

# Reservist earns Bronze Star

By Staff Sgt. Paul Haley  
Wing Public Affairs

**MCCHORD AIR FORCE BASE, Wash.** – No member of his assigned unit in Iraq was killed on his watch. The award of the Bronze Star Medal to Tech. Sgt. David Ewbank testifies to that fact.

Almost 17 years ago, Air Force Reservist Sergeant Ewbank got his first taste of demolitions when he temporarily assisted a Marine explosive ordnance disposal unit during operation Desert Shield.

That brief exposure led him in July 1998 to become an Air Force EOD operator with the 446th Civil Engineer Squadron, which then led to earning a Bronze Star Medal.

Sergeant Ewbank received the medal for his performance while deployed to Iraq with the 101st Airborne Division from May to October 2006. During his deployment, no member of the unit was killed in action.

Army Lt. Col. Brian Coppersmith, the commander of the 101st Airborne in Iraq, said he attributed their complete lack of deaths, in part, to the involvement of the Air Force explosive ordnance disposal team.

At the end of the deployment, the commander of the 101st AD recognized the entire EOD shop by awarding them unit coins during a formation.

During Sergeant Ewbank's stay in the Middle East, however, it wasn't all awards and congratulations. His experiences ran the gamut from mundane to insane.

"It was predictable: every (American) national holiday they (the insurgents) launched rockets over the fence, so some time between 11 p.m. and 2 a.m. we had to gear up and go out looking for holes in the runway," said Sergeant Ewbank.

The insurgents seemed to put great significance on the timing of their attacks. They attacked on holidays, or days they believed their enemies considered holy. They frequently attacked on Sunday mornings for the same reason: because the terrorists related it to Christians going to church.



Courtesy Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Dale Griffin

**Tech. Sgt. David Ewbank poses in front of a demolished weapons cache in Iraq. The building was the trap-laden home of an insurgent who used it to store weapons. Upon finding the traps, Sergeant Ewbank received permission to destroy the house.**

One Sunday morning there were eight suicide car bomb attacks. Sergeant Ewbank was called to clear one such site after the detonation. As he was starting, a Kurdish police officer approached him and said they had killed a suicide car bomber before the car detonated.

The bomber tried to attack a Kurdish police station, and a police officer shot him in the head before he reached the station. The car continued rolling until it hit the station, but it didn't blow up.

The police officer asked Sergeant Ewbank to come disarm the bomb.

To have a live bomb not blow up is a rarity and something EOD operators look forward to experiencing.

"It isn't every day you get a chance like that," Sergeant Ewbank said.

Explosive ordnance disposal specialists have ways of taking bombs apart while keeping themselves and others in one piece.

They use robots to cut wires and blow pieces of the bombs apart, or deliberately set the bomb off when it is safe to do so.

Using the camera on the robot, Sergeant Ewbank could see the terrorist had the trigger in his hand. His fingers were curled around the housing and his thumb was just over the button.

Sergeant Ewbank used a remote disruption technique to cut the wires to the trigger he could see. Before anyone could approach the car, though, it had to be personally cleared by him to ensure it was safe.

While checking the car, Sergeant Ewbank found a second trigger beside the driver's seat. It looked like the driver could have leaned on it to detonate the explosive, in case he couldn't use the hand trigger. Luckily, the bomber didn't hit it when the police officer killed him.

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April 23 is the deadline for articles in the May 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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# Take care of equipment, each other for mission success

By Brig. Gen. Eric Crabtree  
Wing commander

I want to start by saying thank you to all of you for dedicating time and effort to preparing and executing the 4th Air Force Staff Assistance Visit last month. There was a noticeable effort to get our paperwork right and use the expertise the inspectors brought to us to begin preparation for the Unit Compliance Inspection we face in January 2008.

Lt. Col. Pat Kearney is working with commanders and functionals at all levels to answer the findings and steer us on the right track to ensure success. Please dig out your self-inspection checklists and look through your programs to see what else might need attention. Numbered Air Force inspectors are good, but they cannot find every possible error in our processes and paperwork in just three days.

The real topic of this month's message is something Gen. Duncan McNabb, commander of Air Mobility Command, discussed at the recent Phoenix Rally Conference I attended. He said he often gets asked what concerns him enough to cause him to lose sleep. His answers align very much with my own thoughts during bouts of insomnia.

The first concern is the many threats to our personnel as they execute the Global War on Terrorism and the wide spectrum of missions Air Mobility Command requires on a daily basis. The world becomes increasingly hazardous at every level and commanders

have the responsibility to ensure that when we send people out the door to participate in these missions, they are fully ready for whatever they might need in terms of equipment and knowledge.

Individual Reservists must also do all they can to prepare themselves for whatever they think the hazards and threats will be. Much of our ancillary training is painful to sit through, but it has a purpose when it comes time to go out and do the mission.

The second concern is the tempo we have been asking people to keep over the last several years. The toll on our members is sometimes obvious by the fatigue on their faces, the frustrations they endure on extended deployments and missions, and the struggles they go through to get very tough jobs done with shrinking resources. What is not as obvious is the toll on our families. There are more and more events missed in children's lives, family events missed, and stresses on spouses and family members to keep households functioning.

We try to ensure our support mechanisms are keeping in touch with the significant people in your lives, but reality says that can't always work. We need your help and feedback to make that happen.

The last concern is the toll on our aircraft and equipment. The C-17s are the newest of the airlift fleet and we are putting huge numbers of hours on them and all of our equipment and operating facilities. The defense budget shrinks in buying power every year. Our



Brig. Gen. Eric Crabtree

struggle will be to keep equipment in top condition through careful use and documenting needed repairs. The replacement cycles are being considered and accelerated as we go on, but other older systems are in more dire need of investment. We will just have to be prudent and thrifty in keeping things operating in top condition.

The bottom line to all of these concerns is that we need to take care of each other and our equipment and facilities. Congress is aware of the tolls these issues are taking on the military in general, and the job for our supervisors is to make sure we keep stressing the need for them to help us through this struggle and to move smartly into the future.

If you see ways to do things better for any of these concerns, communicate with your supervisors and let the Air Force leadership know. We need you and your support.



Photo by Maj. Ken Jambor

## Flying double Dutch

While on a routine mission in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, a 313th Airlift Squadron crew conducted a joint training exercise with the Royal Dutch Air Force's 323rd Squadron. Flying at 25,000 feet March 27, and after careful coordination with Dutch aircraft controllers, Air Force Reservist Lt. Col. Kevin Sampson and his crew were intercepted by two Dutch F-16 fighter aircraft. This multi-national training was conducted to provide increased wartime capabilities and enhance US-Dutch relations.

## STAR

Continued from Page 1

"I couldn't see the secondary trigger from the camera, so when I cleared the car, I found it and had to disable it myself," he said. "It was in a neighborhood, so we couldn't detonate it in place."

Disarming the bomb kept the police station and neighborhood intact, which helps win the hearts and minds of locals, said Sergeant Ewbank.

One of the lowest experiences of his deployment was responding to an attack in which an American truck was hit by an explosive-formed projectile.

An explosive-formed projectile, or EFP, is a bomb that uses its explosion to create a concentrated jet of metal to pierce armor.

"Something I never, ever, read in my job description was: you'll have to move body parts out of the way to clear a vehicle. After this EFP hit a Humvee, we went in to check for unexploded parts of the projectile and for any ordnance that was now in an unsafe state," Sergeant Ewbank explained. "When we opened the door, there was a hole in the door at about thigh-level, and there was a leg inside the truck. I mean, it was a leg in an Army uniform with the boot still on."

The leg belonged to an American riding

in the vehicle when the projectile hit. The soldier survived, but his comrades, rushing to evacuate the injured troop, left the appendage behind. The EOD team suspended their work and hustled the leg to its owner in the hope doctors could reattach it.

Sergeant Ewbank is still modest about his performance while deployed, in spite of receiving such a prestigious medal.

"I just put on my body armor, loaded my guns, and did my job," he said. "My real motivation to get up at 3 a.m., and get geared up was to send Army guys home with both legs."

# Employers learn about Reserve life

By Senior Airman Desiree Kiliz  
Wing Public Affairs

**MCCHORD AIR FORCE BASE, Wash.** — The back doors open and straps attached to the pallets wave violently in the wind. Four-hundred feet below bails of hay create a sporadic design in the eastern Washington crops, while herds of cows graze in the fields. This is the sight Reservists and their civilian employers saw as they watched an airdrop during a C-17 flight.

More than 35 civilian employers experienced the life of a McChord Reservist on March 31 for the semi-annual employers orientation day.

The purpose of employer orientation is to allow employers to see what their Reservists do when they come out for duty, and to let employers know the Air Force Reserve appreciates their support, said 1st Lt. Reed Robertson, 446th Airlift Wing public affairs officer.

The all-day event begins with employers processing for deployment through a mock mobility line and then attending briefings for their deployment.

Lt. Col. Jerry Thayer's employer, Kathryn Ann Moffett of Wilder Construction Company, said, "The deployment procedures and trying to put myself through the whole process makes it so much more personable for me. It was really a thrill."

Speakers from mobility, civil engineers, medical, and security forces give employers a glimpse of what Airmen really must do to be prepared to deploy. Employers also learn about the nature of their mission through an Air Force intelligence report (all fictitious and unclassified, of course).



Photo by Senior Airman Desiree Kiliz  
**Staff Sgt. Brianne Rembert, left, talks through a headset with Mary Dearth during the 446th Airlift Wing's Employer Orientation Day flight March 31. Ms. Dearth is Sergeant Rembert's civilian manager at the Multicare Medical Center in Tacoma. Sergeant Rembert is a Reservist with the 446th Aeromedical Staging Squadron.**

The sheer number of requirements placed on Reservists, as demonstrated for the employers, was a real eye-opener.

"We have more than 160 pilots employed from the Reserve and right now it is pretty challenging because they are so busy with the military," said C.C. Mui, Alaska Airlines. "But coming out here gives us a real good idea of what they do and more accepting when they've got to be gone from work."

Once employers are briefed, they and

their Reservist get the opportunity to go on a C-17 flight, complete with an airdrop, tactical descent and combat off-load.

Staff Sgt. Allen Jackson, 446th Airlift Wing and UPS employee, said, "Employer orientation really gives our employers a special insight that the general public doesn't get to see. It gives them a first hand experience at what we do prior to and during a deployment and then they appreciate it."

The next 446th Airlift Wing Employer Orientation Day will be Oct. 20.

## Team McChord wraps up Deep Freeze

**MCCHORD AIR FORCE BASE, Wash.** — McChord C-17s, along with ski-equipped New York Air National Guard LC-130s redeployed from Christchurch, New Zealand, the first week of March, wrapping up the 2006-2007 season of Operation Deep Freeze.

Operation Deep Freeze is a unique, joint and total force mission that has supported the National Science Foundation

and U.S. Antarctic Program since 1955.

"Operation Deep Freeze is the most challenging, non-combat mission there is for us," said Col. Damon Booth, 62nd Operations Group commander. "We ask our aircrews to land our mammoth C-17 on a frozen sheet of ice that is just a few feet thick. In some places this year, the ice wasn't all that thick in places — you could actually see

the water below the ice surfaces. But our aircrews thrive on challenges, and we're ready for anything."

Aircrews operating McChord C-17s to and from "the ice," include both the 62nd Airlift Wing and 446th Airlift Wing.

During the recently-concluded 2006-2007 season, McChord C-17s flew 57 missions to McMurdo Station, Antarctica,

from Christchurch carrying nearly four million pounds of cargo and 2,700 passengers. On the return missions from the frozen sea shelf of McMurdo, C-17 aircrews flew more than 720,000 pounds of cargo and 2,600 passengers back to Christchurch.

Lt. Col. Jim McGann, com-

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# Airman fights cancer foe - wins

By Staff Sgt. Nick Przybyciel  
Wing Public Affairs

Finally drifting off to sleep after several restless nights, Deb Marshall was jolted into consciousness with a horrific epiphany. She turned to her half-awake husband, Lt. Col. William Marshall, and vocalized the thought responsible for robbing her of yet another night's sleep.

"What about his kids?"

Her husband mumbled something along the lines of, "Whose kids?"

"Robert's."

In the haze of sleep, Colonel Marshall tried to make sense of this. Their son, Staff Sgt. Robert Marshall, didn't have any kids. Expressing this, he finished the thought on a comical note: "At least any that I know about."

"I know he doesn't," his wife replied. "That's what's so unfair about this whole thing."

Lying awake in the middle of the night, the Marshalls were grappling with the painful possibility their young son may die before having the chance to give them grandchildren.

With a tumor the size of a baby's head in his left lung, Sergeant Marshall, 446th Maintenance Squadron, was suffering from non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. And it wasn't just a minor case: By the time he was diagnosed, the cancer had spread throughout his body and progressed to stage four, the most serious level of the disease.

However, Sergeant Marshall would incredibly defy the odds and become cancer-free within six months, owing to treatment described by his father as "seamless and amazing." When all was said and done, it wasn't just the



Courtesy photo from Debra Marshall

**Staff Sgt. Robert Marshall receives chemotherapy treatment at Madigan Army Hospital. Sergeant Marshall is in remission from non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and back on the job as a Reservist with the 446th Maintenance Squadron**

treatment Sergeant Marshall received at Madigan Army Medical Center, Fort Lewis, Wash., that was amazing – so too was the inspirational attitude of the patient.

"He had about 30 minutes of woe-is-me and the rest of the time it was like, 'I'm gonna kick this thing in the ass and move on,'" Colonel Marshall said.

Sergeant Marshall's grave diagnosis came shortly after returning home from a

deployment to Kyrgyzstan in February 2006. However, the 22-year-old aircraft maintainer began experiencing the subtle symptoms of lymphoma – a dry hack and slight fever – well before suspecting anything was seriously wrong with him.

"I was coughing a little bit, and I thought it was just due to dry air and all the dust (of Kyrgyzstan)," Sergeant Marshall said.

"It wasn't rare in that

environment," said Senior Airman Bryan Martin, Sergeant Marshall's friend and roommate during the deployment. "People were all the time coming down with colds and whatever. It was pretty common."

Thinking it was little more than a case of the desert crud, Sergeant Marshall went through his deployment as if nothing was wrong. Despite the nagging cough, he refused to seek medical help in the deployed environment.

"We're sending guys into Afghanistan – you know – and they're getting shot at left and right. Here I was just working on aircraft, so there wasn't much to complain about," Sergeant Marshall said.

This hesitancy to go into the clinic during deployments is typical, according to Sergeant Marshall's father. The elder Marshall has served 31 years in the military, mostly as a nurse in the Air Force Reserve as an Individual Mobilization Augmentee at Nellis AFB, Nev.

"I think that's kind of common in a deployed situation," he said. "From my perspective, you see very few people who are sick, or hurt, seeking help. You look at the people you are treating every day and you think, 'What do I have to complain about?'"

When Sergeant Marshall returned home from the deployment, his cough continued, along with intense bouts of lethargy. It was at this point that his friends and family began to get worried.

To Airman Martin, something seemed different about his friend. The two were now sharing an apartment while taking classes at Western

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## MARSHALL

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Washington University. "In spring quarter, the weather's getting nicer. I wanted to go out all the time. Robert would come out, but he just wasn't into it," said Airman Martin.

Sergeant Marshall began taking naps ... a lot of naps, according to his friend. However, he was still physically active.

"We were still going running all the time. I remember he was complaining about a burning sensation in his chest, but he was still beating me. That's incredible," Airman Martin said with a chuckle from embarrassment.

Heeding his mother's advice, Sergeant Marshall finally went to the doctor's office. Since the symptoms of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma are nearly identical to bronchitis, he was initially misdiagnosed. But after several subsequent trips, an X-ray was administered and the Marshall's soon received the real diagnosis.

"There was absolutely nothing normal in his anatomy," said Sergeant Marshall's mother, Deb, who is a nurse at Madigan Army Medical Center. "The tumor was so big that there was no lung tissue there."

And it wasn't just his left lung being ravaged by cancer. His kidneys also had masses. Furthermore, Sergeant Marshall's heart rate was hovering in the mid 130s, whereas a healthy person of his age would have a pulse of 60-70 beats per minute.

However, it was the tumor in his lung that was the biggest concern. It was so large his aorta was moved over a full two inches and was compressed, slowing blood flow and making it difficult to breathe.

"He sat with his mouth open, like a fish trying to get air," Mrs. Marshall said.

Initially, Sergeant Marshall's friends and family were terrified.



Photo by Sandra Pishner

**Staff Sgt. Robert Marshall inspects a C-17 as part of his maintenance duties with the 446th Maintenance Squadron. Sergeant Marshall returned to duty in March after battling non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.**

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# MARSHALL

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“I don’t know if I could find a time in my life when I had a more pronounced emotional hit,” said Colonel Marshall.

Meanwhile, Airman Martin got the earth shattering news after phoning Sergeant Marshall, who he thought was in Oklahoma visiting family. “I literally felt sick. I think I asked him, ‘How’s Oklahoma going?’ Then we joked around a bit, but I could sense something was up by the sound of his voice.”

That’s when Sergeant Marshall hit his friend with a bombshell. “I just told him – hey man, they found a spot on my lung and they think it’s cancer.”

“I kind of wished I had come down with it too, so we could go through it together,” Airman Martin said, regarding one of his first reactions to the news.

Things wouldn’t stay gloomy for long.

Since Sergeant Marshall was within 120 days of getting off active-duty orders, he still qualified for full medical coverage – a Reserve benefit that may have saved his life. Immediately after his diagnosis, the medical professionals at Madigan began radical treatment to kill the cancer throughout the young Airman’s body.

“It’s just amazing what people did for him and how receptive they were to his questions and concerns,” said Colonel Marshall, who works alongside his wife as a nurse at Madigan in his civilian career. Now on the other side of the patient-doctor relationship, the Marshall’s had to trust the expertise of their coworkers at Madigan to save their son’s life.

“Everyone laid all the options out on the table, and they were like, ‘What do you think?’ It wasn’t like, ‘This is what we’re going to do and you have no choice,’” he said.

“There’s absolutely nothing

they won’t do for the patient,” Mrs. Marshall said. “If something has to get done, it gets done.”

Immediately, Sergeant Marshall began an intense chemotherapy regimen. He went through almost five months of chemotherapy, followed by 20 days of radiation therapy.

But the doctors at Madigan didn’t stick to just traditional treatment. By combining lymphoma with renal treatment, Sergeant Marshall didn’t have to lose a kidney. “Years ago, if you got kidney or renal cancer, it was coming out,” his father said.

Between his chemotherapy treatments, Sergeant Marshall completed his 5-level maintenance career development course and Airman Leadership School by correspondence.

On the path to remission, Sergeant Marshall’s family and friends provided a compassionate blanket of support for him. However, they refused to coddle him and it seems likely Sergeant Marshall wouldn’t have taken well to that course of action.

“Actually, Robert was the one who made it okay to talk about it,” his father said.

“Chemo took me down for most of the evening, and then a day or two later I was back on my feet again. It was probably after the third or fourth session that I started school again,” Sergeant Marshall said.

Although unable to continue classes at Western Washington University, Sergeant Marshall enrolled at a community college close to Madigan. In addition, because he was



Photo by Sandra Pishner  
**Staff Sergeant Robert Marshall, 446th Maintenance Squadron, is thankful to be back to work following his battle with non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma.**

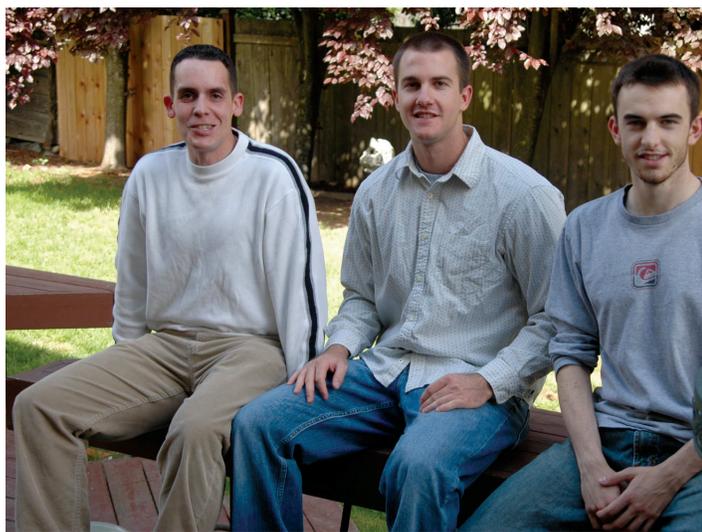
on light duty and could not perform his maintenance job, Sergeant Marshall spent time volunteering at the Washington State Veteran’s Home in Ortting, Wash.

“When I asked him what he got out of this volunteer effort,” said Colonel Marshall, “he told me that those folks are the true heroes and that in this way, he could show his appreciation for them and the sacrifices they have made.”

In March, he returned to normal duty with the 446th MXS and plans on transferring back to Western Washington University.

“Through all of this,” said Colonel Marshall, “he has had tremendous support from his chief (Chief Master Sgt. Danny Bass) and two of his best friends (Airmen Martin and Kaplan). I mention these names because they just reaffirm to me that you just can’t find better family than in the military.”

**“... you just can’t find better family than in the military.”**  
 – William Marshall



Courtesy photo from Debra Marshall  
**Senior Airmen Christopher Kaplan and Brian Martin (left to right), were unrivaled wingman as Staff Sgt. Robert Marshall battled non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma. All three are assigned to the 446th Maintenance Squadron.**

# S A F E T Y



Remember  
When

April 16, 1949  
– The Berlin Airlift delivered a record 12,940 tons in a 24-hour period with 1,398 inbound flights. Today, it would take about 152 C-17s to deliver that same amount of cargo.

## Promotions

### Lieutenant Colonel

Carl Supplee, 446th AW

### Major

Jenifer Cackler, 446th ASTS  
Cynthia Hathaway, 446th AES  
Kurt Junker, 313th AS  
Teresa Trillo, 446th AES  
Barry VanSickle, 446th AES

### Captain

Barbara McMullen, 446th AW  
Michael Eldridge, 446th MSG  
Eric Hodges, 728th AS  
Annunziata McGhee, 97th AS  
Kenneth Strunk, 313th AS  
Shannon Voytilla, 86th APS

### Senior Master Sergeant

Anthony Mack, 86th APS  
Michael Mendoza, 86th APS  
Brandi Winfrey, 86th APS

### Master Sergeant

James Briggs, 446th AW  
Alfredo Cruz, 446th AW  
Lucinda Oglesby, 446th MXG  
Kelly Schweitzer, 446th MOF  
Paul Understellar, 728th AS  
Cindi Walsh, 728th AS

### Technical Sergeant

Katherine Hart, 446th AMXS  
Darryl Herbison, 36th APS  
Jacob Hill, 446th CES  
Erik Kaupa, 728th AS  
Carlos Lagman, 446th MSS  
Hans Lewis, 446th MXS  
Juan Naputi, 446th AMXS  
Lance Nelson, 728th AS

Larry Sleigh, 36th APS  
Patrick Spell, 446th MXS  
Burke Stott, 446th MXS  
Bonnie Wilson, 446th AW

### Staff Sergeant

Benny Cailing, 446th MXS  
Adam Mantle, 86th APS  
Melvin Manzano, 446th MXS  
Jake Tiffany, 446th CES  
Charlie Tuggle, 446th ASTS

### Senior Airman

Miko Balambao, 446th MXS  
Brian Ferry, 446th AMXS  
Joseph Lancaster, 446th MXS  
Scot Peck, 446th MXS  
Rhet Ponchinlan, 446th MXS

### Airman First Class

Trevor Messenger, 97th AS

### Airman

Matthew Seeman, 97th AS

## Newcomers

### Captain

Laura Mancuso, 446th AW

### Technical Sergeant

Jerry Fernandez, 86th APS  
Donald Owen, 86th APS

### Staff Sergeant

Courtney Andrjeski, 446th MSS  
Jon Iverson, 446th AMXS  
Bradford Burge, 446th LFR  
Susan Ingram, 446th LFR  
Rey Mene, 446th MSS  
Leslie Mullen, 446th MXS  
Shelby Seely, 446th AMXS

Joshua Stahl, 446th MXS  
Paula Warwick, 446th MSS

### Senior Airman

Deidre Barry, 446th MXS  
Adam Bauer, 446th AMXS  
Kevin Beers, 446th MXS  
Robert Brown, 446th ASTS  
Brendan Caldwell, 86th APS  
Annelito Casal, 36th APS  
Ernesto Duran, 446th ASTS  
David Edmiston, 86th APS  
Tesla Hanrahan, 446th SVF  
Charles Pickle, 446th CES  
Aaron Schackart, 86th APS

### Airman First Class

Ryan Denby, 446th AMXS  
Steven Hopper, 446th AMXS  
Terralle Moore, 446th SFS

## Retirements

### Colonel

Kathleen Zygowicz, 446th ASTS

### Major

Diane Lamb, 446th MSG

### Chief Master Sergeant

William Foster, 446th ASTS

### Master Sergeant

Ernesto Bautista, 446th MXS  
Todd Magliocca, 97th AS  
Linda Ogren, 86th APS  
Salvador Sanchez, 446th MXG

### Technical Sergeant

Gerald Benecke, 86th APS  
Michael Frings, 86th APS  
Maurice Pettner, 36th APS  
Kjrsten Swan, 446th AES



**Reservists selected under the Promotion Enhancement Program:**



**To Technical Sergeant:**  
**Carlos Lagman, 446th MSS**  
**Burke Stott, 446th AMXS**



**To Master Sergeant:**  
**Cindi Walsh, 728th AS**  
**Paul Understellar, 728th AS**

**Developing Today's Citizen Airmen**  
**446 AW Career Workshop**



May 7 & 8, 2007  
0700 – 1600 hrs

*Event will include:*  
Ice Breaker Sunday evening, May 6th, 1800 hrs -  
Meet class members, additional duty representatives,  
and professional military organizations  
7-Habits Colors Exercise  
Command Chiefs' Presentation  
Workshops focused on development of  
Self/Team/Legacy  
Financial Planning, and more....

Open to all enlisted and junior officers  
Location: Hangar 10  
Uniform: Duty Uniform  
No Cost

Contact your First Sergeant to sign up.

# Just Briefly

## How important is your family's support?

Focus

I know that I can focus on my deployment duties because they are taking care of all the day to day chores that come up.



◆ Tech. Sgt. Robert Jimenez  
446th Operations Support Flight

Agencies help

I couldn't do without it. Once we realized there are agencies on base that can help while I am TDY, it became a lot easier for my family.



◆ Senior Airman Peter Estrelado  
446th Aerospace Medicine Squadron

Keeps it going

My family picks up the ball and keeps everything going. I feel good knowing that things are taken care of.



◆ Tech. Sgt. Gerald Lake  
446th Logistics Readiness Flight

Important

It is extremely important to have their support. My wife is deployed, so I'm in that role now. She knows I can keep everything running and she can focus on her job.



◆ Tech. Sgt. Tory Miller  
446th Civil Engineer Squadron

## 60th Anniversary Ball is Sept. 15

The 60th Anniversary of the Air Force will be celebrated with a formal ball in Hangar 3, Sept. 15. For more information or to volunteer to help, contact Chief Master Sgt. Dave Marston at 982-8372.

## Air Force Association honors two 446th Airlift Wing Airmen

The McChord Chapter of the Air Force Association has selected Master Sgt. Richard Lutz, 728th Airlift Squadron, as the Senior NCO of the Year and John Adams, 446th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, as the Civilian of the Year.

## New positions for three in wing

Lt. Col. Quentin Glenn, 446th Operations Group deputy commander, is the new commander for the 97th Airlift Squadron, replacing Lt. Col. Lisa Tank. Colonel Tank has moved to the wing command section as a special assistant to the wing commander. Lt. Col. Colin Carr, former 313th AS executive officer, is now the 446th OG deputy commander.

## Quarterly award winners named for first quarter of 2007

The winners of the wing quarterly awards for the first quarter of 2007 are:  
 Airman of the Quarter - Senior Airman Lyn Yin, 728th Airlift Squadron  
 NCO of the Quarter - Tech. Sgt. Amy Baker, 446th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron  
 Senior NCO of the Quarter - Senior Master Sgt. Eric Evans, 446th Maintenance Squadron  
 Company Grade Officer of the Quarter - Capt. Jennifer Griswold, 446th MXS  
 Field Grade Officer of the Quarter - Maj. Brian Eyre, 97th Airlift Squadron

## Validate civilian employment information annually via Web

Annual validation of Reservists' civilian employment is required of all Airmen (except AGRs). Airmen will use a self-service application to provide civilian employment information. Log on using your CAC Card at <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/Guard-ReservePortal>. If you have any questions about this requirement, call 446th Mission Support Squadron's Military Personnel Flight at 982-9094.

## The 446th Airlift Wing initiates Civilian of the Year program

The 446th Airlift Wing staff has initiated a program to recognize the wing's outstanding civilians. The semi-annual program recognizes an outstanding civilian supervisor and non-supervisor covering a six month period. The first nomination

packages are due June 22. More details on format for nomination packages will follow.

## Public Web site holds key to news, information from wing

A free, public Web site caters to the needs of 446th Airlift Wing people. The Web site contains news from the wing as well as news and photos from around the Air Force Reserve Command and Air Force. More than that, the wing's home page gives practical information, like UTA schedules, fact sheets, biographies and video from Air Force Television News.

Check it out at [www.446aw.afrc.af.mil](http://www.446aw.afrc.af.mil).

## Special Olympics organizers seek volunteers for McChord events

Special Olympics Washington organizers are seeking volunteers to help with activities planned at McChord AFB. Activities on McChord include opening ceremony, a dance, and family barbecue. Planners need 350 volunteers for the events, planned for June 1-3.

To volunteer, contact Tech. Sgt. James Hillel at 982-6618 or Master Sgt. Mark Cherrix at 982-6619.

## Free summer camp being offered for children of eligible Reservists

A free summer camp is being offered to children of active duty, Reserve and National Guard members who have deployed, are deployed, or will deploy between May 2006 and September 2008.

There are 150 positions for the Leavenworth, Wash., camp being supported by a grant from the National Military Families Association.

The Operation Purple summer camp program was created by NMFA in order to give children the tools to face challenges of deployed or deploying parents head-on and with success.

Enrollment is ongoing through May 1. To enroll children or for more information, go to [www.nmfa.org/site/PageServer?pagename=op\\_washington](http://www.nmfa.org/site/PageServer?pagename=op_washington).

## Seafair looking for volunteers to support marathon in July

Seafair organizers would like volunteers for the Virginia Mason Team Medicine Marathon July 8. The race will bring more than 5,000 athletes and 1,000 volunteers to the streets of Bellevue to celebrate summer and the spirit of the Puget Sound.

The commitment to volunteer will consist of a few hours between 6:30 a.m. and noon. Several volunteer positions are available.

To sign up, go to [www.seafairmarathon.com](http://www.seafairmarathon.com).

# Help with employers now online

ARLINGTON, Va. – Members of the National Guard and Reserve can now request assistance online from Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve ombudsmen for employment issues arising from military service or mobilization.

The Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act is the federal law that protects the employment of Reservists and prohibits employment discrimination on the basis of military service.

While the first step when an employer or Reservist has a question about support for military duty is to contact the

Reservist's unit representative, Guardsmen and Reservists can visit the ESGR Web site at [www.esgr.mil](http://www.esgr.mil) and select the link, "USERRA Complaint Request," on the right side of the page.

The point of contact for employer issues at the 446th Airlift Wing is Lt. Col. Anna Sullivan, 446th AW chief of public affairs.

On the online complaint request, the servicemember is asked to provide contact information for him or herself and his or her employer, as well as a brief explanation of the issue. The information is stored on

a secure server and ESGR assigns the request to one of its 900 volunteer ombudsmen for informal mediation. Guardsmen and Reservists are still able to use ESGR's customer service center at 1-800-336-4590 to initiate a request.

"While Guardsmen and Reservists have always been able to e-mail us from the Web site, the USERRA Complaint Request allows them the opportunity to initiate an ombudsman case online at any time of the day or night," said Philip Pope, acting executive director of ESGR. "The online request will complement the customer

service center in making ESGR more accessible to Guardsmen and Reservists serving all over the world."

In response to USERRA complaint requests, an ESGR ombudsman will contact the servicemember within 48 hours. If the ESGR ombudsman is unable to resolve the issue through informal mediation within 14 days, the Guardsman or Reservist is referred to the U.S. Department of Labor, the federal agency with statutory authority for enforcing USERRA.

ESGR is a Department of Defense agency established in 1972.

## Air Force News

## At A Glance

### Leaders discuss Air Force priorities

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

**BOLLING AIR FORCE BASE, WASHINGTON, D.C. (AFNEWS)** – Representatives from Air Force major commands discussed Air Force initiatives, systems and operational issues that tie into the top three Air Force priorities during a press conference March 26 here.

Fighting and winning the war on terrorism, developing and caring for Airmen, and recapitalizing and modernizing the Air Force were the three main topics MAJCOM leaders discussed. <http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?storyID=123046897>

### ACSC offers online master's degree

By Christine Harrison  
*Air University Public Affairs*

**MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, Ala. (AFNEWS)** – Air University's Air Command and Staff College begins offering an online master's degree program in June. For the first time ever, eligible officers will be able to enroll in an educational program that simultaneously fulfills Joint Professional Military Education and Air Force Intermediate Developmental Education requirements while allowing them to earn an accredited master's degree online.

"This links the master's degree to deliberate force development," said Col. James Moschgat, vice commandant of ACSC. <http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123046992>

### Iraqi air force takes flight with U.S. help

By Tech. Sgt. Kevin Williams  
*506th Air Expeditionary Group Public Affairs*

**KIRKUK REGIONAL AIR BASE, Iraq (AFNEWS)** – The Iraqi air force is taking off once again with the help of U.S. Air Force Airmen who serve with the Coalition Air Force Transition Team in Iraq.

The U.S. Air Force's contribution to enabling the Iraqi air force to build and sustain itself is focused through the CAFTT, composed of four Air Force military transition teams located at bases in Kirkuk, Baghdad, Basra and Taji. <http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?storyID=123046584>

### Air Force leaders gather for 4 Star Conference

**ANDREWS AIR FORCE BASE, Md. (AFNEWS)** – Air Force senior leaders gathered here March 23 for the Four Star Conference to discuss the service's top challenges, opportunities and priorities.

Topics ranged across a diverse set of issues, from how the Air Force develops and sustains war fighting systems to how moving targets are attacked, to exciting initiatives at Air University, all reflecting the depth and complexity of the Air Force mission. <http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?storyID=123046504>

**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.

# Building new air force challenging

By Tech. Sgt. Kevin Williams

506th Air Expeditionary Group

**SOUTHWEST ASIA** – Recruiting new airmen for the Iraqi Air Force presents several challenges. With the constant concern of being targeted by insurgents, those who want to serve fear what might happen to them or their families. However, the Iraqi Air Force is making headway, and Iraqi citizens are stepping up to serve their country.

“Recruiting is in its infancy,” said Lt. Col. Daniel Ponce De Leon, the coalition Air Force Transition Team advisor to the director of administration. “We select from three pools of possible candidates -- former IAF members, associates of former IAF members and the general populace, to include other countries in the gulf region.”

A missing piece in the IAF is mid-level officers and noncommissioned officers; these officers were never part of the former IAF.

“Like the Army learned (in rebuilding Iraqi Army and police forces), an air force is no good without its mid-level leadership,” said Brig. Gen. Stephen Hoog, the CAFTT commander. “We’re addressing that by standing up some of the tech training schools this spring.”

Bringing in younger pilots and aircraft maintainers is critical for the future of the IAF.

“A lot of pilots are 42 and 43,” General Hoog said. “One of the biggest initiatives we have is standing up a flight training center



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Kevin Williams

**Iraqi airmen from Squadron 70 at Basra Air Base recover one of two Seeker aircraft after a mission. Squadron 70 flies intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance missions over oil pipelines and other areas of interest, all the while keeping an eye out for insurgent activity.**

that’ll teach the fixed-wing and rotary-wing aviation side of the house. Yet, it’s not all about flying. You have to have the people that can maintain and order all the parts.”

As challenging as recruiting can be, the IAF is well on its way to becoming a fully-manned air force.

“They have about 1,000 people,” Colonel Ponce De Leon said. “They have room for about 3,000 -- we hope to be at that number by 2008.”

General Hoog believes the IAF is moving ahead while jumping into today’s fight against insurgents.

“The key for us is we’re trying to help them build a force applicable to the counter-insurgency fight, with intelligence, mobility and casualty evacuation capabilities,” he said.

“We’re laying the foundation for the future with professional education, tech training schools, officer training and aviation training. We’re building a force that meets the needs of the counter-insurgency fight today while laying the foundation for them to continue throughout the future ... whatever that timeline will be.”

## Separation age upped for some

**WASHINGTON (AF-NEWS)** – Air Force Reserve officers, if otherwise eligible, can now stay in the service longer before reaching their mandatory separation age.

The change is a result of provisions in the 2007 National Defense Authorization Act, but eligible officers still have the option of voluntarily separating or retiring before their mandatory age.

In the past, brigadier gener-

als and below had to retire or separate when they reached age 60. Now they can stay until age 62. The age for major generals rose from 62 to 64.

With the approval from the secretary of the Air Force, chaplains and officers in some health professions may remain in an active status until age 67.

Additionally, mandatory separation dates because of years of commissioned service restrictions have not changed.

Unless otherwise continued, lieutenant colonels must separate or retire when reaching 28 years of commissioned service. The limit for colonels is 30 years.

Although the authorization act changed mandatory separation ages, it did not change when officers become eligible to draw retirement pay. If they meet all other requirements for retirement, they may apply for retired pay upon reaching age 60.

Also unchanged is the requirement to request approval from the secretary of the Air Force to continue to receive service credit for any service performed once becoming qualified for retired pay, which typically occurs at age 60.

More information and a list of frequently asked questions are available at: <http://arpc.afrc.af.mil/separations/msd.asp>.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Cecilio Ricardo Jr.

## Operation Achilles

**SOUTHWEST ASIA** – An aerial porter marshals in an aircraft loader into the back of a C-17 Globemaster. Approximately 2.1 million pounds of cargo are loaded per week. The aerial porter's mission supports the bigger picture of Operation Achilles, a campaign to create a secure environment and better quality of life for Afghan citizens.

## FREEZE

Continued from Page 4

mander of Operation Deep Freeze, explained that the runway used at McMurdo was much like landing on Puget Sound's Elliot Bay in Seattle – if Puget Sound was frozen solid.

“Despite that environment our aircrews flew into, landing and off- and on-loading people and cargo in temperatures at times (minus 58 degrees F), and we didn't miss a beat,” said Colonel McGann, who is assigned to the 62nd Operations Group. “McChord has been doing Operation Deep Freeze missions now for the last 10 years in a row, and we know what we're doing.”

Earlier in the season, Mc-

Chord C-17 aircrews from both wings achieved an airpower milestone by completing on Dec. 19, the first C-17 airdrop

mission delivering about 70,000 pounds of supplies to the South Pole.

The airdrop was required

in order to test the aircraft in the harsh conditions it will perform under should the mission continue.

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