

# Crews make night landing on ice

**By Staff Sgt. Oshawn Jefferson**  
 62nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Team McChord Airmen from the 62nd and 446th Airlift Wings completed the first-ever night vision goggle mission Sept. 11.

The Airmen from the McChord active-duty and Reserve wings are deployed to Joint Task Force Support Forces Antarctica where they took off from Christchurch, New Zealand, and landed at McMurdo Station.

“The successful completion of this mission opens the door for us to provide support to the National Science Foundation on a year-round basis,” said Lt. Col. Jim McGann, Operation Deep Freeze commander from the 62nd Operations Group.

“McChord has performed Deep Freeze missions for more than 10 years and this mission demonstrates our ability to provide the NSF with critical logistical capability well into the future,” he said.

The joint aircrew was extremely pleased

all the training and careful planning that went into the historic NVG mission, initially planned for last April, had finally paid off.

“For five months of the year the Antarctic shelf is in complete darkness,” said Lt. Col. Scott Weichert, a Reservist with the 313th Airlift Squadron and serving as Operation Deep Freeze deputy commander. “You’re talking about a half the year without being able to assist our partners in the National Science Foundation. Now, that can all change.”

From August through February each year Airmen from McChord deliver supplies to the National Science Foundation in Antarctica. Night landings can result in the ability to fly to that continent year round.

The U.S. military’s support to Operation Deep Freeze began in 1955. Through this program, McChord Airmen provide airlift support in an extremely adverse environment, sometimes landing the C-17 on a six-foot thick ice runway, to deliver supplies

to the NSF from August through February each season.

“There are a number of emotions involved in the successful completion of this mission, but ultimately our Reservists will see this time as the precursor to providing new opportunities. The National Science Foundation’s U.S. Antarctica program will reap the rewards this (capability) will offer them,” said Col. Lisa K. Tank, 446th Airlift Wing vice commander. “There were many herculean efforts that made a positive impact on this Air Force mission. We can and should all be very proud of that.”

During the 2007-2008 season, McChord C-17s flew 57 missions to McMurdo Station, Antarctica, from Christchurch carrying more than 3.1 million pounds of cargo and more than 2,800 passengers. On the return missions from the frozen sea shelf of McMurdo, C-17 aircrews flew more than 850,000 pounds of cargo and 2,700 passengers back to Christchurch.



Lt. Col. Robert Weichert, a C-17 evaluator pilot with the 313th Airlift Squadron, looks out over the ice after the first-ever night vision goggle-assisted landing on Pegasus Ice Runway near McMurdo Station, Antarctica, Sept. 11. Colonel Weichert is part of a crew testing the concept of using night vision technology in combination with reflective cones to land safely on the ice runway after dark. The mission was flown as part of Operation Deep Freeze, commanded by U.S. Pacific Command’s Joint Task Force Support Forces Antarctica.



Photos by Master Sgt. Chris Vadnais  
 Maj. Jason Allen, a C-17 evaluator pilot with the 97th Airlift Squadron, looks out over the ice as he delivers more than 64,000 pounds of supplies and equipment to Antarctica on Sept. 10. The cargo movement was conducted by Joint Task Force Support Forces Antarctica, headquartered at Hickam AFB, Hawaii, and led by 13th Air Force. The joint task force is currently conducting Operation Deep Freeze in support of the National Science Foundation and U.S. Antarctic Program.

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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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# Know where you're going?

By Col. Jon Huguley

■—446th Maintenance Group

Do you know where you are going? My wife and I were recently asked this question while taking in a play during a short vacation in southern Oregon. Upon entering the theater, the usher asked us, "Do you know where you are going?" After showing us our seats, he continued his routine of asking all patrons the same question.

It occurred to me that this is an important question we need to ask ourselves regularly in relation to our personal and organizational goals. To help us know where we are going organizationally, we have mission and vision statements. Experts agree that an organization's vision should be viewed by all members several times a year to help stay focused on where they are going and to remain energized.

The Air Force Reserve vision is "To provide the world's best mutual support to the Air Force and our joint partners—flying and fighting

as An Unrivaled Wingman." Some may think that this is too broad of a vision to apply to individuals, but nothing could be further from the truth.

I see this vision as a calling, and in this calling there are two very pertinent aspects that individuals can focus on to energize them.

First, the driving force "To provide the world's best mutual support..." should be the desire to excel. Whether you are an airman first class or a commander, you are called to provide your best. To do our best we have to personally ensure we are properly trained and equipped to produce the best.

Second, we are called to be "...An Unrivaled Wingman." Unrivaled means unequaled to or peerless. You are called to take the course of action that will set yourself apart from all others. Ensuring we are the best, unrivaled wingman may sometimes mean going the extra mile to ensure the "i's" are dotted and "t's" are crossed - and improving processes to dot the "i's" and cross that



Col. Jon Huguley

"t's" more efficiently and effectively.

Our wing leadership just completed a two-day AFSSO21 initiative identifying wing key processes. The next step involves selecting team members to study these processes and seek applications to improve the way we do business — "To provide the world's best mutual support to the Air Force and our joint partners—flying and fighting as An Unrivaled Wingman."

So, for a vision to go, I ask, "Do you know where you are going?"



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# Incoming!

## Prepare now for operational exercises, inspection

By Tech. Sgt. Jake Chappelle  
Wing Public Affairs

Dust off your Airman's Manual, brush up on your combat skills and mark your calendars. It's that time again. The operational readiness inspection, conducted by the Air Mobility Command Inspector General, is Oct. 25 to Nov. 1, 2009.

In preparation, there will be a total of three operational readiness exercises in FY 2009. Airmen who are tasked for the ORI can voluntarily participate in the first ORE, Feb. 7-8. It is mandatory that tasked Reservists take part in the fly away OREs to Alpena ANG Base, Mich., May 2-8 and Sept. 12-18, 2009, and the ORI.

The 446th Airlift Wing will be tested along with the lead

62nd AW and the 89th AW, Andrews AFB, Md.

Why is the 446th Airlift Wing getting tested by AMC?

"We go to war as our gaining command, which is AMC," said Lt. Col. William Pelster, 446th Mission Support Squadron commander. "We don't go to war as Air Force Reserve Command. We don't have the capability to participate in an ORI on our own because we are an associate wing, not a stand-alone wing. An example would be that we don't have a communication squadron, but the 62nd does. When we go to war, it's with the 62nd."

Reservists who are tasked to participate should make sure their training is up to date and their civilian employers are informed on the dates.

Lt. Col. Richard Poston, 97th Airlift Squadron, has been designated as the ORI project officer for the 446th AW. He is working out the details of the wing's participation in the ORI and preparation.

"This inspection is a test of our go-to-war capabilities," said Colonel Poston. "We have a lot of experienced people in this wing, so I know we'll get the job done. Reservists who are new to the ORI process can go to our ORI veterans for advice on how to succeed."

Some of those veterans are commanders and unit deployment managers.

"The 446th has a commitment to participate in OREs and ORIs to keep up with the active duty," said Chief Master Sgt. Jeanmarie Kautzman, the 446th

Mission Support Squadron unit deployment manager.

"Everyone needs to work with their unit deployment managers to make sure mobility folders are updated and training is completed," said Colonel Poston. "I know everyone's busy with training and real-world requirements, but it's important to pay attention to the ORI now and bring a winning attitude to the process. We only have 24 UTA days until the inspection begins."

ORI preparation doesn't have to be a grueling process.

"The OREs are opportunities to smooth out practices and tweak our skills," said Colonel Poston. "Taking advantage of those opportunities will make us better when the big test comes."

### 2009 UTA Schedule

The following is the UTA schedule for fiscal year 2009. Reservists are encouraged to share this UTA schedule with their civilian employers as far in advance as possible.

PRIMARY	ALT
Oct. 4 - 5	18 - 19
Nov. 1 - 2	15 - 16
Dec. 6 - 7	13 - 14
Jan. 10 - 11	24 - 25
Feb. 7 - 8	21 - 22
March 7-8	21 - 22
April 4-5	18 - 19
May 2 - 3	16 - 17
June 6 - 7	27 - 28
July 11-12	25 - 26
Aug. 8 - 9	22 - 23
Sept. 12- 13	19 - 20



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jake Chappelle

### Distinguish graduate

Senior Airman Rita Guill, a crew chief with the 446th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, checks the fuel port of a C-17 during a general aircraft inspection. Airman Guill is one of two Reservists who have recently earned the distinguished graduate award at Airman Leadership School here. Senior Airman Randall Cummings, 446th AMXS, was also a DG.

# Computer support is their domain

By Airman First Class Patrick Cabellon  
Wing Public Affairs

Client support administrators are key components for keeping the Air Force mission running smooth with their knowledge and training on computer hardware and software.

“We are diversified individuals,” said Nena Wong, 446th Mission Support Squadron, CSA. “We walk a fine line between computers, administrators, and postal. The job varies from day to day, minute to minute,” said Mrs. Wong. “We have to work with so many different types of computer programs.”

CSAs are more geared toward computer work because it is in higher demand, said Master Sgt. Mattie Monahan, 446th Mission Support Group, CSA. They are proficient at handling many computer-related problems, from tearing apart and rebuilding a whole computer, to program troubleshooting.

CSAs are constantly installing peripherals and software, backing up critical system files, monitoring the efficiency of a workstation by finding and resolving system bottlenecks, assigning and maintaining user IDs and passwords, and ensuring user training is conducted, according to Sergeant Monahan.

“There is always something to do, always someone to help,” she said.

Some tasks CSAs accomplish day in and day out can be daunting.

“We got in 700 replacement computers come in,” said Senior Master Sgt. Cindy

Thomas, 446th AW CSA for the wing staff, 446th Aerospace Medicine Squadron and 446th Aeromedical Staging Squadron. “We had to replace all of the computer assets in the wing within two to three months.”

CSAs don’t need to have any previous computer knowledge when breaking into the career field. Everything a CSA needs to know is studied at their technical school. Training is given to all wing CSAs to guarantee they are personally ready to deploy and know what to do in any situation while in the field.

To become a certified CSA, one must pass the A+ certification with flying colors.

“The A+ certification shows that a CSA is a professional at what they do,” said Airman 1st Class John Magno, 446th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, CSA.

There are five full-time CSAs and the rest are traditional Reservists.

“We are the experts, we are the ones that keep your computer operating smoothly,” said Sergeant Thomas. “It’s your job to use the programs and it’s our job to make sure they run properly.”

If a CSA is not available to help when gremlins strike your computer, you can always seek assistance on the wing’s Share-Point.

Supportive documentation is at your fingertips. On the right hand side of the 446th Airlift Wing’s SharePoint page is a link labeled “446 AW Computer Support and Self Help.”



Photo by Airman First Class Patrick Cabellon  
**Airman 1st Class John Magno, 446th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron client support administrator, inspects his tools of the trade in determining which one would best fit the job at hand.**

# Medics deployment helps two groups

By Senior Airman Grant Saylor  
Wing Public Affairs

About four dozen Reservists from the 446th Aerospace Medicine Squadron here recently returned from Alaska’s Elmendorf AFB where they deployed in support of the active-duty 3rd Medical Group and the Reserve 477th Fighter Group.

Specialties on the two-week deployment included dental, flight medicine, biomedical and public health. These specialists

spent much of the deployment attending to medical requirements for the 477th FG, said Capt. James McManus, medical services corps officer.

“It was a really neat experience for us to be able to help a new Reserve unit like the 477th,” he said.

The 477th FW is the first Air Force Reserve F-22 unit and is in the process of standing up all of its units. Experienced Airmen from the 446th AMDS stepped in to help set up the building

blocks of a standard medical programs for the 477th AMDS.

“It gave us all a chance to use our expertise to give their programs the best possible start,” Captain McManus said. “I think it also gave us a real appreciation for how much our own experts contribute to the 446th AMDS, on how much they help us get all our work done at home.”

Again, the high levels of experience of our Reservists came into play.

“Our folks were able to help

with active-duty training programs. The 3rd Wing medical education coordinator was very pleased with their efforts.”

The 446th AMDS medical professionals regularly deploy in support of active-duty medical units and facilities for annual tour.

Their civilian and military experience helps keep active-duty programs running during a time of high operations tempo and multiple deployments of active-duty medical units.

# Reservists fly hope, help to Mexico

By Senior Airman Grant Saylor  
Wing Public Affairs

Reservists from the 446th Airlift Wing delivered hope, in the form of a bright yellow fire truck, and medical supplies to a village in the central Mexican state of Jalisco Sept. 19.

The donated cargo was flown by a crew of two pilots and three loadmasters from the 728th Airlift Squadron as part of the Denton Amendment program, which allows free transport of non-government relief supplies earmarked for humanitarian assistance.

The delivery of the surplus fire truck, a donation from the Sultan Fire Department, is part of an ongoing effort to improve emergency services in the village of Ayutla. The inspiration for the relief effort came after three villagers there died from injuries sustained in a car accident because there were no

emergency vehicles to transport them to a hospital.

“We’re all here trying to make the world a slightly better place,” said Lt. Col. Christopher Von Thaden, 728th AS director of operations. “When we get to fly missions like this, you get that instant gratification knowing you’re doing something good to help your fellow man.”

Crews from the 446th AW are trained for worldwide operations, but this mission presented some unique challenges, said Colonel Von Thaden.

The crew from the 728th AS flew the supplies into Guadalajara, where no U.S. Air Force plane has been for more than two years.

Because of that, said the colonel, instrument approaches had to be reviewed for accuracy. The city lies in the middle of a valley with mountains on both sides, requiring pilots to be particularly alert and prepared.



Photos by Abner Guzman  
**Master Sgt. Patrick McMullen, 86th Aerial Port Squadron, unloads scales to weigh a fire truck for a joint inspection before it can be loaded onto a C-17.**

Also, when flying outside the U.S., diplomatic clearance issues often come into play.

“The wickets aren’t necessarily going to line up,” said Colonel Von Thaden. “But finding volunteers for this mission was not a challenge.”

Those volunteers included specialists from several domains within the wing.

“My squadron put out the call for volunteers to help support this mission, so I answered the call,” said Staff Sgt. Benjamin Thomsen, 86th Aerial Port Squadron.

Sergeant Thomsen was at the wheel of a 60K loader (capable of transporting 60,000 pounds), and helped load the C-17 with 12 pallets of emergency medical equipment. Meanwhile, several of his squadron mates scurried underneath the 2,000-gallon fire tender to attach tie down chains to the aircraft floor.

“It always feels good to be a part of something that will help others in need,” said Sergeant Thomsen, who works as a Pierce County corrections officer in his civilian job.

Humanitarian missions give crews from the wing an opportunity to make a difference in non combat-related missions.

“It’s so nice to bring needed supplies to those people who need them,” said Master Sgt. Richard Lutz, 728th AS loadmaster scheduler. “This is by far the most satisfying type of mission we fly.”



**Tech Sgt. Lance Nelson prepares to back a 2,000-gallon fire tender onto a C-17 at McChord AFB Sept. 19. The donated fire truck was delivered to Mexico by a Reserve air crew from the 446th Airlift Wing as part of a humanitarian mission. Sergeant Nelson is a loadmaster with the 728th Airlift Squadron.**

# S A - F E E S



## Days to remember

Oct. 4, 1957

The Soviet Union launches Sputnik, the world's first artificial space satellite.

## Promotions

### Lieutenant Colonel

Eric Barker, 728th AS  
Jonathan Bowser, 313th AS  
Anthony Bukata, 97th AS  
George Gonzalez, 446th AMDS  
Ted Grady, 97th AS  
John Keagle, 313th AS  
Barbara Kiliz, 36th APS  
Laura Kreidler, 313th AS  
Stephen Logan, 97th AS  
Ray Luevanos, 446th ALCF  
Annette Maillard, 446th AES  
Martin Oliver, 446th ALCF  
Larry Packard 313th AS  
Robert Sawyer, 728th AS  
Duane Winder, 97th AS

### Senior Master Sergeant

Michelle Helpenstell, 446th SFS  
Steven Martin, 446th ALCF

### Master Sergeant

Robert Farrell, 446th AMXS  
Harold Ishoy, 446th MXS  
Diana Feeley, 446th MXG

### Technical Sergeant

Shawn Clayton, 446th AES  
Allen Ellzey, 446th MXS  
Barry Fraissinet, 446th MXS  
Brady Hampton, 446th AMXS  
Michael MacDonald, 728th AS  
John Maya, 446th AMXS  
Paul Nelson, 446th AMXS  
Robert Saka, 446th OSF

### Staff Sergeant

Dennis Shay, 728th AS

Justin Haines, 446th AMXS  
Paul Palmer, 446th AMXS  
Jacob Saathoff, 446th AMXS  
Jeffrey Young, 36th APS

### Senior Airman

Melissa Klaiber, 446th AES  
Jesse Masters, 728th AS  
Cody Owens, 446th MXS  
Aaron Pae, 446th AMXS

### Airman First Class

Lindsay Barnes, 446th AES  
Kristen Lorena, 446th AMXS  
Nicole Odekirk, 446th AMXS  
Jedediah Ryan, 446th AMXS

## Newcomers

### Major

Janine Sommerville, 446th AMDS

### Senior Master Sergeant

Cliff Prejean, 446th CES

### Technical Sergeant

Emilio Maddaloni, 446th CES

### Staff Sergeant

Nicholas Barrett, 86th APS  
Tabitha Kay Grahn, 446th MSS  
Ross Holmes, 86th APS  
Megan Payne, 446th CES  
Jake Thueson, 446th MSS  
Garett Wass, 446th CES

### Senior Airman

Jessica Asmussen, 86th APS  
Derenta Donnell, 97th AS  
Jared Landin, 446th CES

David Lanskey, 446th OSF  
Ryan Nintzel, 446th OSF  
Princess Rowe, 36th APS  
John Soules, 446th SFS  
Matthew Travis, 86th APS

### Airman First Class

Jesse Quidachay, 446th AMXS  
B.J. Saye, 86th APS

### Airman

Ignacio Roderiguez, 36th APS

### Airman Basic

Daniel Henderson, 86th APS

## Retirements

### Lieutenant Colonel

Diane Little, 728th AS  
Sandra Steeneck, 728th AS

### Captain

Rhonda Maloney, 446th AMXS

### Chief Master Sergeant

Grant Eckroth, 446th AMXS

### Senior Master Sergeant

Edward Miller, 728th AS

### Master Sergeant

Rodolpho Diaz, 446th AMXS  
Mark Ellwein, 446th ASTS  
Teresa Faulconer, 446th CES  
Gary Gosselin, 446th AMXS  
Joe Hunt Jr., 446th AMXS  
Kenneth Rochefort, 446th AMXS  
Gilbert Serr, 446th AMXS  
Tina Stutts, 446th ASTS



### Vigilant angel

Tech. Sgt. Kristy Wellman, 446th Aeromedical Airlift Squadron, checks a patient's vital signs before take off at a base in Southwest Asia during a bandage mission Sept. 23. She is currently deployed as a charge medical technician with the 332nd Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Aaron Allmon

# Just Briefly

## What was your favorite Halloween costume as a child?

Vampire

Vampire. I always liked vampire movies like Bram Stoker's Dracula!



◆ Staff Sgt. Brandon Lee  
36th Aerial Port Squadron

Clown

A clown. Because it's always happy -- like me! I'm a happy person.



◆ Senior Airman Terri Schmidt  
446th Operations Support Flight

Chewbacca

Chewbacca. One of friends sent his kids out to the treeline where I was hiding. They thought I was Big-foot. I didn't know kids could run that fast!



◆ Senior Master Sgt. Bill Robison  
446th Aerospace Medicine Squadron

Dracula

Dracula. It was an easy costume to make and I got to wear the plastic teeth and slick my hair back.



◆ Master Sgt. Lyle Harvey  
446th Mission Support Squadron

## Wing Commander's Call coming up in November for all Reservists

There will be a wing-wide Commander's Call on Nov. 2 at 8 a.m. in Hangar 9.

## UTA shuttle customers require DD Form 1853 to board

Effective immediately, the DD Form 1853 requirement will be enforced and those Reservists not having one will be not be able to board the UTA shuttle aircraft. All 446th Airlift Wing units must issue a DD form 1853 to each Reservist of their squadron who flies in from Fairchild AFB Wash., and Hill AFB, Utah.

## Seventh annual Moosefest for 446th Maintenance Group set

On Nov. 1, the seventh annual 446th Maintenance Group Moosefest will be held at the McChord Club.

Moosefest was founded out of a desire to honor those within the maintenance group who excel at their job, and the awards presented during the evening reflect that philosophy. Tickets are \$20 for E-1- E-5, \$25 for E-6 - E-9, and \$30 for officers. For more information or tickets, please contact Senior Master Sgt. Kim Johnson, 253-982-5244.

## New requirements in effect to obtain military identification card

The 446th Mission Support Squadron's Military Personnel Flight Customer Service Office has upgraded to the new RAPIDS 7 system. With this upgrade come changes to requirements for issuing ID Cards.

Two forms of identification are now required for issuance of any ID card - military or dependent. Examples of acceptable forms of identification include:

Military ID card, drivers license, passport, voter's registration card, social security card, etc. For a more complete list, call the MPF customer service at 982-.

## Military personnel flight reopens for Wednesday business

The 446th Mission Support Squadron's military personnel flight is open again for business on Wednesdays.

In June, the MPF staff began preparing personnel records for conversion to electronic records, requiring them to close to customers on Wednesdays.

On behalf of the MPF, a big thank you to the entire wing for your patience and understanding in allowing the MPF to accomplish this task.

The MPF will continue to be closed on Thursdays for training. If you have emergencies/exceptions, please give Chief

Master Janice Kallinen or Senior Master Sergeant Cheri Lewis (982-9107) a call.

## Reservist earns two awards at Airman leadership school

Congratulations to Senior Airman Randall Cummings, 446th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, for earning the Academic Achievement Award and the Distinguished Graduate Award from the Julius A Kolb Airman Leadership School, Class 08-E.

## Program offers enlisted members chance to LEAD

Enlisted Airmen interested in U.S. Air Force Academy appointments may have their chance to become an officer through the Leaders Encouraging Airman Development program. Unit and wing commanders may nominate highly qualified Airmen to attend the academy. To be considered eligible, Airmen must not yet be 23 years old on July 1 of the year entering the academy.

Half of the 170 slots are available for enlisted members of the Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard. Fifty slots are also reserved at the preparatory school for Airmen who do not meet direct entry criteria, with the intention of an academy appointment to follow upon successful completion of the prep school. For more information on the LEAD program, visit [www.academy-admissions.com](http://www.academy-admissions.com) or call 719-333-8574 or 800-443-9266.

## Reservists can now nominate selves for joint experience credit

Reserve Airmen can now nominate themselves for joint experience credit online through the Joint Qualification System at <http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/appj/jmis/JQSindex.jsp>. To progress through the four levels of joint qualification, officers must complete the required joint education and fulfill the criterion of either the standard path or the experience path.

The standard path requires serving in a joint duty assignment list position. The experience path means service in a non-JDAL position for which an officer may request the experience be considered for award of points. It allows point accumulation through a combination of shorter joint assignments, exercises and training.

JQS includes a grandfather clause permitting retroactive point credit dating back to Oct. 1, 1986, for Reserve component officers, and Sept. 11, 2001, for active-duty officers.

For more information, read the Air Force Print News story at <http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123109483>.

# Total force walk to fight cancer

By Senior Airman Grant Saylor  
—Wing Public Affairs

Master Sgt. Diana Feeley normally wears a size 7 1/2 shoe. Recently, her feet became a picture of pain. Swelling, discoloration and bulging blisters forced her to

gingerly don a size 10 open-toed rubber sandal.

Her feet looked like the end result of a dermatology experiment gone terribly wrong... and she couldn't be happier.

The Air Reserve Technician was one of more than 3,300 Seattle-area participants in the 2008 Susan G. Komen Breast

Cancer Three-Day fundraiser, a 60 mile Sept. 12-14.

Sergeant Feeley walked with a team of eight other women who dubbed themselves the "Breast Savers."

One of her teammates, Master Sgt. Chrisandra Davis, 62nd Operations Group, is a breast cancer survivor, one year removed from chemotherapy treatment. The native of Kent said completing the event was a powerful experience.

"Emotionally, this was way cooler than finishing chemo," said Sergeant Davis.

The families of both women have felt the ravaging effects of cancer. Sergeant Feeley lost her father to cancer two years ago. And Sergeant Davis' sister, mother, and grandmother all suffered from breast cancer.

"You can't help but acknowledge that women really die from this disease," said Sergeant Fee-

ley. "And it has a ripple effect on men and children, too."

Sergeant Davis said she came away from this year's event with an even greater appreciation for her friend.

"Diana defined what the true measure of a friend should be," said Sergeant Davis. "Despite the pain, she never once said 'I don't think I can make it'."

The admiration was mutual.

"I would have done this again for Chris," said Sergeant Feeley. "If we'd had to walk another 60 miles, I'd have said, 'bandage my feet... let's go!'"

Despite the sore muscles and traumatized feet, these Air Force humanitarians have vowed to participate next year, with one slight change. They hope to form an all-McChord team.

"Diana and I only hope to inspire other people to take this incredible journey," said Sergeant Davis.

The two cancer crusaders have pragmatic advice for would-be participants.

"The pain goes away," said Sgt. Davis. Then she paused.

"Although, ibuprofen helps a little."



Courtesy photo

Photo Above: Master Sgt. Diana Feeley (left) and Master Sgt. Chrisandra Davis share a smile during a breast cancer fundraiser in Seattle Sept. 13. Photo Left: Sergeant Davis and Sergeant Feeley share a laugh at the 446th Airlift Wing information management office. Sergeant Feeley is a client support administrator for the Reserve wing, while Sergeant Davis is with the 62nd Operations Group - Total Force on and off duty.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Grant Saylor

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