

THE 446th Associate Press

March 2007

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DoD photo by Staff Sgt. Edward Holzappel

Airlifting lives

Crew members aboard a McChord C-17 Globemaster aircraft prepare to off load wounded personnel from Balad Air Base, Iraq, into a 386th Contingency Aeromedical Staging Facility bus in Southwest Asia on Jan. 17. For more on how airlift saves lives, see Page 12.

Cops take on new role in exercise

MCCHORD AIR FORCE BASE, Wash. – In a role that was a first for the 446th Security Forces Squadron, unit Reservists participated in Keen Edge '07 Jan. 26 to Feb. 8 at Yokota Air Base, Japan, and at Hickam AFB, Hawaii.

Keen Edge is an annual joint bilateral command and control exercise that allows the United States and Japan to work combat readiness and interoperability tasks in the defense of Japan.

Capt. Ray Schierhoff, Master Sgt. Lenny Deboma and Tech. Sgt. Rick Shumate, participated as action officers in the Force Protection Cell at Headquarters 5th Air Force at Yokota AB, and Senior Master Sgt. Ken Mazzuca worked in the Force Protection Cell at Headquarters 13th Air Force at Hickam AFB. All played roles along with active-duty Airmen and DoD civilians as part of force protection teams making decisions vital to the overall success of the exercise.

“We were part of the big picture, as you had U.S. joint service ops, intel, logistics, and support elements present, as well as their Japanese air, maritime, and ground self defense force counterparts working together in this exercise,” said Sergeant Shumate.

“Everyone had their inputs to take action on and for us at Yokota, we had to play the role of Det. 1, 13 AF’s FP Cell. We had to turn around and give information or decisions made at our level back to the PACAF (Pacific Air Force) Operations Support Center at Hickam in real time. That information was then given to the POSC leadership for review or action,” he said.

Back at Hickam, Sergeant Mazzuca

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The 446th Associate Press
Volume 29, No. 3
March 2007

March 22 is the deadline for articles in the April 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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Suicide prevention in wing critical to Airmen

By Brig. Gen. Eric Crabtree
Wing commander

The topic for this month is the 446th Airlift Wing's suicide prevention program.

As some of you know, we had another member of the wing commit suicide in February.

That brings the number of suicides in the wing during my time here to five. I'm sure that exceeds the national average for 2,300 person samples.

So what can we do to create an environment where we do everything possible to prevent people from making the final decision to end their lives?

Our Air Force-mandated suicide prevention program focuses on recognizing the signs that may tell us something is wrong, or becoming overwhelming in someone's life. The reasons can be as varied as anyone could imagine.

The common themes are relationship problems with spouses or family, and financial problems in a person's life. But those are obviously not the only stressors that can cause a person to consider suicide.

Stress can come from changes in job environment or duties, a move from one location to another, or even the loads we put on our military members and civilians in the current high tempo environment as the war continues.

A very real concern in all branches of the military is post traumatic stress. We have people in this wing who have been exposed to some pretty traumatic situations and have seen and done things that are

not part of everyday life in the Pacific Northwest. My concern is that those individuals may suffer from varying degrees of hidden stress as the months go by.

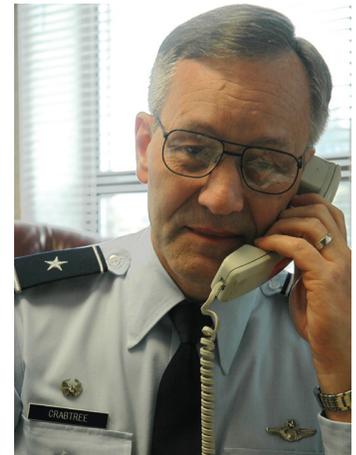
The best source for identifying those issues will be family and friends. Most of our Reservists are not likely to come in on a UTA and tell their supervisors they have not been the same since their return to duty at McChord.

Therefore, it is critical for us to keep in touch with families and friends to help us identify problems like sleep disorders, behavioral changes, excess drinking or irrational outbursts of anger. Any or all of those could be indicators of long-term problems that require help and counseling.

Each of us will ask ourselves a series of questions whenever someone we know, even casually, commits suicide. Could I have spent a little more effort connecting with them? Could I have asked them what was bothering them when they seemed stressed? Did I miss the signals that there was a significant change in their life? The trouble is, it is too late to act on those questions after the individual is gone.

As coworkers and supervisors, the two things we can do are to stay connected and involved in our members lives, and try not to put extra stress on people when they come out to perform their jobs, civilian or military.

If you sense someone is becoming overloaded, find ways to help them through the difficult time. Don't pile logs



Brig. Gen. Eric Crabtree

on the fire in their lives that may already be burning out of control. It is easy for us to let deadlines and commitments overrule our judgment of what is correct and safe for our people. If that is what is happening, be the hero who stops a tragedy in the making.

There are sometimes medical reasons for depression and suicide that are beyond our capability to correct. If you see someone who might be in that category, speak up and we will work through our agencies to get them to a medical authority to see what can be done for them.

I had a personal experience with that very situation in a previous Reserve unit.

A young man began to slowly exhibit a personality change, until one day he came in to fly a mission and was almost totally incoherent. We were able to get him treatment through the Veterans Administration and his mother

See **SUICIDE**, Page 7

Spouse links families with unit

By Staff Sgt. Paul Haley
Wing Public Affairs

MCCHORD AIR FORCE BASE, Wash. – It isn't every day that a spouse of a Reservist is honored by the Air Force, but that's what happened during the 446th Aeromedical Staging Squadron's commander's call here Feb. 10.

Stephany Langston, wife of Tech. Sgt. Clay Langston, was recognized for her outstanding service as the unit's key spouse.

The Key Spouse program, administered by the 446th Airlift Wing's Family Support Center, provides families of deployed Reservists a point of contact to get information from and go to for help, said Tech. Sgt. Michael Bray, family support technician at the Family Support Center.

Key spouses are normally responsible for between 20 and 50 families, and a senior key spouse would oversee the unit as a whole. Mrs. Langston was responsible for more than 65 families at one point, being the only key spouse for the 446th ASTS, Sergeant Bray continued.

"Right now, she's filling all the shoes," he added.

Among other reasons, Mrs.

Langston agreed to perform the job as key spouse in order to have input into her husband's career.

"As military Reserve spouses, we don't get many opportunities to have input into our spouses' careers, so I was honored to be asked to do this," she said.

"The first thing I thought was, 'Do they (the leadership of the 446th ASTS) know what they're getting into?'" she joked.

However, there was never any doubt on the part of leadership whether she was the right person for the job.

"The first time I met her, I thought, 'What a ball of fire,'" said Beth Crabtree, wife of Brig. Gen. Eric Crabtree, 446th Airlift Wing commander.

"She was everybody's mom during the unit's deployment, and she called every spouse to check on concerns," Mrs. Crabtree said.

Even after her own husband had returned from his deployment, Mrs. Langston continued to attend homecoming ceremonies as waves of people from the 446th ASTS returned.

"The Key Spouse program has a high emphasis in the active duty. In the Reserve, we're just



Photo by Staff Sgt. Paul Haley
Stephany Langston, left, is congratulated as husband Tech. Sgt. Clay Langston looks on, after being honored for her exceptional work as the 446th Aeromedical Staging Squadron's key spouse.

learning the value of this program, and Stephanie has done such a good job, I'm sure family

support and other Key Spouses will be asking her for advice," General Crabtree said.

SFS

Continued from Page 1

was in the POSC receiving that information. "It was a good experience to work and see things at that level with all the different A-staff functions performing their roles," he said. "It was also interesting to communicate with (446th SFS) people at Yokota during the exercise from the role we were playing at Hickam as the component air force's FP element. It really was an eye opener to see everyone doing their part in the POSC during a contingency," he said.

"We all did well," said Captain Schierhoff. "All of us - Reserve, civilians, and active duty, had to rely on our experiences to

formulate decisions and responses because the dynamics of an exercise of that magnitude tested everybody's ability to respond in a timely manner. The bottom line is we were able to contribute our part to the exercise, and at the same time come out of it with some valuable lessons learned," he said.

"Aside from just the great professional experiences and networking gained, one of the unique things that stands out from my point of view about this exercise was having Sergeant Mazzuca in the POSC at Hickam," said Sergeant Deboma. "Every major exercise has moments where the heat is turned up, and to have one of our own on the other side at a higher headquarters listening to

our occasional concerns and being the one giving us a no frills response back from his bosses, made things more bearable," he said. "During my 11 years on active duty, I participated in a few JCS-level exercises, but they were at the ground-pounder level. This one was a good experience because the folks at 5th Air Force and 13th Air Force security forces staffs welcomed and made us feel needed from day one. It was also great in that we had a rare opportunity to work at the C2 (command and control) end of things," he said.

(Story submitted by Master Sgt. Lenny Deboma, 446th Security Forces Squadron unit public affairs representative).

Computer security critical to mission

MCCHORD AIR FORCE BASE, Wash. – Standard computer desk tops and common access card log in are just two of recent changes to computing issues for the Air Force. Both relate to computer security and the Air Force’s ongoing efforts to ensure information security.

In early March, Col. John Hayes visited with Reservists across the 446th Airlift Wing and discussed the importance of computer and information security. Colonel Hayes is the director of communications and information and chief information officer at Air Force Reserve Command Headquarters, Robins AFB, Ga.

According to the colonel, computer security is as important for Reservists as for any other Airman in today’s Air Force.

“Our networks are continually being attacked by enemies and they pull out unclassified information that could be used

against us. So we have to protect our information,” Colonel Hayes said. “In my job, I have to keep a balance between information securities against the enemy and keeping the network accessible to Reservists.”

There are three computer management issues facing AFRC Airmen.

One, to make sure information is stored properly away from the enemy. Two, that information stored is accurate and three, that the enemy doesn’t lock us out of our own network.



Col. John Hayes

In communications and information, Reservists have to be organized, trained and equipped to be relevant and useful to the war fighter.

“I’m here to listen to your concerns, but also preach the importance of training and the importance of participating in AEFs (air expeditionary forces),” said Colonel Hayes.

Training in computer security is required of Reservists on an annual basis. Keeping computer certification up-to-date is essential. Computer certifications that lapse result in Reservists losing network access, which can have an undesirable impact on the Reservists’ ability to accomplish the mission.

For more information about computer security, contact your unit computer security administrator. *(Report complied by 446th Airlift Wing Public Affairs staff)*

Group commander excited about mission

EDITOR’S NOTE: Lt. Col David Pavey is the new commander of the 446th Operations Group. Transferring here from Travis AFB, Calif., he assumed command of the 600 member group in January.



Lt. Col. David Pavey
446th Operations Group
commander

Q: What is your biggest challenge as the 446th OG commander?

A: Keeping up with the ops tempo. The constant flow of missions supporting the Global War on Terrorism and humanitarian relief keep us very busy.

Having said that, trying to balance the demands made in the lives of our crew members is a priority for us. There are formal programs such as the Care and Share program from the 446th Mission Support Squadron’s Family Support Center that does a great job helping us.

Q: What are you most excited about?

A: The wide scope of our missions. We are involved in the Global War on Terrorism, airdrops worldwide, including C-17 airdrops for the National Science Foundation’s Deep

Freeze mission to the South Pole, aeromedical evacuation missions; humanitarian missions, presidential support and more. It’s an exciting time to be flying airlift missions!

Q: How important is the support of your aircrews’ families to the accomplishment of the mission?

A: It’s immeasurable. I know I depend on the support of my family to keep me going. We’re out in the system for long periods of time and yet we have to remain focused on our mission. Knowing that our family is supportive and well taken care of enables us to remain sharp and determined. After all, it’s what we’re fighting for.

Q: What are some of your hobbies or pastimes?

A: I do enjoy skydiving. I have my own rig and have around 250 jumps; there is nothing like making a jump at first light or sunset. I’m also a bit of a history buff.

Q: What kinds of things keep you up at night?

A: Thinking of our aircrews. Right this instant a 446th crew is flying a high priority mission somewhere in the world. We fly into some places where there can be a lot of bad people. Thankfully though, we have the best trained crews in the world, flying the best airlifter in the world. Our crews do absolutely remarkable things and yet make it look routine. I can’t express enough how proud I am of them.

Reservist wins national award

By 1st. Lt. Reed Robertson
Wing Public Affairs

At the heart of every firefighter is the undeniable need to help others within, around, or well beyond his own community. At the heart of every Airman are the core values of Integrity First, Service before Self, and Excellence in All We Do.

What do you get when you mix both? You get the National Guard/Reserve recipient of the 2006 GEICO Military Service Award.

Master Sgt. Scott Dellinger, a loadmaster with the 728th Airlift Squadron, was selected to win this award at the Air Force Reserve Command level and went on to compete against National Guardsmen and Reservists from every branch of the military.

In February, Lt. Col. David Degennaro, 728th Airlift Squadron commander,

received a phone call from the Office of the Secretary of Defense Reserve Affairs office notifying him that Sergeant Dellinger had been selected as the national award winner.

"Sergeant Dellinger was chosen for this award because of his work in fire prevention and safety," said Colonel Degennaro.

A perfect example of his work in fire safety can be found in his recent trip to El Grullo, Mexico.

As a nine-year veteran

firefighter for the city of Kent, Wash., he is also part of a non-profit organization that recently went down to the small town in Mexico to give critical fire fighting and emergency medical training and equipment to the town of 25,000 people, mostly sugarcane farmers.

"Fire departments from the city of Kent and neighboring departments donated a fire engine, all of the necessary clothing and equipment, and even went to a local hospital to donate some medical equipment," Sergeant Dellinger said.

"We drove the fire engine down to El Grullo three weeks prior to our trip and then returned to prepare our team to go down to provide training."

While the team was in El Grullo for three weeks, there were obvious culture barriers, both in language and in medical practices.

"While we were eating at a restaurant, there was a medical emergency just outside where we

were. The 15 of us dropped everything to run out there and began CPR as needed and were confronted by one of the local first responders who had a different idea of what was CPR. Fortunately, one of our firefighters spoke Spanish and settled it all out."

Sergeant Dellinger and his fellow firefighters who went on this trip, sacrificed their own time and money to go to this small town and perform this very crucial training.

"El Grullo had no fire response ability," he said. He

He exemplifies the citizen Airman and is very deserving of this national award.

— Lt. Col. David Degennaro



Courtesy photo provided by Master Sgt. Scott Dellinger
Master Sgt. Scott Dellinger gives knot tying lessons to two local volunteer firefighters during his trip to El Grullo, Mexico.

asked one of the locals, "What would happen if the sugarcane plant should catch fire? Would a neighboring community give fire assistance if that happened?"

Sergeant Dellinger was told that because of jurisdiction issues, no assistance would ever be given and that the plant would be lost.

"I was excited to be able to go give this training to these volunteers in El Grullo," the sergeant said. "They were so appreciative that we would come and donate such impor-

tant equipment and training."

Also appreciative of Sergeant Dellinger is his commander.

"The 728th (Airlift Squadron) is proud of Sergeant Dellinger," said Colonel Denennaro. "He exemplifies the citizen Airman and is very deserving of this national award."

Next for Sergeant Dellinger is a trip to Washington D.C. for he and his wife for the award ceremony where he'll receive a cash award and several prizes.

Training brings Reservists together



Photos by Senior Airman Desiree Kiliz
TOP: Master Sgt. Lyle Lane, 446th Airlift Control Flight (right), monitors the loading of the MARC during a joint 446th ALCF-86th Aerial Port Squadron training opportunity.

RIGHT: Reserve aerial port and airlift control flight Airmen work together training on proper loading of equipment onto the C-17.



By Senior Airman Desiree Kiliz
Wing Public Affairs

MCCHORD AIR FORCE BASE, Wash. – The 86th Aerial Port Squadron uses real world scenarios to gain knowledge and experience for themselves, as well as to teach others.

Each scenario given to the Reservists presents different circumstances and must be coordinated, planned and then carried out within regulations said Staff Sgt. Robin Voigt.

In addition, the 86th APS involves other flights to create a new dynamic the Airmen must tackle.

“We’ve had groups like the Navy come in and we tell them how to load cargo and also as a shipper what they must provide for us,” said Sergeant Voigt. “This helps us because we learn how to interact with the user.”

Group training also gives supervisors a chance to lead and mentor other Airmen while refreshing their practical application skills, said Senior Master Sgt. Tarri Zwolski, 86th APS.

With the 446th Airlift Control Flight, the aerial port learned how to inspect and load the MARC, the portable communications shelter 446th ALCF uses in the field.

Master Sgt. William Martin, an Air Reserve technician in the 446th ALCF, said the training benefits both units because there will be more personnel trained to handle the specialized equipment and also for the next Operational Readiness Inspection.

By using available work-force and equipment at McChord, the Airmen in the 86th APS are teaching others as well as gaining experience.

Command requires supervisors to establish accounts

Personnel service moves to web

By Staff Sgt. Nick Przybyciel
Wing Public Affairs

MCCHORD AIR FORCE BASE, Wash. – Spending time in line at the military personnel flight will be a thing of the past, thanks to technology.

In an effort to centralize personnel functions and increase efficiency, Department of Defense and Air Force leadership mandated the change to web-based applications when it comes to personnel issues.

For Reservists, the most notable change is the virtual Personnel Center – Guard and Reserve portal, known as vPC-GR.

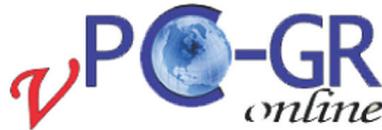
All Air Force Reserve officers, senior noncommissioned officers and supervisors have until April 2 to establish a vPC-GR account.

However, the sooner they sign up, the quicker they will begin to benefit from the service.

“It offers a lot more control and flexibility when it comes to getting personnel issues taken care of. (Airmen) can handle issues 24 hours a day, seven days a week,” said Chief Master Sgt. Janice Kallinen, 446th Mission Support Squadron’s Military Personnel Flight chief.

The vPC-GR first came online in March 2006, with limited features, but has since seen significant upgrades in terms of services offered to Reservists.

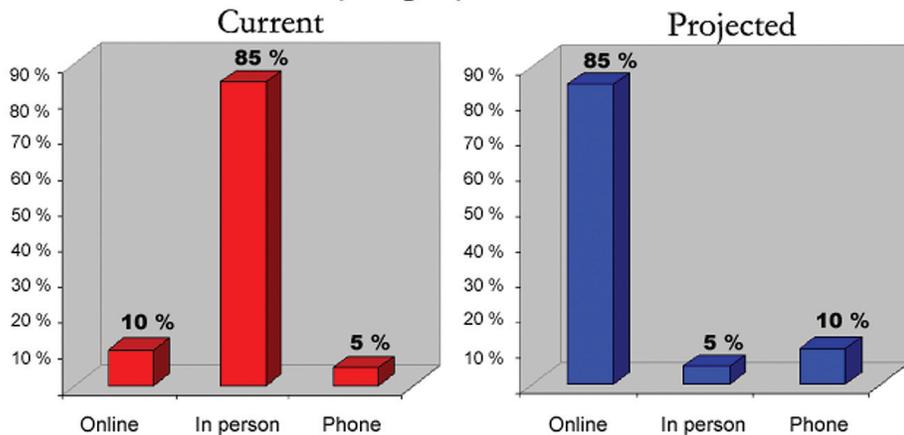
Designed to be rolled out in phases, vPC-GR will eventually handle most personnel issues.



Say goodbye to long lines at the Military Personnel Flight ...

And say hello to the future of customer service. The virtual Personnel Center-Guard and Reserve portal (vPC-GR) gives Airmen the freedom to update crucial career data 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, all from the comfort of a computer.

How you get your customer service



Graphic by Staff Sgt. Nick Przybyciel

“It’s an evolving process,” said Tech. Sgt. J.C. Woodring, Air Reserve Personnel Center Public Affairs. “It never (remains static) because we are always trying to make it easier for the users.”

Currently, the vPC-GR offers the following to users:

- Correct duty history
- Correct current points
- Obtain a 20-year letter re-issue
- Choose a Reserve Component Survivor Benefit Plan
- Sign up for Tricare Reserve Select
- Request awards and decorations

In the future, the vPC-GR will have functions for separa-

tions, re-enlistments, promotions, retraining and more.

The human element has not been completely removed from the process, and there will always be avenues for those who struggle with technology to receive support.

Regarding how long it will be until personnel support goes entirely virtual, Chief Kallinen said, “It’s gonna be a little while.”

The Air Force is currently testing a new MPF alignment at five wings, including the 62nd Airlift Wing here. However, 446th MSS/MPF functions will not be changed, pending the results of the test.

Airmen experiencing dif-

ficulties signing up for or using the system also have an avenue of support via the vPC-GR Contact Center. From the hours of 5 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, Reservists can call (880) 525-0101 or DSN 926-6528, with their questions.

Chief Kallinen is impressed with the service they offer.

“They’re extra efficient and very knowledgeable. It was very surprising to me – without one-on-one contact, you’d think you’d lose something. But that’s not the case; they’re fabulous,” she said.

Access to the vPC-GR can be gained by going to <https://arpc.afrc.af.mil/vPC-GR/default.asp>.

SUICIDE

Continued from Page 2

later thanked us. She had been trying to get him help through several civilian agencies for months and had been unable. She was convinced we had

saved his life through our actions.

Please take the time to connect with each other and learn how to prevent people from letting their problems overload them. Work to make the

Reserve program the positive force in peoples’ lives so that we may be able to say we were the light at the end of the tunnel; give someone you know reason not to make the final decision to end his or her life.

If we take care of each other, we will minimize the chance we will have to attend another funeral and ask ourselves questions we cannot answer.

Thanks for all your hard work and dedication.

S a f e t y



March 17, 1971 – Jane Leslie Holley becomes the first woman commissioned through the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps program. She graduated from Auburn University, Ala.

Promotions

Senior Master Sergeant
Dean Peloquin, 446th CES

Master Sergeant
David Allen, 446th AES
Alvin Bautista, 86th APS
Brian Lidyard, 446th AMXS
Shannon Mehalik, 86th APS

Technical Sergeant
Katie Badowski, 446th SVF
Kenneth Kachold, 446th MXS
Quentin Nemechek, 446th AMXS
Gabriela Romero, 446th AMDS
Mark Stair, 446th MXS
Ryan Williams, 446th CES

Staff Sergeant
April Jefferson, 446th ASTS
Daniel Kristiansen, 446th AMXS
Robert Peruzzi, 446th ASTS
Jesse Roberts, 446th AMXS
David Yousling, 446th ASTS

Senior Airman
Stephen Ayala, 446th MXS
Michael Bonoan, 728th AS
Jared Green, 86th APS
Jade Lazaro, 446th AMXS
Cory Lopes, 446th MXS
Ryan Rosso, 86th APS

Airman First Class
Alyssa Brandaberry, 728th AS
Mathew Muir, 728th AS

Airman
Aimee McFarland, 728th AS

Newcomers

Major
Kenneth Jambor, 313th AS

Captain
Jean Thong, 36th APS

Master Sergeant
Scott Goodgion, 446th AMXS

Technical Sergeant
Terry Dunn, 86th APS
Stuart Eagleburger, 446th CES

Staff Sergeant
Patrick Mills, 86th APS
Michael Morris, 86th APS
Patricia Ordway, 446th MSS
Mark Stair, 446th MXS

Senior Airman
Timothy Britz, 446th AMXS
Anthony Carriker, 728th AS
Misty Croft, 446th ALCF
Casey Hall, 446th AMXS
John Hillenbrand, 446th MXS

Marcee Lewis, 446th MXS
Jason Maul 446th MXS
Latasha Owens, 446th AMDS
Charles Pickle, 446th CES
Richard Post, 446th MXS
Megan Watson, 446th MXS

Airman First Class
Ilija Balach, 446th MXS
Angela Carpenter, 446th AMXS
Larry Kaneshiro, 446th MXS
Joseph Lancaster, 446th MXS

Airman
Joshua McCabe, 446th AMXS

Retirements

Lieutenant Colonel
Diane Lake, 446th AMDS

Master Sergeant
Richard Anthony, 446th AW
Barry Frerichs, 446th MXS
Leonard Iredale, 446th AMXS
Douglas Jones, 446th MXS

Technical Sergeant
Matthew Baker, 446th ASTS
Joseph Hagen, 446th MXS
Robert Howe, 446th MXS
Henry Patino, 36th APS
Shawn Saylor, 446th LRF



Photo by Abner Guzman

Reservist shows his metal
Tech. Sgt. Brian Barbee, 446th Maintenance Squadron, uses a fiber saw to cut a piece of metal that will be used for a project in the base museum.

Just Briefly

It's Women's History Month - what woman do you admire?

Oprah

Oprah. She's a leader. She opened a women's school in Africa, and helped during Hurricane Katrina. She fulfills meaningful goals rather than what's popular.



◆ Senior Airman Maria Juarez
446th Mission Support Squadron

Coretta

Coretta Scott King, because she stood behind equal rights and continued Dr. Martin Luther King's work. I use that as a guide for my own life, to stand up for peace and equal rights.



◆ Master Sgt. Lance Beasley
36th Aerial Port Squadron

Hillary

Hillary Clinton. She's a former first lady and very intelligent. She's doing things that I like and I hope she gets to accomplish the things she wants to accomplish.



◆ Tech. Sgt. Henry Patino
36th Aerial Port Squadron

Susan

Susan B. Anthony, because of all the work she did for women's suffrage. She laid the groundwork for women to vote and work. She opened people's minds to what women can do.



◆ Senior Airman Eleanordawn Floyd
36th Aerial Port Squadron

Rodeo is coming in July

Thousands of competitors will arrive at McChord July 22 and compete in dozens of competitions testing their professional mobility skills through July 28 in Air Mobility Command's Rodeo '07. The 446th Airlift Wing team, headed by Lt. Col. Greg Pyke, will compete to defend its title of Best C-17 Wing in the Air Force. The team will be introduced at the wing commander's calls in June. Along with the team, the wing will provide volunteers for a variety of Rodeo support positions. For information on working as a volunteer, contact Senior Master Sgt. Joe Steinbacher, chief Wrangler for Rodeo, at joseph.steinbacher@mcchord.af.mil.

60th anniversary picnic honors all McChord alumni Sept. 8

On Sept. 8, the 446th Airlift Wing will host a base-wide picnic at Heritage Hill honoring those who have served at McChord and their families who supported them, as well as their contributions to the Air Force's rich heritage.

The event will feature squadron food and memorabilia booths, live music and guest speakers from McChord's past.

This event is a one-time replacement for unit Family Day events for 2007. If you are interested in serving on the planning committee or organizing a booth for your squadron, contact Lt. Col. Anna Sullivan, 446th Public Affairs, at 982-2060 or e-mail her at anna.sullivan@mcchord.af.mil.

Change of commands, promotion ceremony set for April 22

There will be a double change of command ceremony for the 446th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron and 446th Maintenance Squadron on April 22 at 10 a.m. in Hangar 9.

Maj. Maureen Carroll will be the new commander of the 446th MXS and Maj. Luke Upton will be the new commander of the 446th AMXS.

Lt. Col. Jerry Thayer will pin on his new O-6 rank in a ceremony immediately following the change of commands.

League of United Latin American Citizens nominations due in April

Commanders and supervisors now have the opportunity to submit nominations for the 2007 LULAC Excellence in Military Service Award. The 2007 LULAC Excellence in Military Service Award recognizes military members who have distinguished themselves in the War on Terrorism and whose activities best support the ideals of duty, honor, country, or who best epitomize the core values and the citizen-warrior attributes of the respective military service. Nominations are due April 21 to the

wing executive officer. For details on award criteria and nomination package requirements, check out the 446th Airlift Wing's Human Resources Development Council Web site at <https://446aw.mcchord.af.mil/HRDC/National%20Award%20Info%20and%20Criteria/Forms/AllItems.aspx> and <https://446aw.mcchord.af.mil/HRDC/National%20Award%20Info%20and%20Criteria/Forms/AllItems.aspx>

Blacks in Government Meritorious Service Award due in May

Commanders and supervisors now have the opportunity to submit nominations for the 2007 Blacks in Government Meritorious Service Award. The 2007 BIG Meritorious Service Award is awarded to a military member and DoD civilian employee who have significantly contributed to the Global War on Terrorism through outstanding support to the mission of their organization. Due date is May 19 and nominations can be submitted to the wing executive officers.

For further details on award criteria and nomination package details, please check out the 446 AW Human Resources Development Council Web site at <https://446aw.mcchord.af.mil/HRDC/National%20Award%20Info%20and%20Criteria/Forms/AllItems.aspx> and <https://446aw.mcchord.af.mil/HRDC/National%20Award%20Info%20and%20Criteria/Forms/AllItems.aspx>

Council seeks volunteers to attend conventions

The 446th Airlift Wing's Human Resources Development Council has agreed to support attendance of one person from each of the 446th AW's groups at the League of United Latin American Citizens Convention July 11-13 and the Tuskegee Airmen, Inc., Convention Aug. 23-25. Full announcement details and application forms are available on our HRDC Sharepoint site: <https://446aw.mcchord.af.mil/HRDC/default.aspx>.

Submit nomination forms through your squadron and group commander to Lt. Col. Barbara Henson, 446th AW/IG, to arrive not later than May 5.

I-90 Interchange closed for 19 days this summer – plan ahead

The Washington State Department of Transportation will complete a major rehabilitation of I-5 between Spokane Street and the I-90 interchange this summer. This construction will significantly affect traffic near downtown Seattle, particularly during 19 continuous days of intense construction from Aug. 10-29.

To learn more about the project visit WSDOT's Web site at www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/i5/SpokaneStreetBridgeRepair

Event tackles ancillary training woes

By Airman First Class Robbie Arp
Air Force News Agency

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFNEWS) – An Airman’s time is like money -- when it’s gone, it’s gone, said the Air Force’s director of Airman development and sustainment.

The Air Force is losing valuable funds because Airmen must focus much of their time on ancillary training instead of their missions, Brig. Gen. Robert Allardice said.

But the general said the Air Force is working to have Airmen focus more on the mission. Air Force leaders met at this training base Jan. 22 through 26 to find ways to reduce existing ancillary training. He said those at the meeting -- from the Air Force Smart Operations 21 community -- worked on streamlining the process for current and



future training requirements.

Jim Cain, chief of Air Force training and development said though most of the training is essential, the Air Force needs to curb some of it.

“We need to only keep that ancillary training that is absolutely necessary and at the minimum frequency and length so that it will allow the Airmen more time to do their primary job,” Mr. Cain said.

While ancillary training requires much

of an Airman’s on-duty time, Airmen must often put in extra hours to complete both their primary job and the additional ancillary training requirements.

“If an Airman is working excess hours because he has to do ancillary training, then that not only impacts his mission, his ability to do his primary job, it also impacts his family time and that, in turn, could impact his retention,” Mr. Cain said.

He said retention is a big topic in the Air Force, which is in the process of losing 40,000 Airmen. Officials say this reduction will allow for a more effective Air Force. With training becoming more focused, it will allow more time for Airmen to do their primary mission.

Jim Cain said, “That’s what it’s all about, making us more effective as an Air Force to help us defend our primary role as Airmen.”

Air Force News

At A Glance

Islamic State of Iraq video attempts to exploit Air Force major’s death in F-16 crash

SOUTHWEST ASIA (AFNEWS) – Recent news reports stated that the Islamic State of Iraq terrorist organization is releasing a video on Maj. Troy Gilbert’s death.

Major Gilbert was killed Nov. 27, 2006, when his F-16C crashed while he was supporting Coalition ground combat operations approximately 20 miles northwest of Baghdad. <http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?storyID=123044262>

Nature of war requires successful airlift

By Capt. Travis Tougaw
455th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan (AFNEWS) – The commander of United States Transportation Command visited Bagram Air Base March 14 to observe and speak about the airlift mission being performed throughout Afghanistan.

Airlift is an important part of Operation Enduring Freedom, said the visiting Gen. Norton Schwartz. <http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123044874>

Program reconnects Airmen to heritage

WASHINGTON (AFNEWS) – Air Force History Office officials are launching a new program to help unite Airmen, past and present, commemorate and preserve their shared heritage.

During this year, in conjunction with the 60th anniversary of the Air Force, history office staff members are reaching out to those

involved in various missions who want to connect with their former teammates. <http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?storyID=123043595>

OneSource offers free online tax filing

By Gerry J. Gilmore
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFNEWS) – The Defense Department’s Military OneSource family support program is once again offering free, online tax preparation and filing for servicemembers and their families, officials said Feb. 2.

The service began Jan. 15. It’s available to active-duty servicemembers, National Guardsmen and Reservists and their families. <http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?storyID=123039796>

Mobility warfare center has new name

FORT DIX, N.J. (AFNEWS) – The Air Mobility Warfare Center flag was rolled up and a new flag bearing the name “United States Air Force Expeditionary Center” was unfurled March 5 during a re-designation ceremony here.

“If you want to know why you’ve become the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center, it’s because you earned it,” said Gen. Duncan McNabb, the Air Mobility Command commander, who presided over the ceremony. <http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123043713>

Editor’s Note: *Air Force News – At A Glance* features the top stories on the Air Force News web site recommended by Air Force Leaders as essential reading. For the full story, type the hyperlink into your web browser.

New uniform roll out moves forward

By Senior Airman J.G. Buzanowski
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON (AFNEWS) – Air Force officials are moving forward with the Airman Battle Uniform roll-out and plans for a new service dress coat.

The new ABU, designed to eventually replace both the Battle Dress and Desert Combat Uniforms worn by Airmen, is currently in full production.

Early deliveries of ABU inventories in 2007 are earmarked for issue to a select group of deploying Airmen for Air Expeditionary Force 7 and 8.

Distribution plans also have the ABU replacing the BDU in the initial clothing bag at Basic Military Training in early fall. Production expectations at this time support plans to have the ABU available for purchase in many Military Clothing Sales Stores later this year, with AAFES wide availability in early 2008.

“Distribution decisions regarding which Airmen deploying in AEF 7/8 will be issued the ABU were based on a number of factors, with mission requirements and security paramount,” said Brig. Gen. Robert Allardice, the Airman Development and Sustainment director. “Not all deploying Airmen will receive the new uniform due to initial stock levels, but I’ve been inspired by countless people who, after learning supplies of the ABU inventories are limited, emphatically supported the distribution plan that gives precedence to our front line Airmen. This is a team effort on all levels.”

Battlefield Airmen are those with Air Force specialty codes for combat rescue, special tactics, pararescue jumper, combat control, tactical air control Airmen, members of the special operations weather team, battlefield weather Airmen and explosive ordnance members.

Their missions take them “outside the wire” for much of their duty. The majority of Battlefield Airman deploying in AEF 7 and 8 will each be issued four ABU sets. All other 7 and 8 Airmen will receive the DCU.

General Allardice said the ABU is a uniform that is not only easy to wear; it’s easy to see the improvements as compared to our current utility uniforms.

“While similar to other services’ uniforms

in some ways, it carries a distinctive

Air Force design,” the general said. “For

example, the ABU has a

four-color design. Additionally, the digitized tiger stripe pattern of the ABU pattern capitalizes on and skillfully employs a tested, proven pixelated camouflage advantage that proved very effective in tests.”

Some of the ABU features are both men and women’s sizes for better fit, improved pocket placement, and no starch maintenance thus lowering time and costs of upkeep.

General Allardice’s favorite aspect of the ABU is its ease of care.

“I’ve had the same couple of ABUs for a year and a half and have not once put an iron or starch to it and it still looks good as new,” he said. “Airmen will never have to take this uniform to the dry cleaner. It’s comfortable and I love the way it looks, it feels and how easy it is to care for.”

General Allardice said now that the ABU is being fielded, development



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Cohen Young

Brig. Gen. Robert Allardice talks about the new service coat and Airman Battle Uniform uniform during an interview Feb. 26. The new ABUs will start being distributed to Airmen participating in AEF 7 and 8 before the rest of the Air Force receives them.

has started on other new uniform items. Specifically, Airmen can expect a field test of the new service coat later this year.

The new service coat has gone through several prototypes, with officials recently deciding which version will be released for field testing.

“We talked extensively to Airmen, both in the field and through the Air Force Uniform Board process, and this is something they’ve repeatedly asked for,” General Allardice said. “We want a service dress that clearly represents our pride as Airmen and history as a service, and we want to make sure we get it right. That’s one of the reasons we’re referring to the proposal as the Heritage Jacket.”

“We considered the uniforms that both Gen. Hap Arnold and Maj. Gen. Billy Mitchell wore,” the general said. “We then tried variations of those designs with different lapel styles and sizes, with and without buttons, belted and unbelted, as well as versions with a wide variety of pocket configurations. The prototype jacket being tested pulls the strongest mix of detail preferences into one jacket and combines them with the latest in textile assembly industry.”

Once feedback has been received from the Heritage Jacket wear test, Air Force leaders will make a final decision on the new coat and send it into production, he said.



Airlift a life line

By Staff Sgt. Carlos Diaz
U.S. Central Command

BALAD AIR BASE, Iraq (AFNEWS) – Most people get cards, chocolate and flowers from someone special on Valentine’s Day. On this particular day, the treatment, care and attention patients in a C-17 received from a combined aerial medic team far surpassed any typical Feb. 14 gift.

The critical care air transport and aeromedical evacuation teams are a group of highly specialized nurses, physicians, medical technicians and respiratory therapists charged with the responsibility of patient care during medical flying missions.

The CCAT and AE teams are assigned to the 332nd Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron from Balad AB.

Capt. Mike Kersten, who’s deployed from the 18th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron at Kadena AB, Japan, highlighted some of the most common patient types for which they provide care and transportation.

“We (medically evacuate) patients with battle injuries such as severe trauma, burns and amputations,” he said. “We also transport asthma, heart attack and cardiac arrest patients.”

As a medical crew director, Capt. Rebecca Shabel is responsible for directing the mission.

“Patient care is an overall team effort,” the flight nurse said. “The nature of the mission can rapidly change. You have to be able to adapt at a moment’s notice. That’s why flexibility is important during any change in the mission.”

Meanwhile, the CCAT team, deployed from the 99th Medical



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Cecilio Ricardo Jr.

Contingency aeromedical staging facility team members prepare a critical-care patient Feb. 14 for transport on C-17 Globemaster III to Landstuhl, Germany, where he will receive further care for his wounds at Balad Air Base, Iraq.

Group at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., preps and secures patients at the Contingency Aeromedical Staging Facility.

Comfort becomes an all-around effort when Master Sgt. Larry Cantrell, a Reserve C-17 loadmaster, passes hot cups of coffee to the medical crew members. Sergeant Cantrell is assigned to the 728th Airlift Squadron, McChord AFB, Wash.

“Doing these missions just

tugs at the heartstrings,” said Sergeant Cantrell, who is a father of three. “I see these young folks going down range and making great sacrifices to keep us safe. Many of them are young enough to be your own kids.”

Sergeant Cantrell is no stranger to these types of missions. The 22-year Air Force veteran was a medical evacuation specialist before becoming a loadmaster.

During the flight, loadmas-

ters assist the medical teams with their particular needs and work closely with the medical crew director.

“Teamwork and fluidity are key when it comes to the movement of this mission,” Sergeant Cantrell said.

On this particular Valentine’s Day, the CCAT, and AE teams, as well as the C-17 aircrew, provided that team work and fluidity; a priceless gift of heartwarming care.

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