

# AES ready to illuminate at Medlite '08

By Tech. Sgt. Jake Chappelle  
 Wing Public Affairs

The 446th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron is planning to send six people to the Medlite 2008 exercise in Tunisia, Africa, Nov. 7-10.

Medlite is a Joint-Force field training exercise run by Air Force Reserve Command. The purpose is for U.S. Armed Forces medical personnel to train Tunisian Air Force medical personnel in disciplines focusing on aeromedical evacuations and chemical warfare training, also known as CBRNE.

"The exercise is important because it is an opportunity for the U.S. and Tunisians to train together," said Senior Master Sgt. A.J. Wilds, superintendent of aeromedical operations with the 446th AES.

"How it works is that the Tunisians send out a list of what type of training they need and (Air Force Reserve Command) sends out an Air Force-wide letter to potential applicants who have that type of expertise," said Master Sgt. Dave Allen, NCO in charge of operations training. "We then send down the people and equipment to the exercise."

Medlite isn't new for the 446th AES.



"AES has had people participating in Medlite since 2003," said Sergeant Wilds.

Despite this fact, AES still sends new faces each year.

"This is my first time participating," said Capt. Joe Foss, a flight nurse with 446th AES. "I've heard that Medlite was a real positive experience and the Tunisians are very gracious hosts. It's a unique exercise in the fact that we are training foreign military in their country as guests and teachers."

According to Captain Foss, Medlite provides visibility for the 446th AW and a rare opportunity to teach rather than do.

"It's good to have representation from the 446th Airlift Wing in this exercise, because it's high-profile and we can make our mark," said Captain Foss. "It's also different for AES because we are used to flying. However, we get to flex our teaching muscles for this."

Good rapport between other countries' forces can be maintained through these exercises.

"It's a chance for the U.S. medical forces to promote good will and a good relationship with our allies in North Africa," said Captain Foss. "Anytime you train people to take care of the sick and injured, it's a pretty positive thing."

# SFS NCOs make difference in Kirkuk

By Tech. Sgt. Jake Chappelle  
 Wing Public Affairs

Three Airmen from the 446th Security Forces Squadron are almost half way through their deployment to Kirkuk Regional Air Base, Iraq. They left McChord in July and are scheduled to return in March.

Tech. Sgt. Michael Pate, assistant training manager, Tech. Sgt. Richard Shumate, Raven program manager, and Staff Sgt. Shaun Feero, assistant unit deployment manager, are attached

to the 506th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"Our mission is to defend the base," said Sergeant Feero. "Without base defense operations, terrorist organizations would have a stronghold in the area of Kirkuk and northern Iraq because flying operations and Army convoys would not be able to function."

Sergeant Pate breaks the 24-hour, 365 days a year job down simply.

"We're here to ensure that

the base remains safe for everyone here," said Sergeant Pate.

"We help keep the base safe at night, so everyone can sleep knowing the bad guys can't get in and the guys out on missions have a safe home to come back to. No getting off and heading home to the family for dinner. It's in the towers, in the dirt, and it's been a while since we've driven faster than 25 miles per hour."

Keeping people safe requires a multitude of skills.

"I work as a radio telephone

operator," said Sergeant Feero. "I dispatch patrols to Tactical Automated Security Systems alarms, dispatch patrols to points of impact for cordons, and make sure posts and patrols are aware of ALARM conditions. My duties are to detect, warn, delay, and defeat any hostile act against the installation."

Sergeant Pate is the midnight shift radio and telephone operator at the Base Defense Operations Center. In addition,

**The 446th Associate Press**  
Volume 30, No. 11  
November 2008

Nov. 20 is the deadline for articles in the December 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  
2nd Lt. Candice Allen

**Public Affairs Assistant/Editor**

Ms. Sandra Pishner

**Staff Writers**

Tech. Sgt. Nick Przybyciel  
Tech. Sgt. Jake Chappelle  
Staff Sgt. Grant Saylor  
Airman First Class Patrick Cabellon

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.

# Americans honor people like you on Veterans Day

By Col. Lisa Tank  
446th Airlift Wing

As we approach Veteran's Day 2008, it is time to reflect on this special occasion. It is one day set aside to remind us of the sacrifices and service of our veterans - men and women who have valiantly and selflessly devoted giving of themselves toward something greater than themselves - the United States of America.

Indeed, this day helps us focus our attention on celebrating America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good - the key purpose of Veterans Day.

While the idea of a world without war is appealing, we have to remember that over the years, our veterans, through

countless wars and struggles, have liberated oppressed peoples, ended genocide and toppled terrorist regimes. From the Revolutionary War to the current War on Terror, men and women from all walks of life have shared the common bond of their oath to defend this nation no matter the danger or the enemy. And for this, we owe them a debt of gratitude. Not just on Veterans Day, but every day.

As we think about giving thanks to our veterans, it's worth a moment to reflect on who our veterans are today. We remember our deceased veterans who have served and have been laid to rest. And we remember our living veterans, from previous wars to our current conflicts. However, one group of individuals that comes to my mind immediately are the outstanding



Col. Lisa Tank

individuals I see all over the 446th Airlift Wing. I applaud you for your level of commitment, dedication, and never ending work ethic. Simply put, you are second to none. The times may have changed and warfare may have changed, but the veteran is still the same hero. That includes you.



**Sign up to become an E-partner**

Get email updates to our public website

[www.446aw.afrc.af.mil/](http://www.446aw.afrc.af.mil/)

Get your 446th Airlift Wing news alerts by joining our list service. When new content is added to the wing's public home Web page, you'll be notified. Get your news faster by becoming an E-partner at [www.446aw.afrc.af.mil](http://www.446aw.afrc.af.mil)

This site is accessible from any computer - work, home, or anywhere you surf the Web.

## Employers learn about Reserve duty

# Knowledge of law key to relationship

About 25 civilian employers of Reservists spent Oct. 4 with the 446th Airlift Wing learning about the mission of the wing and the importance of what their civilian employees do on Reserve weekends.

In addition to learning about the requirements levied on Reservists and a C-17 orientation flight, employers learned more in depth what the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve organization offers and what the law requires.

The National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve is an agency within the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs. ESGR operates programs directed toward U.S. employers, employees, and communities to ensure understanding of the role of Reserve component members.

The Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act was enacted in October 1994 to provide job protection and rights of reinstatement to employees who participate in the Guard and Reserve.

The Act seeks to ensure that members of the uniformed services are entitled to return to their civilian employment upon completion of their service. They should be reinstated with the seniority, status, and rate of pay they would have obtained

had they remained continuously employed by their civilian employer. The law also protects individuals from discrimination in hiring, promotion, and retention on the basis of present and future membership in the armed services.

Major sections of the USERRA law include:

- Placing a 5-year limit (with some exceptions) on the cumulative length of time a person may serve in the military and remain eligible for reemployment rights with the pre-service employer;
- Requiring an individual to give written or verbal notice to their employer prior to departure for military service;
- Establishing time limits for reporting back to work, based on the length of time in the uniformed service, rather than on the type of service, and requiring documentation of such service, if available;
- Providing for the continuation of employer provided health insurance (at the service member's request) for an 24-month period, with payment of up to 102 percent of the full premium by the servicemember;
- Requiring that an employee's military service not be considered a break in employment for pension benefit purposes, and providing that the person's military service must be considered service with an employer for vesting and benefit accrual



Photo by Staff Sgt. Grant Saylor

**Civilian employers of Reservists get a feel for the airdrop mission on a C-17 during the 446th Airlift Wing Employer Orientation Day Oct. 4.**

purposes;

- Providing that the U.S. Department of Labor Veterans' Employment and Training Service shall assist all employees, including federal government workers.

Other highlights of the law are:

- Employees must be excused from work to attend inactive duty training (drill) or annual training and the employer must re-employ the employee as if he or she has not been absent.
- Employers may require an employee to provide documentation of military service after periods of military leave of absence for more than 30 days, which can be used to establish the employee's basic eligibility for protection under USERRA.
- Employers can't require an employee to reschedule drills, annual training, or any other military duty obligation. However, the employer may contact the military commander of the employee's military unit to

determine if the duty could be rescheduled or performed by another member. If the military commander determines that the military duty cannot be rescheduled or canceled, the employer is required to permit the employee to perform his or her military duty.

- While many employers offer differential pay or a specific number of paid military leave days, an employer is not required to pay an employee on military leave of absence.
- If an employee is injured or incurs a disability during military duty, the deadline for reinstatement may be extended for up to two years for persons who are convalescing due to a disability incurred or aggravated during military service, and employers must make reasonable accommodations for the impairment.

For more information, visit the Web site [www.esgr.org](http://www.esgr.org) or contact the 446th Airlift Wing Public Affairs office at 982-2060.



# MXG deployments like clockwork

By Tech. Sgt. Jake Chappelle  
Wing Public Affairs

The 446th Maintenance Group deployed more than 30 Airmen this year to support Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

The upcoming new year looks to be just as busy.

The Reserve maintenance group will be filling 13 positions for the Air Expeditionary Force starting in January 2009, said Senior Master Sgt. Kim Johnson, 446th MXG unit deployment manager.

Tech. Sgt. Elliott Standish, an integrated flight control system technician with the 446th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, and Tech. Sgt. Thomas Raynor, also an IFCS technician, are two Reservists who have been deployed this year.

Sergeant Raynor was assigned to the 447th Expeditionary Operation Support Squadron at Baghdad International Airport, Iraq from April to September.

"The overall mission at Baghdad International Airport is diverse," said Sergeant Raynor. "The unit I was assigned to was the transient alert and maintenance section, controlling and servicing as many as 150-plus fixed wing and rotary flights per day; passengers, cargo, special ops, detainee, and distinguished visitors. All were in support of OIF."

Because of the high ops tempo in theater, some of the deployed personnel are given more than one task.

"I worked in the command post as a maintenance operations center controller," said Sergeant Raynor. "I tracked all military and support flights and coordinated all maintenance and servicing activities. I also worked as the only integrated avionics associate for C-17



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Elliot Standish  
**Two aircraft maintainers from the 5th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron replace a primary engine driven hydraulic pump on a C-17 at Ali Al Salem Air Base, Iraq.**

Globemasters, which meant that I had to go to the flightline to assist when avionics issues were present."

Sergeant Standish was greeted with a similar challenge. Sergeant Standish was deployed with the 5th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron in

Ali Al Salem Air Base, Kuwait, from May to September.

"The jobs that I performed while on deployment were different," said Sergeant Standish. "I had to be much more versatile in the fact that I had to not only know my job, but my co-workers' as well. I started

learning their jobs so I could help them out, so they would not be overworked. I also fixed and maintained the C-17s for special resupply and special operations missions."

Deployments in theater can also be an eye opener when it comes to the reality and importance of the mission.

"Doing your job in theater is a very different experience because you are seeing everything first hand, such as an indirect fire attack at a very high frequency," said Sergeant Raynor. "This is where all of your training back home comes into play. You are tested under pressure when the stakes are high."

Updated training is crucial before deploying.

"The training (I received back home) seems to be consistent (with how we operate), so working with other components was flawless," said Sergeant Raynor.

According to Sergeant Raynor, real-world deployments are the best way for Reservists to get training and knowledge.

"It is important for the Reserve to take deployments to help relieve the overall strain and requirements of the Air Force," said Sergeant Raynor. "Deployments also make me more knowledgeable of my primary job at home station."



Air Force Courtesy photo  
**Tech. Sgt. Thomas Raynor, 446th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, salutes during an honor guard flying and folding of the ceremonial flag in front of the Sather Air Base, Baghdad, Iraq.**

**"Doing your job in theater is a very different experience because you are seeing everything first hand ..."**

-Tech. Sgt. Thomas Raynor

# Behind the scenes work moves mission

By Senior Airman Grant Saylor  
& Sandra Pishner

Wing Public Affairs

Driving the fire truck down the ramp of a McChord C-17, the driver kicked on the full complement of lights and sirens to the delight of the waiting townspeople of Ayutla, Mexico.

It took three-hours for the townspeople to drive to Guadalajara to see the delivery of this donated fire truck; it took two years and a lot of behind the scenes work for the delivery to take place.

The 446th Operations Support Flight staff put in a lot of hard work to coordinate the mission, said Maj. Ben Morley, 446th OSF director of current operations. The staff began planning for the mission in March.

Planning began with a request for transportation under the Denton Amendment program, which allows free transport of non-government relief supplies earmarked for humanitarian assistance. Among other responsibilities, Major Morley's staff and the Denton staff at Charleston AFB, S.C., had to secure diplomatic clearances for crewmembers and cargo, and had to get

equipment donors validated through Air Mobility Command.

"There are only a few OG shops that can take on a mission this complicated," said Loretta Lawton, 446th OSF deputy director of current operations. "If we didn't know what we were doing, the cargo never would have made it there."

People at the Denton Program were also happy to help coordinate a complex humanitarian airlift.

"I've been doing this for nine years," said Mike McAvoy, Denton Program traffic manager at Charleston AFB. "Any time people are in dire need, it's very rewarding to see that Americans can get them equipment like this."

The competence and planning of the 446th OG staff also made it possible to maximize training for crewmembers.

"We try to merge the aircrew and their training requirements with the cargo and the mission," said Major Morley. "We're sort of like e-Harmony for aircraft!"

No U.S. Air Force aircraft had flown to Guadalajara in more than two years, so pilot preparation for this mission required special terrain review and simulator time, accord-

ing to Lt. Col. Blake Pierson, 728th AS and co-pilot on the mission.

"There's high terrain all around so we practiced approaches and departures, and simulated an engine loss," he said.

Colonel Pierson proved an ideal candidate to fly this mission since he routinely flies to Guadalajara in his civilian job as a Boeing 737 pilot for Alaska Airlines. That's one of the reasons the mission went off without a hitch, said Major Morley.

Along with the fire truck, other emergency equipment and supplies were delivered to the village of Ayutla in Mexico.

"I think I can speak for the whole crew when I say humanitarian missions are one of the more rewarding things we can do," said Colonel Pierson.

Indeed, other members of the crew said they felt privileged to be a part of delivering hope to our neighbors south of the border.

"Any time your actions can help others and reflect positively on the U.S. Air Force and our country, it's a worthwhile endeavor," said Master Sgt. Scott Terra, 728th AS loadmaster. "These types of missions really speak to the greatness and philanthropy of our nation."

## SFS

Continued from Page 1

he serves as the Tactical Liaison NCO between the Army and the Air Force security forces to make sure that both groups are on the same page.

Despite the high-risk hazards of the job, security forces Reservists make the choice to be mobilized.

"I volunteered for this deployment," said Sergeant Feero. "I feel it is not only my duty, but I would like to be a part of something that makes a difference in our country's future."

Sergeant Pate agrees.

"It's what we all raised our hands to," said Sergeant Pate. "I take personal pride when we're out here doing our jobs. It's long hours and a lot of adrenaline and excitement. We don't do it for praise or some special bullet. It's what we are and what we do."



Photo by Master Sgt. Mark Japuncha

**Tech. Sgt. Michael Pate (left), Tech. Sgt. Richard Shumate (middle), and Staff Sgt. Shaun Feero, all with 446th Security Forces Squadron, stand tall and ready to roll in front of one of their new Mine Resistant Ambush Protected armored vehicles. The three NCO's are currently on a deployment with the 506th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, Kirkuk Regional Air Base, Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.**

# Soldiers



## Days to remember

Nov. 8, 1950

In history's first battle between jet aircraft, a U.S. Air Force F-80 Shooting Star, piloted by Lt. Russell J. Brown, downs a North Korean MiG-15.

## Promotions

**Senior Master Sergeant**  
David Burns, 446th SFS

**Master Sergeant**  
Wendy Beauchaine, 446th MSS  
David Duncan, 446th AMXS  
Nathan Krawitz, 446th AMXS  
Linda Moore, 86th APS

**Technical Sergeant**  
Joshua Allen, 446th AMXS  
Merle Brooks, 446th AMXS  
Benjamin Fraser, 446th MXS  
Courtney Gonder, 313th AS  
Thomas Raynor, 446th AMXS  
James Ward, 446th ASTS  
Philip Williams, 446th AMXS

**Staff Sergeant**  
Wendy Clark, 446th MSS  
Edward Crossett, 46th MXS  
Ronald Lagman, 446th CES  
Kimberlee Loomis, 446th OG  
Steven Light, 446th AMXS  
Peter Olsufka, 728th AS  
Voniem Ong, 446th CES  
Joseph Siegel, 446th CES  
Jianfu Zhu, 446th MSS

**Senior Airman**  
Tyler Akers, 86th APS  
Latrice Blair, 86th APS  
Ryan Bushnell, 446th MXS  
Annie Dunbar, 446th ASTS  
Jordan Kolstad, 446th AES  
John Magno, 446th AMXS  
Janice Mann, 86th APS  
Cesar Morales, 86th APS  
Cuong Nguyen, 446th MSS  
April Oswald, 446th MSS  
Monica Stuart, 446th ASTS

**Airman**  
Micaiah Schneider, 446th AMXS

## Newcomers

**Captain**  
Samuel Arieff, 728th AS  
Kelly McCarthy, 446th ASTS  
Jennifer Wright, 446th ASTS

**Master Sergeant**  
Scott Steil, 446th CES

**Staff Sergeant**  
Shane Hall, 36th APS  
Curtis Hanson, 446th MXS  
Eric Martin, 446th AMXS

**Senior Airman**  
Andrew Davis, 446th ASTS  
Karissa Kvam, 446th AES  
Jared Landin, 446th CES

**Airman First Class**  
Holly Henry, 86th APS  
Jeremy Hummel, 446th AMXS  
Janice Mann, 86th APS  
Cuong Nguyen, 446th MSS

**Airman Basic**  
Daniel Henderson, 86th APS  
Micaiah Schneider, 446th AMXS

## Retirements

**Chief Master Sergeant**  
Alan Gingras, 446th MXS

**Senior Master Sergeant**  
Roger Holmes, 36th APS  
Jerry Lynch, 446th LRF

**Master Sergeant**  
Dixie Horton, 313th AS

**Technical Sergeant**  
Leonard Bernsdorf, 446th MXS  
Gifford Silver, 36th APS  
Garner Wood, 446th AMXS



Photo by Bud McKay

### A fair day at the fair

Master Sgt. Eric Wentworth, 446th Civil Engineer Squadron, talks with Mr. Elbert "Al" Senyohl, from the Washington Soldiers Home, while at the Puyallup Fair. Several volunteers from Team McChord escorted residents during the fair in late-September.

# Just Briefly

## What are your plans for Thanksgiving?

### Family

I am going to Oregon with my family. I have aunts and uncles coming in from Georgia, North Carolina, Colorado, and Arizona.



◆ Master Sgt. Laura Elliot  
446th Operations Support Flight

### Work

My husband will be working, so I'll be catching up with things around the house.



◆ Renate Pires  
446th Airlift Wing

### Eating

My wife's family will be in town. We will be eating yams, turkey, cranberries, and pumpkin pie loaded with whipped cream.



◆ Lt. Col. Kevin Welin  
446th Airlift Wing

### Football

I'm driving to Cannon Beach, stay in a hotel, and enjoy the peace and quiet with football and pie.



◆ Senior Master Sgt. Jim Kuchnisky  
446th Operations Group

## Holiday help for Reservists with food baskets, Angel tree

The holidays are quickly approaching and you can help make the holidays better for Reservists and their families.

In order to again meet the needs of as many Reservists and families, the 446th Airman and Family Readiness Center is collecting food so they can provide it to the members and families of the 446th AW for Thanksgiving.

Nonperishable food donations can be dropped off at the 446th A&FRC in Bldg. 1207.

Food baskets will be delivered by Nov. 25. The A&FRC can also use cash donations and gift cards. The gift cards are helpful because if the member lives far away we can mail them the card, and they can then purchase what they need.

## Combined Federal Campaign one stop shopping for charities

It is Combined Federal Campaign time again. The campaign's goal is 100% contact with all full-time employees of the wing. The campaign runs through Dec. 15.

Coordinating the effort for the 446th Airlift Wing this year is Kathie Brazell, 446th Operations Group.

One of the new features of the campaign is that donations can be made online. By going to [http://www.cfcnexus.org/\\_cfcgive/](http://www.cfcnexus.org/_cfcgive/) you can select the amount you wish to contribute and designate who it will go to. Each person who makes a donation online should follow the directions for "First time donor." There are thousands of organizations which could benefit from your generosity. Information about each member organization is available on the web site. If you got to the online site, whether you make a donation or not, drop an e-mail to your group POC so you can be counted in their contact tally.

For more information, contact Ms. Brazell at 982-3883.

## Civilian and enlisted Airmen earn quarterly awards

The following individuals were selected as civilian of the quarter for the 446th Airlift Wing. They will now compete for the Team McChord Award.

Category 1A - Guven J. H. Ferrin, 446th Maintenance Squadron

Category 1B - Balinda G. Cargill, 446th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

Category 2A - Andrew R. Madrid, 446th AMXS

Category 2B - Janice G. Kallinen, 446th Mission Support Group

The enlisted award winners for the third quarter of 2008 are as follows:

Airman - Senior Airman Buell Richard-

son, 446th MXS

NCO - Tech. Sgt. Rosario Edwards, 97th Airlift Squadron

Senior NCO - Senior Master Sgt. Stephen Harris, 446th Services Flight

## 62nd Airlift Wing finance office reverts to walk-in assistance

The 62nd Airlift Wing's finance customer service is ending the appointment system and reverting to walk-in customer service Monday through Friday, 9 a.m., to 3 p.m.

## Get out your ideas and design the wing's Rodeo team logo

The 446th Airlift Wing Rodeo team needs your design ideas! They are looking for a logo for the 2009 team and you could be a winner.

The winning design will be announced in January and the winning designer will win a \$50 AAFES gift certificate plus a team T-shirt and hat with the top design.

Contest entries must be submitted in .jpg format to [446AW.pa@mcchord.af.mil](mailto:446AW.pa@mcchord.af.mil) NLT Dec. 6. Design entries can have up to 6 colors (including black and white). Submitted designs can contain additional elements but must include:

"McChord," "446th Airlift Wing" or "446th AW," and "Air Force Reserve" or "Reserve".

Suggested symbols for use in the design are: 446th AW patch, the C-17 Globemaster III, Mount Rainier, horses, cowboys, cowboy boots, etc. Sample of past designs are available from the 446th AW/PA office. You can come by in person, or request the samples through the e-mail address above.

For more information contact 446th AW/PA at 253-982-2060, [anna.sullivan@mcchord.af.mil](mailto:anna.sullivan@mcchord.af.mil), or Maj Tim Greminger, 446th AW rep to the '09 Rodeo committee at [timothy.greminger@mcchord.af.mil](mailto:timothy.greminger@mcchord.af.mil).

## Get a shot or get mist, just get your flu vaccinations now

The 446th Aerospace Medicine Squadron has FluMist and flu shots available.

You must fill out a screening form prior to receiving a flu vaccination.

Screening forms are available at the 446th AMDS Records Section counter.

Hours to receive vaccinations are:

Monday - Friday, 9 to 11 a.m., and 1 to 3 p.m. in Bldg 691, Flight Medicine office

UTA weekends - Saturday 7:30 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m., and Sunday, 9 to

11:30 a.m., at the 62nd Clinic, Bldg 690, Immunization Clinic

If you have any questions, contact Tech. Sgt. Barb Giannetti at 982-3956 during the week or 982-5189 on UTAs.



Photo by Sandra Pishner  
**Master Sgt. Alfredo Cruz, 446th Airlift Wing Financial Management, wears his blues every Monday, as mandated by the Air Force Chief of Staff.**

# Blue Monday doesn't have to be so blue

By Tech. Sgt. Jake Chappelle  
 Wing Public Affairs

Most Reservists don't work at McChord on Monday, and the ones that do aren't used to wearing blues. However, in October the chief of staff of the Air Force mandated that Airmen wear their blue uniform each Monday.

According to Master Sgt. Todd Lamphere, first sergeant of the 446th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, wearing blues once a week has its advantages.

"I think the concept of wearing the blues uniform takes us back to our heritage," said Sergeant Lamphere. "It's real easy to wear the battle dress uniform everyday and get used to it. Wearing blues every Monday reminds me of the pride of the Air Force."

Proper wear of the uniform is important when keeping that pride. Sergeant Lamphere refers to Air Force Instruction 36-2903.

"According to the AFI, men should ensure that the name tag is centered on the edge of the right pocket of the shirt," said Sergeant Lamphere. "Women center the name tag on the right side, even with to 1 1/2 inches higher or lower than the first exposed button of the shirt."

Ribbons are optional, but if you wear them you wear them all. For men, they should be resting on the edge of the left

pocket like a bookshelf. Specialty badges are worn 1/2 inch above the ribbons. If you're not wearing ribbons, then the badge should be 1/2 inch above the top edge of the pocket.

For women, the ribbons should be on the left side parallel with the ground, said Sergeant Lamphere.

"Align the bottom of the ribbons with the bottom of the name tag," said Sergeant Lamphere. "A tie tab is mandatory for long and short-sleeve shirts."

Sergeant Lamphere believes proper maintenance of the uniform is as important as the proper wearing of it.

"The moment I get home, I take off my name tag, badge, and ribbons and send my blues to the dry cleaners," said Sergeant Lamphere.

Another way to stay within regulations and be comfortable is through alterations.

"Make sure your pants are properly tailored or altered and that your shirts are the correct size," said Sergeant Lamphere.

"In order to stay up to date on any uniform regulation updates, refer to AFI 36-2903 or refer to [www.e-publishing.com](http://www.e-publishing.com).

Sergeant Lamphere links the pride of the uniform with the pride of the Air Force Reserve.

"Have pride in your blues uniform because this is why you're here and this is what we represent."

**"It's real easy to wear the battle dress uniform every day and get used to it. Wearing blues every Monday reminds me of the pride of the Air Force."**

- Master Sgt. Todd Lamphere



**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**