

14 Reservists start journey to Iraq

By **Sandra Pishner**
 Wing Public Affairs

MCCHORD AIR FORCE BASE, Wash. – Fourteen Reservists from the 446th Airlift Wing are honing their combat skills in preparation for deployment to Iraq. Twelve are from the 446th Civil Engineer Squadron and two are from the 446th Logistics Readiness Flight.

The collection of carpenters, heavy equipment operators, and other specialists left Sept. 11 for four weeks of combat skills training at Fort McCoy, Wis. They'll be joining forces with the 200-member 819th Red Horse Squadron from Malmstrom AFB, Mont., as well as 20 more Reservists from Barksdale AFB, La.

As a unit, they'll deploy to Iraq for a six-month stint.

Once in Iraq, the combined active-duty and Reserve civil engineer unit will disperse to different locations. "Once we complete (the combat skills) training, we will depart for one of eight different locations in Iraq,

Afghanistan or Qatar where we will support the Global War on Terror for an additional six months," said Capt. Chad Wright, 819th RHS section commander.

Before departing for the combat skills training, the 446th CES Airmen reported to McChord to brush up on standard deployment skills and update personal readiness information.

"It was a challenge getting it all together," said Capt. George Lafrazia, 446th CES deploying OIC. "This deployment was sprung on us with fairly short notice. We're out of our AEF bucket. It's been a busy few weeks refreshing our training so it will stay current while we're deployed."

"Normally, the 219th RHS supplements us when we deploy, but this time, they are unable to do so due to their own taskings," Captain Wright said.

Among the challenges of deployment preparation was ensuring the CES Airmen had the right uniforms.



Photo by Sandra Pishner
Staff Sgt. Demond Loggins, left, and Master Sgt. Chris Webster, 446th Civil Engineer Squadron review their departure checklist Sept. 10 as they prepare to head out to Wisconsin, and then Iraq.

See Iraq, Page 5



Now introducing ...
Col. William Flanigan, addresses a crowd of Reservists during the change of command ceremony Sept. 9. Colonel Flanigan served as the last commander of the 939th Air Refueling Wing, Portland, Ore., before moving to McChord.

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Eli Yamzon

The 446th Associate Press
Volume 29, No.10
October 2007

Oct. 22 is the deadline for articles in the November 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.

Wing Commander

Col. William Flanigan

Chief, Public Affairs

Lt. Col. Anna Sullivan

Public Affairs Officers

Capt. Jennifer Gerhardt

Public Affairs Assistant/Editor

Ms. Sandra Pishner

Staff Writers

Staff Sgt. Nick Przybyciel
Senior Airman Desiree Kilz
Senior Airman Grant Saylor

This funded Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services. Contents of **The 446th Associate Press** are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force. Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Public Affairs office of the 446th Airlift Wing, (253) 982-3330 or DSN 382-3330. All photos are Air Force unless otherwise indicated.

For up-to-date news & information, visit:
www.446aw.afrc.af.mil

Discipline critical to mission

By **Gen. T. Michael Moseley**
Air Force Chief of Staff

Our enduring and distinguished record of mission success does not just happen. It is forged by strong leadership and Airmen who are properly organized, trained, and equipped to execute their assigned mission.

Whether deployed for expeditionary operations, at home station training for the next deployment, or conducting daily work for the nation's combatant commanders, the expectations for all Airmen are the same: commanders command, supervisors lead, and, from the most junior Airman to the highest levels of command, we all follow checklist procedures, comply with applicable directives, and focus on our

assigned missions or tasks.

Loss of focus can lead to failure: failure to execute the mission in a disciplined and accountable manner.

I need every Airman - wingman, leader, and warrior - to join me in driving home this critical point, every day, in everything we do. Our Air Force and our nation expect, need, and deserve nothing less.

Commanders and supervisors at all levels must lead by personal example, ensure compliance by all, and reinforce the highest standards of the United States Air Force.

No one should ever be given a reason to doubt our discipline, our integrity, or our ability to fly, fight and win the nation's wars. And we must never betray the nation's trust in its Airmen as guardians of the common defense.

Integrity, service, and excellence are the enduring touchstones of the United States Air Force, and discipline is at the core of all three.

A disciplined force puts mission first; flies, fights, and wins as a team; knows the rules; pays meticulous attention to details; and is accountable for the final results.

Our disciplined combat focus has served the nation exceptionally well throughout our 60 years as an independent service. We can never allow ourselves to lose that focus - it defines who we are, as well as what we do.

What we are entrusted with is far too important for anything less than total, selfless devotion to our country and the mission of the United States Air Force.

Develop, care for Airmen

By **Chief Master Sgt. Rodney McKinley**
Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force

There is no greater honor than to serve our country during time of war, and we are very fortunate to serve in the greatest Air Force the world has ever known.

The Air Force has technologically superior aircraft and equipment and can bring devastating air power to bear on our enemies at a time and place of our choosing. However, our equipment isn't what makes our Air Force great - it's our people - our Airmen.

Whether they are active duty, Guard, Reserve, civilian or contractor, our people make the Air Force successful, respected, and feared by our enemies.

Throughout Air Force history, our success stems from our legacy of developing and caring for Airmen.

Developing Airmen begins at the Air Force recruiter's office, and our recruiters do an outstanding job of finding the very best.

Despite our high recruiting standards, the Air Force continues to attract the best and brightest

America has to offer.

During basic military training, military training instructors do an outstanding job of instilling warrior ethos, Air Force core values, standards and discipline into new recruits.

Airmen leave BMT with a fire in their bellies and are motivated, physically fit and recite the Airman's Creed with ease. Our job as leaders is to keep this warrior ethos alive in our Airmen - refining their fire and spirit as we continue to foster their development.

Unfortunately, there are some Airmen who arrive at their first duty station who have little or no contact with their supervisor for weeks.

I have seen some Airmen discharged because of disciplinary problems that occur not long after signing into their first base. An enormous amount of time, money and training goes into our Airmen, so we certainly don't want these Airmen to fail.

Developing Airmen isn't a catch phrase and it's not something that stops with BMT or technical training - it's a continual process through-

See Airmen, Page 3



United States Air Force Presents
Hispanic Heritage Month

Honor Hispanic heritage in October

Hispanic Heritage month is celebrated through Oct. 15. The theme for this year is “Hispanic Americans: Making a Positive Impact on American Society.”

On Oct. 14, the dining facility will feature Hispanic food on the menu, as well as a slide show focusing on the many different Hispanic countries around the world.

For more information on Hispanic heritage, visit the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute Web site at www.deomi.org.

Nero, Zero, Hero – which one are you?

By Lt. Col. Travis Harsha
 ———— Travis AFB, Calif.

Questions and stories are powerful ways to convey messages. I still remember my high school principal, Wayne Hines, asking our entering freshman class, “Are you a Nero, Zero or Hero?” and explaining its meaning.

On a normal bell curve, from left to right, fall Nero, Zero and Hero. For Nero, think class bully. Based on the Roman emperor who burnt down much of his empire. Nero is selfish, undisciplined and destructive. Left unchecked, Nero’s negative behavior destroys morale, unit cohesion and readiness.

Much less destructive, but not putting forth any more effort than absolutely necessary, Zero aims for mediocrity and usually achieves it. Just squeaking by, Zero barely seems to exist and wants little to do with the team. Uninspired and uninspiring, Zero is forgettable.

And then there’s Hero, the role-model Airman, who epitomizes Air Force core values. Hero does the right thing (integrity first), is dedicated to his team first (service before self), and always strives to be the best (excellence in all we do).

Proud, professional and positive, Hero is who everyone wants on their team. Hero brings out the good in others and is always ready, willing and able to answer the call when needed.

Nero, Zero, Hero ... a simple story with a simple message. Be a Hero. Make a difference. Aim high and do not accept mediocrity or the status quo. Be involved, be positive and never underestimate the impact one person can have to make a difference in the world. If you have not seen it yet, watch the film, “Pay it Forward,” for what some do to make a difference and inspire others to do the same. After you watch the movie, I challenge you to “Pay it Forward.”

With our country at war with an all-volunteer force, I want to thank each of you for making a difference and inspiring me. What can be nobler than selflessly willing to lay down your life so others may live in freedom and have a safer and better world? Thanks to our loved ones for their daily service, sacrifice and support. Your love makes us stronger and reminds us why we serve. Thank you veterans for “paying it forward.”

All of you are Heroes in my book.

Airmen

Continued from Page 2

out an Airman’s career.

For Airmen to be successful, supervisors must be involved from the start. I strongly believe supervisors should be the sponsors for our Airmen.

During their initial contacts, supervisors must emphasize the Air Force core values, standards, and deliver key

guidance to put Airmen on the path to a rewarding and productive career. No one should be more concerned with an Airman’s success than the supervisor. If supervisors are more engaged from the beginning, Airmen will have greater prospects for success.

Mighty militaries of the past, from the Continental Army, to the Airmen who courageously flew missions in World War

II, to today’s Airmen fighting the Global War on Terrorism, all have a common thread for their long-standing successes - adherence to standards and discipline.

These principles are critical to developing and caring for our Airmen. Our Airmen are incredible, and they need and deserve solid leadership from day one. Develop and care for your Airmen. – we need them to succeed!

Wing SFS sees change on horizon

MCCHORD AIR FORCE BASE, Wash. – The 446th Security Forces Squadron is changing the way it does business – beginning with new air base defense sustainment training.

The goal is to ensure every squad in the 446th SFS is highly trained in relevant tactical skills, prepared mentally, and are physically tough to accomplish today's security forces mission, and be ready for the deployed downrange scenarios.

"If you're not physically active to perform at a level where you can conduct combat foot patrols that go from zero to calamity in seconds, plus wear heavy personal protective gear in extreme weather while doing it, then you become a liability to the team and the squadron," said Master Sgt. Lenny Deboma, 446th SFS senior air reserve technician.

In the next several months, security forces Airmen will emphasize air base defense skills, conduct physical train-



Photo by Sandra Pishner

Tech. Sgt. Chris Pierce, 446th Security Forces Squadron, competes in a combat skills event at Air Mobility Command's Rodeo 2005 here. The 446th SFS intends to focus its training on air base defense and combat skills for operational deployments, not just of installation support.

ing each unit training assembly weekend, and receive new protective gear.

"We want everyone in the unit to receive updated protective gear so we can train in it," said Sergeant Deboma. "We don't want to wait until we deploy to get it."

Squadron leaders are also looking at sending Airmen to Patriot Defender in 2008. Patriot Defender is a two-week exercise geared toward combat deployments. It covers all aspects of air base ground defense, including convoy training and improvised explosive device training.

In FY 2007, more than 13 people within the squadron were deployed for more than a combined total of 1,100 days for Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom. *(Story contributed by 446th Security Forces Squadron)*

IRAQ

Continued from Page 1

"We ordered (Airmen Battle Uniforms) at the end of July and due to the long lead time, we had to beg, borrow and steal (desert camouflage uniforms) for everyone in order to send them to CST. We'll then ship their ABUs before they deploy (overseas)," said Staff Sgt. Rebeca Forgey, 446th CES assistant unit deployment manager. "This wouldn't have been possible without our security forces squadron and explosive ordnance disposal flight contributing uniforms to us on such short notice."

As Reservists, getting spun up for a deployment is a two-sided coin. Not only do the Airmen prepare themselves and their families, but they must prepare their civilian

employers for their absence.

Captain Lafrazia, who owns an electronics company in Vancouver, Wash., had to get his vice president and 130 employees prepped for his deployment. "There will be pressure on the remaining people in my company," he said.

As a produce truck driver, Senior Airman Paul Ford knows he's leaving his em-

My wife made me promise to come back safe and to pray every night. So that's exactly what I'll do.

– Senior Airman Paul Ford

ployer short-handed. "They really needed me, but they're cool with it." Not quite as "cool with it," is his wife.

"My wife made me promise to come back safe and to pray every night. So that's exactly what I'll do," said Airman Ford, who also leaves behind his two-year-old daughter.

As the McChord team of Reservists wrapped up their travel preparations Sept. 10, Master Sgt. Robert Zundel, 446th CES deployment manager, said "I will worry and miss every one of you pains in the *##." To which Captain Lafrazia replied "Send us stuff." *(Valerie Mullett, 341st Space Wing Public Affairs, Malmstrom AFB, Mont., contributed to this report)*

446th Airlift Wing

Visit our web site for more news and information

INTEGRITY - SERVICE - EXCELLENCE

AMERICA'S AIR FORCE



446aw.afrc.af.mil ⇌ 446aw.afrc.af.mil ⇌ 446aw.afrc.af.mil ⇌ 446aw.afrc.af.mil



Plan a fire escape before you need one

In America more than 4,000 people die each year in fires, and 20,000 injured from failed emergency escapes. The U.S. Fire Administration, a part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, believes having a sound escape plan will greatly reduce fire deaths and protect you and your family if a fire occurs. Ensuring your smoke detector is working properly and by practicing a home fire escape plan with everyone in the household, you can make the difference between life and death.

“Practice Your Escape Plan” is the theme of Fire Prevention Week, Oct. 7-13. Fire officials with the McChord Fire Department will be spreading the word that when it comes to escape plans, practice is the key.

Even though Fire Prevention Week is only a week long you should always be practicing your escape plans. Not practicing your escape plans is like playing with fire. You have less than two minutes to escape once your smoke detector sounds; if you have not practiced your plan then you may not have time to get out. Studies have shown that fewer than one in every four families have developed and practiced their escape plans.

Below are some fire safety tips.

Draw a floor plan with the whole family

Make sure everyone can read it

Color code escape routes

Practice escaping from every room in the home

It's best to have two ways out of each room

Try escaping with the lights off or eyes closed

Ensure windows open fully and screens aren't stuck

Never open doors that are hot

Always feel the door with the back of your hand or wrist

Open slowly if door is not hot and close right away if smoke enters

If door is hot, use your alternate escape route

Stay low in smoke and never stand up

Mark your favorite tree/bus stop/safe house or a location away from home, but not across the street

Take attendance of everyone who was in the house

Never go back into a house once you've escaped

Escape first, then call 911

If anyone is missing, let arriving firefighters know

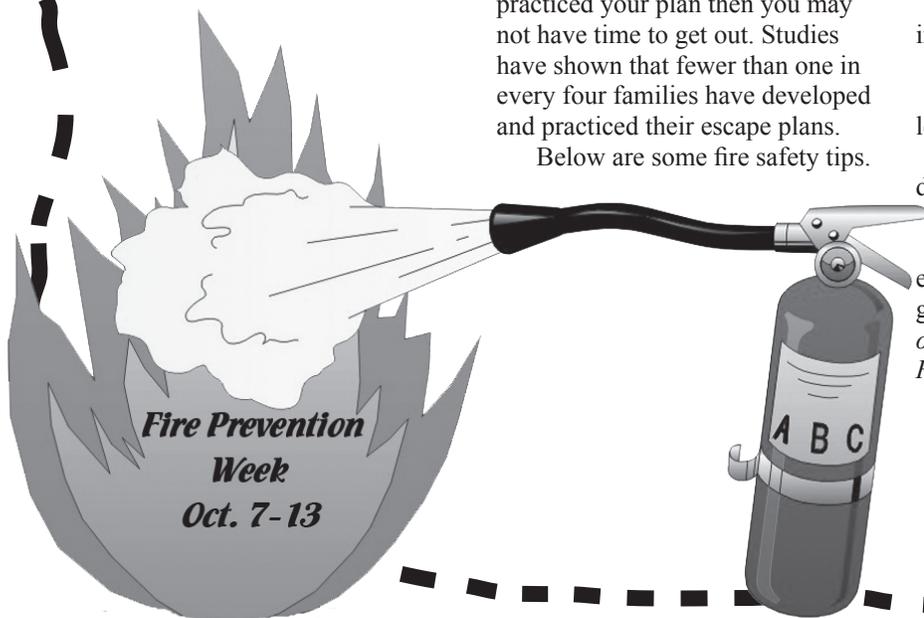
Use smoke detectors

Have one installed on every level of your home

Make sure you inspect and test detectors monthly

Replace batteries once a year

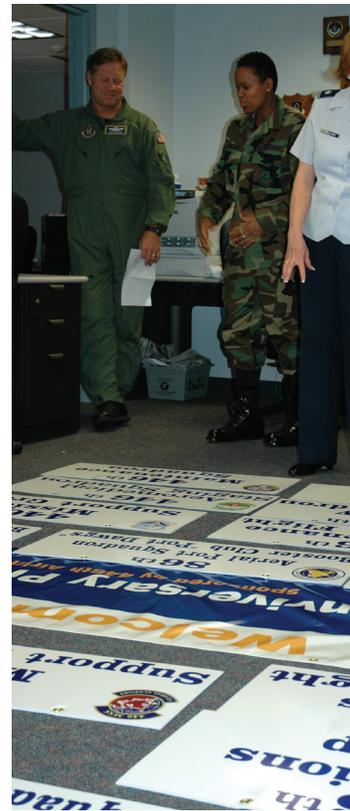
Replace your detectors every 10 years, or as manufacturer guidelines recommend. (Courtesy of Chief Sandra Cooper, McChord Fire Department)



Wing ho Air Force annivers



Photo by Senior Airman Grant Saylor
Silver Star recipient former 1st Lt. Buck Compton (second from right) shares tales with Tuskegee Airman Lt. Col. Bill Holloman (third from left) at the McChord Air Force 60th Anniversary picnic.



Lt. Col. Anna Sullivan (left) from Public Affairs office directs set Jennifer Gerhardt in preparat 60th Anniversary picnic.



Photo by Senior Airman Grant Saylor
A young 446th Logistics Readiness Flight supporter tempts the masses with ice cream sales at the Air Force 60th Anniversary picnic Sept. 8.

TOP RIGHT: Senior Master S Aircraft Maintenance Squadron to hungry picnickers.

RIGHT: Two-year-old Kolby Ju sion-throwing ability at one of play stations during the Air Fo picnic. Kolby is the son of St 446th Mission Support Squadr

honor e's ary



Photo by Senior Airman Grant Saylor



Photo by Sandra Pishner
in the 446th Airlift Wing
t-up efforts with Capt.
ion for the Air Force

gt. Jim Cronk, 446th
n, dishes out the dogs

arez flaunts his preci-
the many kid-friendly
orce 60th Anniversary
aff Sgt. Maria Juarez,
ron.



Photo by Senior Airman Grant Saylor

SOARES



Oct. 5, 1922 – Lts. J.A. Macready and O.G. Kelly set a world endurance record of 35 hours, 18 minutes and 30 seconds.

Promotions

Chief Master Sergeant
Thomas Pizzi, 446th CES

Master Sergeant
Jason Holden, 446th AMXS
Terry Joyner, 446th MSS
Jack Todd, 446th AMXS

Technical Sergeant
Sarah Aden, 446th AMDS
James Freeman, 446th AMDS
Shelby Seely, 446th AMXS

Staff Sergeant
Douglas Conner, 446th AMXS
Larry Jones, 446th AES
Maria Juarez, 446th MSS

Charles Pickle, 446th CES
Sarah Reynolds, 446th AMXS
Cam Vaillant, 446th AES
Marco Zuber, 86th CES

Senior Airman
Matthew Bean, 446th AMXS
Newton Nagata, 446th MXS
Robert Pollock, 446th MXS
Travis Ringel, 446th MXS

Airman First Class
Aimee McFarland, 728th AS
Matthew Seeman, 97th AS

Airman
Alesha Kelly, 97th AS
Andrue Morris, 446th MXS

Retirements

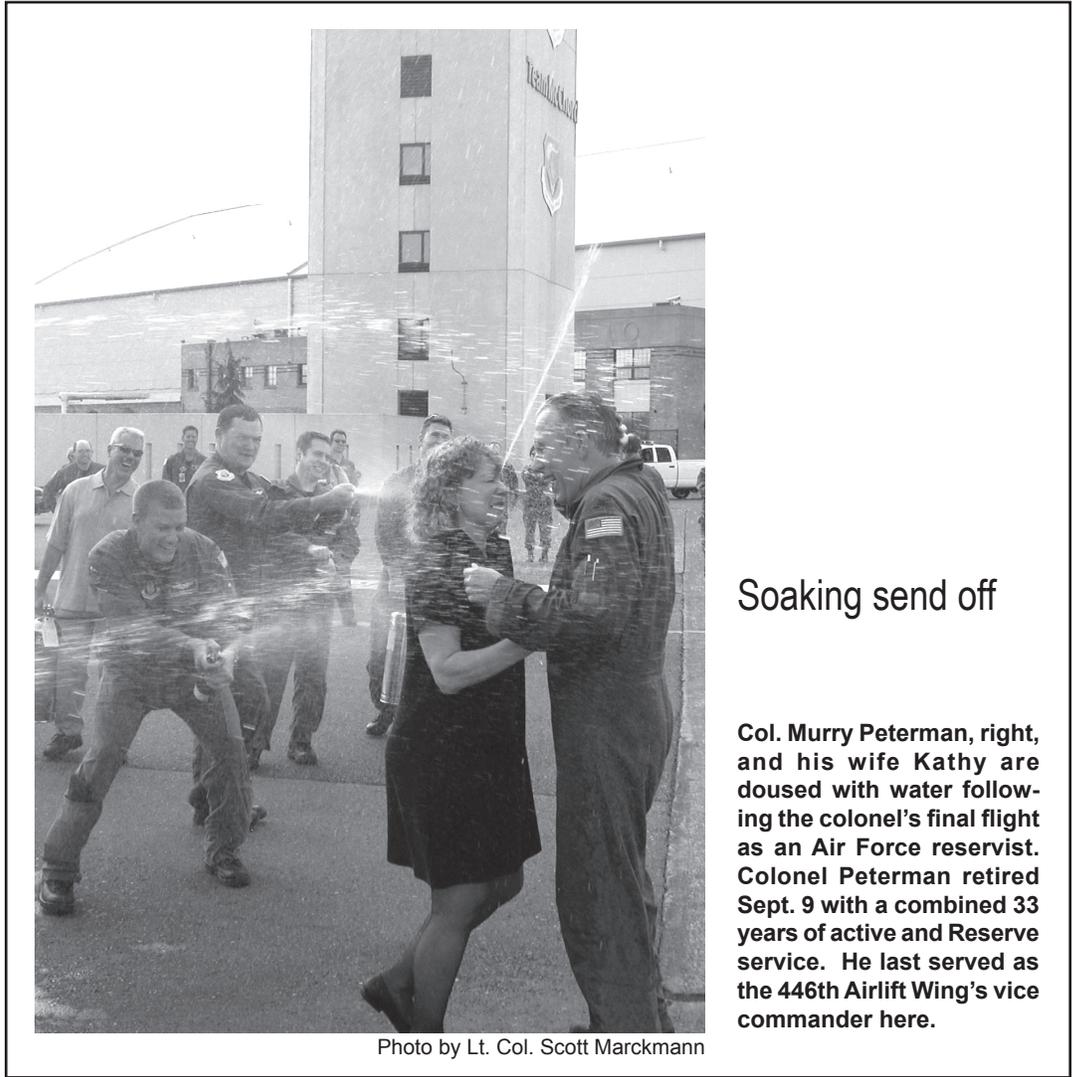
Captain
Debra Huston, 446th OG

Chief Master Sergeant
David Burrell, 36th APS

Senior Master Sergeant
William Collins 446th CES
Trisha Reithaar, 446th AMXS

Master Sergeant
John Beal, 446th MOF
Owen O'Neil, 86th APS

Technical Sergeant
Scott Brihn, 446th AW
Shawn Deweese, 36th APS
Patrick Sigglin, 446th CES



Soaking send off

Col. Murry Peterman, right, and his wife Kathy are doused with water following the colonel's final flight as an Air Force reservist. Colonel Peterman retired Sept. 9 with a combined 33 years of active and Reserve service. He last served as the 446th Airlift Wing's vice commander here.

Photo by Lt. Col. Scott Marckmann

Just Briefly

What message would you give our new commander?

Honor

To continue the tradition of being a strong and open leader.



◆ *Tech. Sgt. Steven Thomas*
446th Mission Support Squadron

Trust

Listen to your senior noncommissioned officers and junior officers for advice. They've been here and know what has and hasn't worked in the past.



◆ *Senior Master Sgt. Jerry Lynch*
446th Logistics Readiness Flight

Knowledge

Come and spend a day during any UTA with the AES. Learn how we train, what the requirements are, and just to meet all of us.



◆ *Capt. Medori Hill*
446th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron

Esprit de corps

You can't lead from behind so it is important to go out and get to know your Airmen.



◆ *Staff Sgt. Fern Michael*
446th Mission Support Squadron

Dining Facility is open to officers

Contrary to rumor, officers are allowed to eat in the McChord Aerospace Dining Facility. The 62nd Services Squadron point of contact has confirmed anyone on orders in a per diem (non-commuter) status, is authorized to eat at the dining facility.

Military Pay increases hours

The 446th Airlift Wing military pay office is now open at 10 a.m. weekdays instead of 1 p.m.

Operation Blood Drive Oct. 9

McChord will be hosting the first Operation Blood Donation blood drive Oct. 9 at the Chapel Support Center from 9 a.m., to 3 p.m.

The blood drive is to ensure an abundant blood supply is available to our military brethren serving overseas. The Armed Services Blood Program works directly with blood banks overseas to keep them fully stocked and operational. Blood supplies are steadily dwindling in blood banks around the country and overseas. It is estimated that a single blood donation can help save up to three lives, and that every two seconds, one of our own soldiers is in need of blood.

Operation Blood Donation is a base-wide competition between squadrons for who can provide the most people to give blood. The winning squadron will receive cumulative bragging rights and the honor of taking possession of a revered traveling trophy. Finally, each blood donor will also receive a free T-shirt, juice and snacks for donating blood.

This is a great opportunity to show your support and possibly save a life. Please direct any questions to 2nd Lt. Elizabeth Ryba at elizabeth.ryba@mcchord.af.mil or call 982-7498.

Free holiday portraits for families

The Airman and Family Readiness Center is offering free holiday portraits for singles and families at McChord. Receive two free 5x7 photos and a CD on Nov. 1, from 3 to 7 p.m., at the Chapel Support Center. First come, first serve - no sign up necessary.

For more information, call 982-2695.

Reserve Officers Association revises McChord chapter

The Rainier Chapter of Reserve Officers Association has fallen through the cracks due to deployments over the past four years. It is the desire of the board of directors of this chapter to revive it.

A general meeting will be held on Oct. 13 at 4:30 p.m. The meeting will be held in the Red Baron Room at the McChord Consolidated Club.

The meeting will last about one hour and the Rainier Chapter will provide refreshments following a short briefing about the benefits of belonging to the ROA.

Top 3 scholarships available

AFRC Top Three calls for applications for its annual scholarships providing a military or family member of enlisted Airmen with a scholarship, which is at least \$500, that will provide funds to further his or her college education. Here is the info:

Eligibility:

- Rank of E-9 or below or immediate family member of E-9 and below (i.e., daughter, son, spouse)
- Military member must be a current member of the Air Force Reserve.
- Currently enrolled in an associates, bachelor, or master degree program at a regionally accredited college or university during the upcoming semester or have Letter of Acceptance from Registrar's Office from a regionally accredited college or university
- Students with an earned master degree are not eligible to apply
- Grade Point Average of 3.0 or above (within last 6 months) (If new college student, must have last high school transcript).
- Must not have been a Total Force Top 3/USAA Scholarship recipient in the last 12 months

Application package includes an application form, certification form, an essay, unofficial copies of transcripts and letter of acceptance (if new college student) from college. Nominations packages should be mailed by Nov. 5 to:

Total Force Top 3/USAA Scholarship
P.O. Box 98484
Robins AFB GA 31098-8484

If additional information is needed, contact the following committee members: Master Sgt. Rod Hage at (800) 223-1784, Ext. 71345 or send an e-mail to: rodney.hage@afrc.af.mil. Information and forms to apply for the scholarship are available from squadron first sergeants.

Voices of McChord looking for new talent to join team

Do you like to sing? Are you looking for a way to showcase your talent? Voices of McChord just might be the group for you! Voices of McChord is a group of vocalists who perform at events from retirements to change of commands and community events, and even professional sports games.

Voices of McChord is open to all McChord active-duty Airmen, Reservists and guardsmen. Practices are held at the base club on Wednesday afternoons from 4 to 5 p.m. For more information, please contact Tech. Sgt. Kristy Fry 982-5134.

Alternative fuel tests set for C-17

By Roger Drinnon

AMC Public Affairs

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill. (AFPN) – Air Mobility Command’s chief scientist is now turning his attention to tests certify Air Force C-17 Globemaster III aircraft to use an alternative fuel mix, which was certified for B-52 Strato-fortress in August.

When given the go-ahead from AMC, the 62nd and 446th Airlift Wings will be the first operational wings to use the Fischer-Tropsch fuel blend in C-17s, said officials at the 62nd Logistics Readiness Squadron.

“The C-17 tests will be important because it’s a newer aircraft with newer materials and systems,” Dr. Don Erbschloe said.

“Our goal is to have a standard protocol -- a methodology to establish a military standard for the fuel. (The C-17 tests) will validate the methodology we’ll use to certify other aircraft.”

By 2010, the Air Force goal is to certify all its aircraft to use the fuel blend which mixes JP-8 with fuel produced using the Fischer-Tropsch process -- a process used to convert carbon-based materials into synthetic fuel.

German chemists Franz Fischer and Hans Tropsch developed the method at the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute during the 1920s.

“Essentially, using a number of chemicals and catalysts, what (chemists Fischer and Tropsch) were able to do was to reproduce in a laboratory what it takes the earth millions of years to do with organic matter,” Mr. Erbschloe said.

Fischer-Tropsch fuel can be synthesized from any carbon-based material, he said.

“The process starts with carbon-based ‘feedstock’ -- this



Photo by Abner Guzman

Staff Sgt. Joseph Pinkham, 62nd Logistics Readiness Squadron, checks the seal on a manhole located on the catwalk of an R-11 fuel truck servicing vehicle during a spot check March 16. McChord AFB will be the first operational C-17 base to use a new Fischer-Tropsch fuel blend. The base has so far received 54,000 gallons of the new fuel blend.

could be coal, natural gas or any other carbon-based material. Ultimately, it could be bio-mass or even trash,” Mr. Erbschloe said. “The first step is to produce ‘synthesis gas’ or ‘syngas’ -- a mixture of carbon monoxide and hydrogen. During the catalysis of syngas, you’re building up hydrocarbons, and you get a complex ‘organic soup’ very much like petroleum.”

A Fischer-Tropsch fuel mix

has the potential to burn cleaner than JP-8, he said.

“During the process of creating the organic soup, you don’t introduce a lot of particulates and unwanted materials like sulfur compounds,” Mr. Erbschloe said. “Indications are that (Fischer-Tropsch fuel) doesn’t leave sooty trails.”

“In (the B-52 engine) tests, the use of the alternative fuel blend was found to reduce soot

emissions by 30 percent at max power and by 60 percent at idle,” said Dr. Tim Edwards, a senior chemical engineer for the Air Force Research Laboratory’s Fuels Branch. “Sulfur emissions were reduced by 50 percent. These emissions reductions are due to the very high quality of the Fischer-Tropsch fuel blend component.”

Although the Fischer-Tropsch process generates excess carbon dioxide, Mr. Erbschloe said he remains confident technologies will emerge soon to capture and store the carbon dioxide generated by the process.

Until more research is done, Fischer-Tropsch fuel is mixed with JP-8 to ensure the fuel contains adequate “aromatics” -- elements found in traditionally-produced fuels and lacking in Fischer-Tropsch fuel.

“Aromatics might be a factor in preventing fuel leaks,” Mr. Erbschloe said. “It turns out aromatics might help various seals and o-rings expand and seal properly in aircraft engines during operation.”

As fuel prices rise, synthetic fuel becomes economically viable with the potential to reduce dependency on foreign energy sources, said Mr. Erbschloe, a former deputy chief operating officer for the Department of Energy’s Office of Science.

“The goal is to make the cost of synthetic fuel comparable to buying JP-8,” he said.

Upcoming C-17 tests will be a stepping stone toward improving national energy security as well as toward prompting interest in commercial industry. He said commercial aviation already is working with the Air Force to certify more aircraft to use the fuel blend. *(Tyler Hemstreet, 62nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs office staff writer, contributed to this story).*

Mobility command changes leader

By Roger Drinnon
AMC Public Affairs

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill. (AFP) – Air Mobility Command's new commander said he will strive to deliver what America and the command's Airmen deserve: a continued pursuit of excellence in global air mobility.

"We're going to keep raising the bar -- we'll keep going farther and farther with this command," said Gen. Arthur J. Lichte after the change-of-command ceremony here Sept. 7.

"My plan is, over the next couple of months, to go out and visit all the Air Mobility Command bases and then put together a game plan."

He said efforts to recapitalize the mobility fleet will remain a top priority.

"You can expect I'll be continuing on with the plan the Air Force has for Air Mobility Command," he said, emphasizing the next-generation tanker, KC-X, as the Air Force's No. 1 acquisition priority.

"Bringing on a new tanker is our top priority," he said. "Having been a tanker guy myself over the years, we need to move on with the (KC-X) program. We need to keep modernizing and recapitalizing our Air Force."

General Lichte came to AMC from the Pentagon, where he was the assistant vice chief of staff of the Air Force. He replaces Gen. Duncan McNabb, who moves on to become the Air Force vice chief of staff. General Lichte, who's served in a number of positions throughout AMC and at U.S. Transportation



Photo by Staff Sgt. Tony Tolley

Gen. Arthur J. Lichte addresses attendees at his assumption of command ceremony as the Air Mobility Command commander Sept. 7 at Scott Air Force Base, Ill.

Command headquarters, said he's honored to serve at Scott AFB again.

"The command has a fine tradition and a great legacy,"

General Lichte said. "I'm happy to have the opportunity to be (AMC's) commander."

New commander likens Air Reserve Personnel Center to tip of pyramid



Photo by Mike Molina

Brig. Gen. Eric Crabtree assumed command of the Air Reserve Personnel Center at a change of command ceremony Sept. 20. General Crabtree likened the personnel center to the foundation of a pyramid, saying the center's success is necessary to support the Air Force combat operations at the tip of the pyramid.

By Mike Molina

— Air Reserve Personnel Center

DENVER – The men and women of the Air Reserve Personnel Center welcomed a new leader after a change-of-command ceremony here Sept. 20.

Brig. Gen. Eric Crabtree assumed command of the center from Col. Ann Shippy. General Crabtree commanded the 446th Airlift Wing at McChord AFB, Wash., from August 2003 to September 2007.

Colonel Shippy retired on Sept. 20 after more than 28 years of service.

Air Force Reserve Command and community leaders, guests and Air Reserve Personnel Center employees attended the ceremony.

General Crabtree likened the personnel center to the foundation of a pyramid. He said the center's success is necessary to support Air Force combat operations at the

tip of the pyramid and promised to take care of the nearly 500 employees who are now under his command.

"I pledge I will take care of you the best that I can," he said. "I will represent you."

As the center's commander, General Crabtree will oversee a mission of providing personnel and administrative support to more than 1.2 million Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard forces.

General Crabtree said the center commander traditionally has been someone from the personnel career field and that being a reservist gives him a unique perspective of having been a customer served by the center.

In May when he was selected for the job, he said the AFRC commander, Lt. Gen. John Bradley, "wanted someone from the user end to help channel our focus even more to the customers." (*Air Force Reserve Command News Service*)

How the ABU will affect you

What's hot



Occupational badges: To wear or not to wear, that is the question. These will be optional on the new ABU.



Tees: Say adios to old-school black and brown. The new "Desert Tan" crew neck tee shirts will be the only ones authorized to wear.



Boots: Desert tan is okay until 2011, when the sage green color will become mandatory.



What's not



Patches: Perhaps one of the most notable changes to the ABUs will be to the blouse pockets, as unit patches are no longer authorized.



Squadron hats: You no longer need to worry about breaking in the brim of your organization's baseball hat - only the ABU patrol cap is authorized for wear with the new duds.

No more being taken to the cleaners!

Starching your ABU is forbidden.



Graphic by Staff Sgt. Nick Przybyciel

Officials revise wear policy

WASHINGTON (AFP) – Now that the Airman Battle Uniform is on the shelves of some military clothing sales stores, Air Force uniform officials here released a revised ABU wear policy message Sept. 5 to ensure Airmen are aware of the standards for the new uniform.

The message is a follow up to the wear policy message released in February.

"The first wear message was very much theater-oriented because only deployers, general officers and command chiefs had the ABU," said Lt. Col. Shawna Morrill, the chief of the Air Force uniforms and recognition branch at the Pentagon. "Now that the uniform is becoming more available to Airmen, it's time to readdress the wear policy as well as talk about the winter items."

The mandatory wear date for the ABU is November 2011. The ABU or battle dress uniform can neither be mandated nor prohibited during this transition period.

Additionally, a clothing allowance increase will go into effect in October to help offset the increased cost of the uniform. Airmen who choose to buy the new uniforms before their anniversary date in fiscal year 2008 will absorb the cost difference until they receive their clothing allowance.

"The several-year transition to the ABU will not be without its challenges, but we're confident that on-going communications and flexibility will ensure continued focus on mission and safety throughout this period," Colonel Morrill said.

**Wing News
Delivered
Digitally**



Join our e-mail list service:
<http://www.446aw.afrc.af.mil/>

**ASSOCIATE PRESS
446TH AIRLIFT WING/PA
1205 12th St. Room 125
MCCHORD AFB, WA 98438-1320
OFFICIAL BUSINESS**

**PRESORTED STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
TACOMA, WA
PERMIT NO. 800**