This was my first humanitarian mission," said Major Gonzales, "but I can guarantee it won't be my last."

Providing dental care in primitive conditions was a tremendous experience, Major Gonzales said. The dental team, which included another American and two Paraguayan dentists, frequently performed extractions in buildings with dirt floors, sometimes without electricity.

"We had very little in the way of equipment," he said. "We didn't have dental chairs or any electrical equipment. It was incredible training in field dentistry; we had to relearn our techniques to adapt to the situation."

Over the course of nine and a half days, Major Gonzales' team saw more than 2,200 patients.

"We were doing very basic dentistry, mostly assembly-line extractions," he said. "We weren't set up for surgery. The best we could do for someone is a stitch after we pulled a tooth."

Helping Paraguayans in a less painful way, Sergeant Clements passed out donated prescription glasses. But helping people see clearly was only part of the deal; preventing damage to eyes from a glaring sun was on the agenda too.

In addition to the 1,000 pairs of glasses, Sergeant Clements' team handed out hun-



Courtesy photo

Master Sgt. James Clements, an optometry technician from the 446th Aerospace Medicine Squadron, participated in the delivery of more than 1,000 eyeglasses to patients in Paraguay during an annual medical readiness exercise.

dreds of sunglasses.

"There are a lot of people whose eyes have been damaged by the bright tropical sun. Sunglasses usually aren't available, so we provide them when we can," he said.

In addition to providing much-needed dental support, Major Gonzales also acted as tour guide and translator. The U.S. Ambassador and the Paraguayan minister of defense flew into the village they were working in one day, and asked for a tour. Since Major Gonzales is fluent in both English and Spanish, he showed the two dignitaries what the team was doing.

Former vice wing commander gets second star

By Maj. G.P. Mirabella

— USTRANSCOM Public Affairs

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, ILL. (USTCNS) – “I am just the custodian of this promotion,” said Air Force Reserve Brig. Gen. Harold L. Mitchell, director of U.S. Transportation Command’s Reserve Component Directorate, during a ceremony here June 3, in which he was promoted to major general.

“The way one is measured in the armed forces,” said Gen. Norton A. Schwartz, USTRANSCOM commander, “is whether people will follow.” Turning to General Mitchell’s sons, Harold Jr., Kevin and Kenneth, General Schwartz continued, “And the reason your dad is about to pin on a second star as a major general, is because his leadership, his capacity to take on the toughest challenges, is well known.”

General Mitchell, former vice commander for the 446 Air-lift Wing, McChord AFB, from April 1999 to November 2000, is a pilot for Alaska Airlines in his civilian career. During his



Maj. Gen. Harold Mitchell

promotion ceremony, he used his remarks to acknowledge his debt to family, friends, and others throughout his life who were what he called “rainbows in my life,” borrowing a phrase from poet Maya Angelou.

“This promotion is not all about me,” General Mitchell told the guests. “There are folks too numerous to mention that own a piece of this.”

General Mitchell said his early military experience had uniquely prepared him for his current assignment at USTRANSCOM, a joint command made up of personnel from the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines

and Coast Guard.

The general began his military career in the Army ROTC program at South Carolina State University in 1968. In order to pursue his dream of flying fixed wing aircraft, upon graduation in 1972, he accepted a commission in the U.S. Marine Corps rather than the Army.

After six years as a Marine Corps aviator, he left active duty to pursue a career as an airline pilot. In 1983 he joined the Air Force Reserve, where he served in a variety of command and staff assignments. Prior to his current assignment, he served as the assistant to the commander, 18th Air Force, headquartered at Scott AFB.

USTRANSCOM provides air, land and sea transportation for the Department of Defense, both in time of peace and time of war. In its role as the Department of Defense’s Distribution Process Owner, USTRANSCOM oversees the overall effectiveness, efficiency and alignment of DOD distribution activities.

As USTRANSCOM’s Re-

serve Component Director, General Mitchell advises the USTRANSCOM commander and staff on all matters related to Reserve Component personnel assigned to USTRANSCOM and its component commands. He also coordinates requests for RC members to support USTRANSCOM.

General Mitchell also serves as commander of USTRANSCOM’s Joint Transportation Reserve Unit, where he oversees the more than 180 Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen assigned to the USTRANSCOM staff and directorates.

In addition to his sons, other family members joining the general for the ceremony were his wife, Kelly; his brothers, Rufus Mitchell, Lauringle Mitchell and his wife, Rhunette, and retired Army Col. Bernard Mitchell; his sisters, Patricia Betty and Sandra Mouson and her son David; his nephew, Bernie Mitchell; and his niece, Army Capt. (Dr.) Kristie Mitchell.

Mitchell and his wife currently live in Redmond, Wash.

Reserve trims 4,840 positions in FY07

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. – In the next five years thousands of traditional Air Force Reservists may need to find another way to train and earn points toward retirement.

Under Program Budget Directive 720 announced in December, Air Force Reserve Command must trim 4,840 paid Reservist positions by the end of 2008. Another 968 paid positions will go away each year until 2011.

“It’s not a space or position issue. It’s a money issue,” said Col. Roxane Towner, commander of the Readiness Management Group. The RMG administratively manages individual mobilization augmentees – Reservists assigned part time to active-duty

units to backfill or surge capability when required.

With funds going to emerging missions and programs and the on-going war on terror, the command is fighting to maintain manpower with a smaller budget.

To help manage the shrinking budget, Air Force Reserve Command identified approximately 5,000 IMA paid positions in Category B that it will no longer fund.

Command officials said they are doing everything possible to retain their people. Another 15,000 unit Reservist billets are moving into new mission areas, and command officials hope some IMAs will be able to move into some of these new missions. IMAs who cannot find a paid position can

move to a Category E status.

“The silver lining in all of this is new positions, in new mission areas and new locations for all Reservists,” said Colonel Towner in a May 23 memo to IMAs.

While Reservists in both Categories B and E train and earn points toward retirement, there are some differences between the programs.

Under Category B, Air Force Reserve Command pays Reservists to perform annual tours of duty and inactive duty for training. Category E Reservists do not receive pay for annual tours or inactive duty for training; however, they may perform MPA tours for pay and points. (*AFRC News Service*)



Photo by Staff Sgt. Stephen Schester
Lt. Col. Randy Miller, 446th Aeromedical Staging Squadron, holds an intravenous bag up over a mannequin used as a patient in the patient insertion tent during the joint exercise Golden Medic 2006.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. T...
Air Force medical aluminum tent from Regional Airport Augusta, Ga., early on the first day of 2006, a joint Army medical training exercise.

Medic

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Force aeromedical evacuation system at the MASF.

After assessing their medical conditions, medics moved the patients from the MASF to a waiting C-130 Hercules. An aircrew from the 911th Airlift Wing, Pittsburgh International Airport Air Reserve Station, Pa., provided the airlift.

After the C-130 landed, the patients went to a contingency aeromedical staging facility. Their medical conditions were reassessed and medical teams loaded them onto a C-17 Globemaster III for transport out of the theater. An aircrew from the 452nd Air Mobility Wing, March Air Reserve Base, Calif., flew the mission.

This was Maj. Esther Aubert's first Golden Medic. A nurse with the 446th AES, she was part of the exercise battlestaff, patient insert team, and an observer and controller who ran scenarios on aircraft.

"I thought the exercise went

really well," said Major Aubert. "It was an excellent training opportunity to go in and set up the environment from scratch and coordinate with actual agencies instead of simulating it. Also, to be able to interface with the Army and other agencies and see it work well was spectacular."

One goal was to interface with sister services to provide the best medical care in a wartime environment, said Lt. Col. Mike Dankosky, exercise director for the Air Force portion of Golden Medic.

According to the colonel, today's military medical care system offers a 97 percent survival rate after casualties make it from the battlefield to the theater hospital.

"The training Army field medics receive today, coupled with advances in today's aeromedical evacuation system and en route support care, has increased casualty survival tremendously," Colonel Dankosky said.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Stephen Schester
Master Sgt. Theron Smith, 446th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron first sergeant, keeps a watchful eye over his Airmen as they perform a training scenario of patient evacuation during Golden Medic 2006.



Air Force Reserve Guard, Winder Ar



Thomas P. Dougherty
personnel lift an
ame at Augusta
at Bush Field,
ly in the morning
of Golden Medic
-Air Force medi-
ise.



Photo by Senior Airman Jacqueline Kabluyen

An aerial shot of the U.S. Army 75th Combat Support Hospital, Fort Gordon, Ga., during Golden Medic 2006. This year's joint exercise was between the Army and the Air Force.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Thomas Dougherty

ists carry away a stretcher-borne mannequin patient from a UH-1V "Huey" helicopter, flown by Soldiers with the Georgia Army National
ormory, Ga, toward the Mobile Aereomedical Staging Facility at Augusta Regional Airport, Ga., during Golden Medic 2006.

New civilian personnel system starts up

McChord set for January start

By Bo Joyner

AFRC Public Affairs

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. – About 70 people assigned to Tinker AFB, Okla., are Air Force Reserve Command's first civilian employees to convert from the General Schedule personnel system to the National Security Personnel System. They were among 3,100 Air Force employees who made the switch to NSPS April 30.

"Their conversion marks the beginning of the landmark transformation of the Department of Defense's human resources from a legacy civilian personnel system, with its rigid structure and heavy reliance on seniority, to a pay-for-performance system that gives each employee the opportunity to be rewarded for excellence," DOD officials said in a press release announcing the conversion.

NSPS is being deployed throughout the DOD incrementally. Each increment is known as a spiral. Each spiral is further broken down into smaller units to facilitate implementation.

"We will be monitoring how these 1.1 activities go and continue to keep the lines of communication open with the senior leadership and employees, so we can get early indicators if there are any difficulties and look at them and determine if they are training needs or if they are systemic things that need to be tweaked," said Mary Lacey, NSPS program executive director.

More non-bargaining unit employees will deploy to the new system in Spiral 1.2, scheduled for October, and in Spiral



1.3, scheduled for January. Spiral 1.3 includes civilian employees at McChord.

Bargaining unit employees will be converted at a later date, when issues are worked out between the government and union officials.

Spiral 1.2 will include AFRC non-bargaining unit civilians at March Air Reserve Base, Calif.; Eglin AFB, Fla.; Lackland AFB, Texas; McConnell AFB, Kan.; and Patrick AFB, Fla. Non-bargaining unit AFRC civilians at all other locations will be included in Spiral 1.3.

Command personnel officials have asked that civilians at Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base New Orleans, La.; Portland International Airport, Ore.; Gen. Mitchell Air Reserve Station, Wis.; and Willow Grove ARS, Pa., not be included in Spiral 1 since these bases will be undergoing closure activities during the conversion period. Air Force officials have yet to act on this request.

In all, about 1,400 AFRC civilians will be transferred to NSPS during Spirals 1.2 and

1.3. Overall, the command has nearly 14,000 civilian employees.

The AFRC employees at Tinker who were switched to NSPS were all in non-bargaining unit positions, and about 30 percent of them were in supervisory positions, said Charles Carignan, chief of the civilian personnel division in the directorate of manpower and personnel at Headquarters AFRC, Robins AFB.

The performance appraisal cycle for the Tinker employees and the rest of the 3,100 Air Force civilians included in Spiral 1.1 began April 30 and ends Oct. 31. They will be eligible to receive their first performance pay increase in January. In addition, employees performing above an unacceptable

level will receive the general pay increase and the locality pay increase received by GS employees in January.

NSPS officials are looking closely at Spiral 1.1 to identify any issues that arise during the transition period.

NSPS got its start in 2003 when Congress granted DOD the authority to establish, in partnership with the Office of Personnel Management, a new civilian human resources management system to better support its national security mission. Highlights of the system include:

- A simplified pay banding structure, allowing flexibility in assigning work;

- Pay increases based on

performance rather than longevity;

- A performance management system that requires supervisors to set clear expectations and employees to be accountable;

- Streamlined and more responsive hiring processes; and

- More efficient and faster procedures for addressing disciplinary and performance problems, while protecting employee due-process rights.

NSPS does not affect merit principles, rules against prohibited personnel practices, benefits, allowances and travel, subsistence expenses, training, leave and work schedules, anti-discrimination laws or veteran's preference.

AFRC civilians who will be converted to NSPS during Spiral 1 have been notified of the training they are required to accomplish before their transition, Mr. Carignan said. He encouraged all civilian employees to visit the AFRC, Air Force and DOD NSPS Web sites often to learn more about the system and stay current on NSPS progress.

"As we implement NSPS, there is definitely going to be a learning curve involved, and there will be adjustments that have to be made," he said. "As NSPS grows and changes, it's important that everybody stay informed about what is going on. The best way to do that is to check the Web sites frequently."

The AFRC NSPS Web site is located at <https://www-mil.a1.afrc.af.mil/DPC/NSPS/NSPS.htm>. The Air Force NSPS Web address is <http://www.af.mil/library/nsps%2Daf/>. The DOD NSPS Web address is <http://www.cpms.osd.mil/nsps/index.html>.

"As NSPS grows and changes, it's important that everybody stay informed about what is going on."

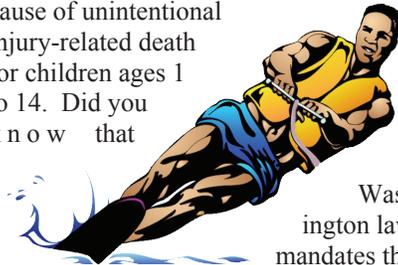
— Charles Carignan

Drowning can kill a fun day in sun

By Maj. Anthony Leung
Wing Safety Office

When the sun comes out this summer, what are you going to do after enduring months of drenching rain? Go play in the water, of course! You may find yourself enjoying the weather at a lake, at a beach, or in a boat. Yes, while drowning will kill you, many other hazards await the unwary, and Nietzsche's philosophy of "What does not kill me, makes me stronger" does not necessarily apply here. Please consider the following when starring in your own action adventures of boating and swimming.

Drowning ranks behind only motor vehicle accidents as the leading cause of unintentional injury-related death for children ages 1 to 14. Did you know that



Washington law mandates that children under

13 wear personal flotation devices while on a boat?

According to the Coast Guard, "Many adults believe themselves capable of diving into the water to rescue a child who falls overboard. This is a dangerous misconception. Adults may not notice a child falling overboard right away. Children who fall in may not surface immediately. It can be difficult to locate a child in the water - especially when the vessel is in motion."

So, if you're going to make your child wear a life jacket, you might as well lead by example. Buy a life jacket and wear it and make all others in your boat wear theirs. Your actions make powerful impressions upon your children. Also, never drink alcohol and drive a boat. Drinking and boating will get you a roundhouse kick to the face from Chuck Norris.

How about personal watercraft like jet

skis? They're just toys, right? Yes, they're powerful, torpedo-shaped toys whose mishandling results in an increasing number of injuries and deaths each year. Collisions result in more injuries and deaths than any other type of PWC accident, and 80 percent of the operators in accidents have received no formal PWC training.

Washington law states you must be at least 14 years old to operate a PWC; every person aboard a PWC must wear a life jacket, and the ignition safety switch lanyard must be attached to you, your clothing, or your life jacket when operating a PWC.

The Coast Guard further recommends that riders be tall enough to reach the footwell with their feet and that they wear a wet suit bottom or clothing that provides an equivalent amount of protection. They also say to never allow passengers to ride in front of the operator. And never drink alcohol and drive a PWC. Mr. T pities da fool who drinks and drives.

Perhaps you like your water sports more immersive and prefer swimming. Unfortunately you also face a plethora of hazards in the water. If you like open-water swimming, be aware of the wind speed, and water and air temperature - factors that can speed hypothermia or dehydration. Always know the weather conditions and forecast as well as the status of dangerous currents and waves. Swim with a buddy, preferably one who can also swim.

What about water cleanliness and less noticeable issues like bacteria or algae levels? Harmful bacteria normally come from animal or human feces, what Western Australian authorities have technically termed "poo."

Lakes, rivers, and estuaries carry a higher bacteriological risk than do coastal waters.

A few tips. Avoid swimming after



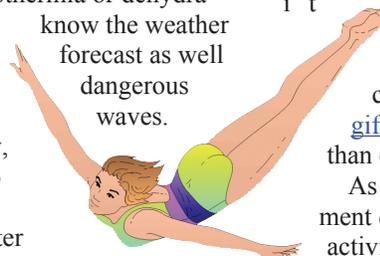
heavy rainfall. If it doesn't look or smell right, don't swim in it. Heed posted warning signs. Avoid swallowing water or putting your head under water if you are unsure about its quality. Don't swim if you have an open wound or infection. Don't swim in warm, stagnant water or near stormwater drains. And finally, use appropriate toilet facilities!

Hazardous algae blooms are not always the infamous "red tide" variety. In fact, many algae may not be easily seen. Nevertheless, don't swim in brightly colored water or where you see blue/green scum on the surface; brown, discolored water; or oily films on the water. Your best bet for information may be on sites like the Department of Health's www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/ts/WaterRec/beach/default.htm.

Don't forget about your pet! If you won't swim in it, don't let your dog drink it or swim in it. As an aside, you should also check this site before eating shellfish you catch: www4.doh.wa.gov/gis/mo-gifs/biotoxin.htm. Nothing's worse than eating bad shellfish.

As always, use good risk management during all your recreational activities lest Chuck Norris, Mr. T, and Steven Segal wreak their collective fury upon you. Also check out the following sites for great boating safety information.

www.uscgboating.org
www.boat-ed.com/wa/handbook/sharepwc.htm



Staff Sergeant

Promotions

Master Sergeant

Lance Beasley, 36th APS
 Mathew Camier, 446th CES
 Robert Ernst, 446th MXS
 Ranie Feiock, 446th MXS
 Alan Kelly, 728th AS
 Charles King, 446th AMXS
 Timothy Kovack, 446th OSF
 Heather Latimer, 97th AS
 Monica Matthews, 446th AMDS
 David Panelo, 446th CES
 Timothy Stidhamss, 446th LRF
 Randall Takehara, 446th CES

Technical Sergeant

Christopher Daitoku, 446th MXS
 David Hansen, 446th MSS
 Cheryl Lammie, 446th AMXS
 Jennifer Miller, 446th AMDS
 Jesse Strowbridge, 446th MXS

Staff Sergeant

Patrick Bredow, 446th AMXS
 Jeremy Burlingame, 36th APS
 George Cronin, 446th AMXS
 Nicole Cyrus, 728th AS
 Charles Day, 446th AMDS
 Chad Gloor, 446th MXS
 Dustin Hipps, 446th MXS
 David Jensen, 36th APS
 Michellee Jones, 446th AW
 Daniel Scherrer, 446th AMDS
 John Thomas, 446th AMXS
 James Thompson, 446th MXS
 Robin Voigt, 86th APS

Senior Airman

Stephen Ayala, 446th MXS
 Dustin Ballard, 446th MXS

Jesse Berg, 446th CES
 Eli Cabelly, 446th MXS
 Donivan Crews, 36th APS
 Dale Dixon, 36th APS
 Melinda Duran, 446th AMDS
 Kimberlee Loomis, 446th OG
 Paul Melo, 446th AMXS
 Beau Messenger, 97th AS
 Michael Richardson, 446th ASTS
 Javier RiosVazquez, 86th APS
 Christopher Sears, 446th MXS
 Michael Underwood, 36th APS
 Matthew Zwicker, 446th AMXS

Airman First Class

Cory Lopes, 446th MXS

Newcomers

Colonel

Joseph Davis, 446th ASTS

First Lieutenant

Cynthia Bass, 446th AMXS

Master Sergeant

Chris Skyberg, 446th SFS

Technical Sergeant

Jimmy Ellis, 446th MXS

Staff Sergeant

Ryan Allen, 446th AMDS
 Jay Chappelle, 446th SVF
 Leah Myers, 446th MOF
 Brian Nichols, 313th AS
 Edward Numbers, 86th APS
 Aaron Rushton, 446th AMXS

Senior Airman

Brady Hampton, 446th AMXS
 Daniel Lee, 36th APS
 Brandi Neighbor, 446th MOF
 Robin Robbins, 446th AMXS
 Wendy Russell, 86th APS
 Michael Schwimmer, 446th AMXS
 Benjamin Thomsen, 86th APS

Airman First Class

Jesse Emig, 36th APS
 Adam Farnsworth, 36th APS
 Jared Green, 86th APS
 Chris Lingo, 446th MXS

Airman

Mathew Muir, 728th AS
 Heather Nevius, 446th AES
 Sydney Reed, 446th AES

Airman Basic

Matthew Maronay, 446th AMDS

Retirements

Colonel

Mary Walker, 446th AW

Major

James Lemcke, 446th AMDS

Master Sergeant

Camilo Arquillano, 446th CES
 Duane Roberts, 446th AMXS
 Shari Workman, 86th APS

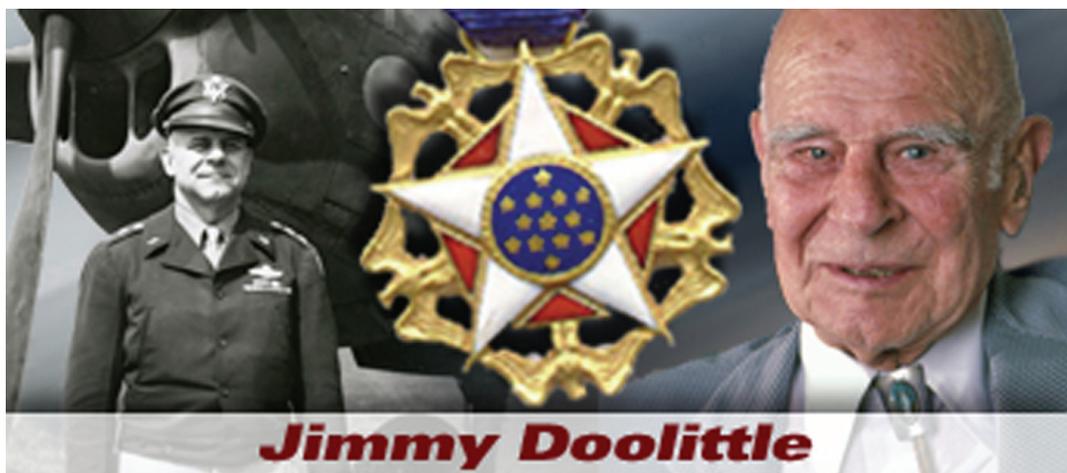
Technical Sergeant

Antonio Lynch, 446th CES
 John McMullen, 313th AS
 Shawn Roller, 446th AMXS
 Edwin Tablit, 446th AMXS



Remember
 When

July 20, 1969
 – Man’s first landing on the moon. Neil A. Armstrong was the first man on the moon and Edwin E. Aldrin Jr. was the second.



Jimmy Doolittle

New to the Chief of Staff’s recommended reading list is the book “The First Heroes: The Extraordinary Story of the Doolittle Raid, America’s First World War II Victory”, by Craig Nelson.

Just Briefly

Which freedom that all Americans enjoy is the most valuable to you?

Speech

"I think it's the freedom of speech - being able to say what you want about whoever, to an extent."



◆ *Tech. Sgt. Charles Zimmerman*
36th Aerial Port Squadron

Religion

"The freedom of religion. I don't have to worry about being tormented or mocked about my beliefs."



◆ *Senior Airman Roger Crook*
36th Aerial Port Squadron

Worship

"I guess the first thing that pops into my head - freedom to worship as I see fit. It ties closely to the freedom of speech, they're not exclusive of each other."



◆ *Capt. Daniel Royer*
446th Operations Support Squadron

Choices

"Having free choices ... we don't get condemned for our religious preferences."



◆ *Tech. Sgt. Charles King*
446th Maintenance Squadron

Wear of command patch mandatory Oct. 1

Wear of the Air Force Reserve Command patch will be mandatory Oct. 1. The patch is to be worn on battle dress uniforms and flight suits for unit reservists and headquarters staff.

Family day events set for groups, squadrons over summer months

Groups and squadrons throughout the wing have Family Days planned this summer. Currently scheduled Family Days for this year are:

July 29

446th Mission Support Group, Mission Support Squadron and wing staff picnic at Holiday Park.

Aug. 12

86th Aerial Port Squadron, Tall Firs Lodge at N. Fort Lewis (the marina, not Shoreline park), lunchtime.

446th Operations Group, location to be determined.

The 446th Maintenance Group Family Day Picnic, noon, Holiday Park.

The 446th Aerospace Medicine Squadron Family Day Picnic at 1 p.m., American Lake.

Aug. 26

446th Aeromedical Staging Squadron

Family Day , 1 p.m., Holiday Park
36th Aerial Port Squadron, location to be determined.

446th Mission Support Squadron has opening for 3S071

The 446th Mission Support Squadron will soon have a 3S071/ technical sergeant authorization vacancy. The position is with the commander's support staff. If you have questions regarding this position or are interested in being considered for this position, contact Chief Master Sgt. Janice Kallinen at 982-9109.

Rodeo competition comes to McChord in July 2007

RODEO 2007, Air Mobility Command's premier mobility competition, will take place July 22-28, 2007 at McChord.

The international competition focuses on readiness, and features airdrops, aerial refueling and other events which showcase the unique and wide-ranging capabilities of military security forces, and aerial port, maintenance and aeromedical evacuation personnel.

More than 100 teams and 2,500 people from the Air Force, Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard, as well as allied nations, are expected to participate.



Photo by Sandra Pishner

Lieutenant Dans

Actor Gary Sinise, known for his role as Lieutenant Dan Taylor in the film "Forrest Gump," talks to 1st Lt. Dan O'Keefe on a C-17 during his visit to McChord AFB June 23. Mr. Sinise, currently starring in the television series "CSI: New York," was at McChord with his Lieutenant Dan Band, which often entertains troops throughout the world, concluding its fourth USO tour this month.

Wing volunteers serve Special Olympics

By Staff Sgt. Nick Przybyciel
Wing Public Affairs

Christopher Collins was stoked. It was still a few weeks before the Special Olympics came to McChord AFB and Fort Lewis, but the 14-year-old athlete was already sporting a lot of impressive hardware: two gold medals and a silver draped around his neck.

Collins was showing off the medals he won in the qualifying rounds to his father's co-workers at the 728th Airlift Squadron, and it was clear he couldn't wait for his next competition – Washington State's regional Special Olympics.

But unlike most traditional athletes, 14-year-old Collins was not just looking forward to the competition. For him and most of the Special Olympians, the games are more than just sport. They're a way to prove that disabilities don't come with limitations. They're a way to change people's misperceptions. They're a way to inspire people. And more than anything, they're a way to have fun.

What excites Collins more than anything are the festivities that surround the games. Last year, when he participated in the Special Olympics for the first time, his favorite part was the victory dance.

"After I picked Chris up from the dance, he was a completely different kid," his father, Master Sgt Mike Ayers said. "He's always been shy, but we really watched him come out of his shell after the dance."

And thanks to Reservists from the 446th Airlift Wing, Collins and his fellow athletes were not disappointed this year. Twenty-seven volunteers

from across the wing donated their time to ensure the competitors had a blast during this year's Special Olympics, held June 3-4.

Master Sgt. Mark Cherrix, 446th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, headed up the volunteer effort for the 446th AW. "This year was great," he said. "Every year we're up against something -- this year it was the ORI (Operational Readiness Inspection). We were kind of worried, but it all worked out."

Even with the ORI following on the heels of this year's games, Sergeant Cherrix's squadron was able to recruit 22 volunteers to help with the victory dance and victory happening; parties where athletes and their families celebrate after the athletic events.

This year, Sergeant Cherrix estimated that nearly 4,000 athletes and family members attended the dance, which is twice the amount of attendees from previous years. For Sergeant Cherrix, who has been volunteering at the Special Olympics for nine years, the dance and happening are his favorite parts of the games.



"For some of the athletes, the dance is like their prom. I've seen people who have met there who went on and got married," he said.

Sergeant Cherrix's favorite story relates to the lessons that the athletes are capable of teaching to people.

"There was this mother who had a child with a disability, and all she used to think was, 'Why me?'" Sergeant Cherrix said. "Once her child got involved in the Special Olympics, she found that her child actually taught her how to handle it.

"You think you have a burden and you wonder why. Then, all of a sudden, it turns

into a blessing in disguise."

Similarly, Collins' parents found comfort in the Special Olympics community.

"It's always been a bit difficult ... there's a lot of extra work and attention that you have to give to a child with a learning disability," Sergeant Ayers said. "But when you're around a bunch of parents who have had similar experiences, you find that you can relate to their lives. It provides a great deal of support."

He credits that support with helping his son to grow as an individual. "Chris always used to be so shy. He'd never look in the eye when you spoke. But now look at him," Sergeant Ayers said, pointing to his son who was grinning from ear-to-ear, showing off his medals.

And while it's clear the emotional rewards of the Special Olympics outweigh the actual competitive ones, Collins may have another take on that. This year, he walked away from the games with an impressive array of medals. He won the gold in both the 200 meter dash and running long jump, and finished a strong third in the 100 meter dash.

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