

# The NORTHWEST AIRLIFTER

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McChord Air Force Base, Wash.

Connecting Team McChord with the Combat Airlift Mission

April 4, 2008

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## Buffet debuts

Lt. Col. Ted Detwiler, 62nd Operations Support Squadron commander, enjoys the Wednesday buffet at the Globemaster Grill. The restaurant in the McChord Clubs and Community Center unveiled a new buffet menu Tuesday that will run daily from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The cost is \$5.95 for club members and \$6.95 for non club members.



Photo by Abner Guzman

## AMC ASEV team arrives

*14-day visit will inspect both wings*

By  
**Tyler Hemstreet**  
Staff writer

A 24-member Aircrew Standardization and Evaluation team arrived here Monday from Air Mobility Command headquarters at Scott Air Force Base, Ill., to conduct a 14-day inspection of various unit compliance and operational guidance across several programs in both the 62nd and 446th Airlift Wings.

Led by Col. Mike Cassidy, chief of standardization and evaluation at AMC, the cross-functional ASEV team composed of AMC staff personnel and augmentees will take a detailed look at all facets of active duty and reserve operations here.

The team will evaluate unit compliance with operational guidance and special interest items in several program areas which includes aeromedical evacuation, flight records and aviation resource management systems, standardization and evaluation, and training and tactics.

"Being that this is the first ASEV inspection in many years, the team's task is enormous and they won't just be looking at all of the paperwork," said Lt. Col. Robert Wellington, 62nd Operations Group.

At least 25 percent of all pilots and loadmasters have or will receive an ASEV flight evaluation in order to complete the inspection, Colonel Wellington said. In addition, all available aircrews will take a closed book written evaluation to test their knowledge of directives over the course of the next few days, he said.

Members of both the 62nd and 446th AW are well-prepared to demonstrate just how well each wing does what it does on a daily basis, Colonel Wellington said.

"Team McChord is ready anytime and anywhere, from inspections to combat operations in the area of responsibility, the answer is the same ... excellence in all we do," said Lt. Col. Pete Buehn, chief of the 446th Operations Group's Standardization and Evaluation section. The team will close its visit with a detailed out-brief of both wings at 8 a.m. on Friday at the base theater.

## Sexual Assault Awareness Month kicks off

By  
**Tyler Hemstreet**  
Staff writer

Each April, the Department of Defense and other organizations across the nation observe Sexual Assault Awareness Month. This annual event provides the opportunity to highlight the efforts that the DoD and each military service are taking to combat the crime and promote prevention through special activities and public education.

This year's theme for SAAM is "Prevent Sexual Assault: Ask! Act! Intervene!" The theme was chosen as a reminder that each person's actions can make a difference in someone's life.

"Lack of action puts our friends, families and co-workers in jeopardy," said Heather Van Mill, the 62nd Airlift Wing's Sexual Assault Response Coordinator. "When you see someone who looks like they could use assistance, ask them if they need help. When they ask for help, be sure to step in and assist."

Within the last three years, the DoD and military services have created new policies to address sexual assault prevention, according to the United States Department of Defense Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office.

The goal of this new approach, according to the office, is to establish a climate of confidence throughout the military.

- Sexual assault and the attitudes that promote it are not tolerated.

- Victims of sexual assault

receive the care and support that they need.

- Offenders are held accountable for their actions.

In honor of SAAM, the Sexual Assault Response Coordinator's office here will host a variety of educational and interactive events throughout April. Various T-shirts decorated by people expressing their thoughts, feelings or community safety suggestions will be anonymously displayed in the Customer Service Mall in Bldg 100 throughout the month. The SARC office will also host "Can I Kiss You", a presentation by Mike Domitrz that addresses sexual assault and violence on April 21 at the base theater.

There will also be a Walk to End Sexual Violence at 3 p.m. on April 25.

### Weekend Weather

FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Hi: 51 Low: 38	Hi: 50 Low: 38	Hi: 51 Low: 38

Forecast generated at 7 a.m. Thursday  
Courtesy of the 62nd Operations Support Squadron

### Mission Accomplished

Total McChord sorties .....	4,116
Total flying hours .....	12,887.1
Cargo moved (tons) .....	29,944.8
Departure reliability rate .....	95.2%
Mission capable rate .....	85.3%
Personnel currently deployed .....	364
Reservists currently activated.....	153
(Jan. 1 to Tuesday. Numbers updated Tuesday.)	

Don't miss it ...

## First Friday

First Friday is today from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the McChord Clubs and Community Center.

# Don't be a passive Wingman — intervene!

By  
**Col. Jeffrey Stephenson**  
62nd Airlift Wing commander

If you saw a house burning down, would you ignore it or lend your assistance in any way possible? As Airmen we may be witness to fires, car accidents, natural disasters and quite possibly, acts of physical violence.

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month and this year's theme is, "Prevent Sexual Assault: Ask! Act! Intervene!" If you see a person in danger, act quickly and call for help. If possible, stand by until help arrives.

When going out to a club, party or other social gathering, always plan ahead. You should travel in a group or with your Wingmen. Also, make sure you include a pact to arrive and leave together. At the party, act by checking-in with your fellow Wingmen and ensure he/she is never left alone. This is especially important when alcohol has been consumed. Intervene by calling a cab or Airmen Against Drunk Driving for a safe ride home. Never leave your Wingman behind!



Photo by 2nd Lt. Heather Boos

Col. Jeffrey Stephenson, 62nd Airlift Wing commander, meets 62nd Aerial Port Squadron Airmen during a recent visit.

# McChord Airmen are indeed 'Above All'

By  
**Lt. Col. Brian Newberry**  
7th Airlift Squadron commander

As I look back on the first half of my command tour, it is clear the success of our wing mission to provide combat airlift rests on the shoulders of our Airmen, who are "Above All". Every day I see examples within my flying squadron where we adapt and overcome to accomplish our mission safely. In the recent support of President's Bush historic visit to Africa, our Airmen performed admirably operating in austere locations. In one example, the crew quickly off-loaded critical equipment just in time to support Air Force One's landing minutes later.

Yet my Airmen are only part of the story — I

have witnessed numerous examples of McChord Airmen rising "Above All". From the deployed 62nd Aerial Port Squadron Airmen in Turkey making a difference to a flying crew chief working thru the night to get a stranded jet operational again, to a medical technician staying late to help an Airman whose deploying or a security policeman assisting a flyer to become mission ready, the examples are countless. While I was chief of safety here, I preached the importance of breaking the chain of events that could lead to a mishap. Here at McChord, the reverse is true. Our superior Airmen keep the chain of support strong, ensuring combat airlift for America happens without a hitch. The sequence of events depends on so many — including our vital civilian force to keep us "Above All".

Teamwork is indispensable in so many pursuits, but our wing commander reminded us in

his Wing Call why Airmen have a special edge. We are the only service where we dominate above the earth and sea; both our air forces and space forces own the high ground. We are "our nation's sword and shield, its sentry and avenger" as the Airmen Creed declares. Imagine the difficulty prosecuting a war without air dominance or GPS capability. While visiting the ruins of the World Trade Center several years ago, I was struck by the story of the Broadway Fire Department which lost the most members of any department on that fateful September day in 2001. Their motto remains "Never Missed a Performance." Having served with McChord Airmen for two years now, I can proudly say we have never missed a performance, and more to the point, Air Force Airmen have not missed a performance since our 1947 inception. We are indeed "Above All".

## Professionals of the week

### 62nd Aerial Port Squadron

#### Ms. Fay Soderquist

**Duty title:**  
Commander's secretary

**Duty section:**  
62nd APS Command Section

**Hometown:**  
DeFuniak Springs, Fla.

#### Why she's tops:

Ms. Soderquist is the commander's secretary, one-person orderly room, squadron section commander and squadron "Mom". In addition to the significant challenge of keeping the commander in line, she has taken on many personnel programs donated to the squadron as part of the base level service deliver method and many of the additional duties previously monitored by the squadron section commander. She ensures that all returning deployers get their post-deployment interview completed and manages the assignment of sponsors for inbound members. She's the first stop for all incoming Airmen and the last person they visit when they are undergoing a permanent change of station.



#### Airman 1st Class Erica Crotty

**Duty title:**  
Traffic management apprentice

**Duty section:**  
Packing and crating

**Hometown:**  
Forest Grove, Ore.

#### Why she's super:

Airman Crotty is the perfect example of a selfless volunteer. She has dedicated countless on and off duty hours to many different projects that benefited the base and community. She helped turn a tavern formerly used to distribute narcotics into \$1.3 million youth center in a troubled neighborhood off base. On base, she revamped the Traffic Management Office's packing and crating tool room and streamlined the accountability process. Her efforts cut the bulk in half and eliminated the problem of missing tools. Her goals are to get her degree in counseling and to work with troubled youths or become a social worker.



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# McChord Honor Guard pays tribute to famed 'Doolittle Raider'

By  
**Tyler Hemstreet**  
 Staff writer

The McChord Honor Guard recently played a pivotal role in honoring a deceased member of one of the most studied and talked about missions in the history of aerial warfare.

Retired Staff Sgt. Jacob DeShazer, 95, one of the famed "Doolittle Raiders," who helped boost American morale in the early days of World War II with a surprise air attack on Japan, died March 15.

The Honor Guard here sent 21 Airmen to assist in his military burial Saturday in Salem, Ore.

"As far as World War II veteran funerals go, this is the highest profile and one of the most important ones we've done," said Master Sgt. Douglas Pecor, 62nd Services Squadron, the non commissioned officer in charge of the Honor Guard.

In order to prepare for the funeral, Sergeant Pecor did some extensive research on the Doolittle Raiders and briefed his Airmen on the gravity of the ceremony.

"I told his story to them and the importance of it just fell into place for them," he said.

At the funeral, Honor Guard Airmen presented the colors, performed pallbearer duties, conducted a 21-gun salute, performed "Taps" and coordinated a B1-B Lancer flyover from the 34th Bomb Squadron at Ellsworth Air Force Base in South Dakota.

The Doolittle Raiders were originally part of the 34th.

The coordination of the entire funeral took quite a bit of work, which included the pallbearers carrying the casket from the funeral home to the Hearst and then from the Hearst to the gravesite, Sergeant Pecor said.

The flyover also took some precise



Courtesy photo

Retired Staff Sgt. Jacob DeShazer

communication between everyone involved, said 1st Lt. LeRoy Cohen, 4th Airlift Squadron, who communicated with the pilots over the radio during the ceremony.

While everything was on a timed schedule, when the minister finished up early Lieutenant Cohen had to inform the pilots of the change.

"Since everything was a timed sequence, it was on my shoulders," he said. "There was a little bit more pressure than usual because of the fact there were so many people involved in the funeral. We knew it was important."

The precision paid off as the Lancer flew over a mere 40 seconds after "Taps" was finished being played.

"It was really amazing," Lieutenant Cohen said.

Since the funeral was close to the freeway, drivers even pulled over to watch the flyby, he said.

"Everyone at the funeral applauded ... I'm sure it touched a lot of folks there," Lieutenant Cohen said.

As another token of the Honor



Photo by Heather Lewis

McChord Honor Guard Airmen carry Doolittle Raider Jacob DeShazer's casket to his burial site during a ceremony Saturday in Salem, Ore.

Guard's appreciation, Sergeant Pecor even put together a flag box with all of Sergeant DeShazer's medals and insignias for his widow.

"To do something like that for Jacob was a true honor," said Sergeant Pecor, who also presented the flag to DeShazer's widow. "We had a great sense of pride after the ceremony that came from knowing everything went well."

Born Nov. 15, 1912, in Salem, Ore., Sergeant DeShazer graduated from Madras High School in 1931. He enlisted in the Army Air Corps in 1940.

Sergeant DeShazer and the rest of his B-25 crew were forced to parachute into enemy territory over Ningpo, China, when their B-25 ran out of fuel. The entire crew was captured by the Japanese the next day.

During his captivity, Sergeant DeShazer was sent to Tokyo with

the survivors of another Doolittle crew, and was held in a series of prison camps in Japan and China for 40 months, 34 of which were in solitary confinement. During this time he was subjected to unbelievable cruelty, including being forced to watch helplessly while one of his friends died of slow starvation.

Sergeant DeShazer was able to read the Bible for only three weeks. Still, its message had a lifelong impact on him. After his release, he attended college and then seminary in preparation to become a missionary.

Sergeant DeShazer returned to Japan in 1948, where he spent 30 years preaching and teaching Christianity.

He leaves behind his wife, Florence, and five children.

(Air Force Print News contributed to this article.)





Photo by Staff Sgt. Frank D'Angelo

# Command change

Top: Chief Master Sgt. Rodney Billingham, 62nd Maintenance Group, douses outgoing 62nd MXG commander Col. James Weber with sparkling cider after Monday's Fini Flight.

Right: Col. Shane Hershman, 62nd Airlift Wing vice commander, left, hands over command of the 62nd MXG to Col. Tracy Smiedendorf during a Change of Command ceremony Wednesday in Hangar 4 while Colonel Weber looks on.



Photo by Abner Guzman



McChord Airmen

# AROUND THE WORLD



Courtesy photo

KABUL, Afghanistan — 1st Lt. Miguel Colon, 62nd Aerial Port Squadron, prepares to go out on a convoy patrol mission with the Army during a recent deployment.



Courtesy photo

QAYYRAH AIRFIELD WEST, Iraq — Staff Sgt. Justin Hartman, 62nd Aerial Port Squadron, prepares to launch a weather balloon during a recent deployment.



# Mariners roll out red carpet for military community

By

**Airman 1st Class Kristen Wicker**  
62nd Airlift Wing  
Public Affairs

SEATTLE - Military Appreciation Night is the annual event which helps kick off the 2008 season of Seattle Mariners' baseball at Safeco Field and honor those who serve, past and present. While more than 3,000 military service members from across the Air Force, Army, Navy, Coast Guard and Air and National Guard got the chance to enjoy Mariners' baseball, one young girl had the opportunity of a lifetime Tuesday night.

Sammy Brooks, 14, the daughter of retired master sergeant J.R. Brooks, now a civilian employee in the 62nd Maintenance Squadron, confidently announced the ceremonial "Play ball!" phrase prior to the start of the Mariners second game of the season against the Texas Rangers. The Mariners' friendly mascot, Moose, was also there to encourage Sammy, who was also one of the "biggest fans" at the game.

For as long as he could remember, Sammy has been a big fan, Mr. Brooks said.

"I got to meet a lot of players from the Rangers and Mariners, but Ichiro is my favorite player," Sammy said.

Sammy's infectious smile alone would have been enough to warrant this once in a lifetime chance, but being born with spina bifida, a birth defect in which the bones of the spine

(vertebrae) do not form properly around the spinal cord, gave her a chance to show the strength behind that smile. Because of her birth defect, she has to use a wheelchair and has a much smaller frame than her teenage peers.

But despite her small stature, Sammy has a huge heart and a love for baseball, especially her favorite team, the Seattle Mariners.

"I think it's so cool to be able to do this and thank you (to everyone who made it possible)," Sammy said.

In addition to Sammy's shining moment on the field, five Airmen from the 62nd Airlift Wing had a chance to represent the Air Force and the active duty community from the base during the pre-game ceremony.

Senior Airman Anthony Cabanillas, 62nd Security Forces Squadron; Airman 1st Class Elisa Wick, 62nd Medical Support Squadron; Airman 1st Class Gary Woo, 10th Airlift Squadron; Airman 1st Class Tyler Haueter, 62nd AW; and Airman 1st Class Girard Quicho, 62nd Maintenance Operations Squadron; all stood shoulder-to-shoulder with the professional baseball players from the Rangers during the playing of "Taps" and the national anthem.

"I felt it was a distinct honor to represent McChord and the United States Air Force on Safeco Field," Airman Haueter said. "This opportunity meant the world to me and truly made me feel honored and blessed to be part of this great cause."

Airmen from the 446th Airlift Wing and the Western Air Defense Sector also participated in the festivities.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Kristen Wicker

Fourteen-year-old Sammy Brooks prepares to make her pre-game announcement with the Mariner Moose before Tuesday's game at Safeco Field against the Texas Rangers. Brooks, the daughter of a retired master sergeant in the 62nd Maintenance Squadron, joyfully shouted "Play ball!" to kick off the festivities on Military Appreciation Night.



## McChord hosts Northwest Military Clam Chowder Cook-off

BY Tyler Hemstreet, Staff Writer

Last week McChord's Olympic Dining Facility was transformed from its ordinary and utilitarian setting to something that looked like it came from a set of a major cable network cooking show.

It was all part of the 3rd annual Northwest Military Clam Chowder Cook-off, which McChord hosted for the first time.

Ten military teams representing the different services from all over the Northwest showcased their best clam chowder recipes in an effort to wow the judges and represent their branch of the military.

"Soup is very underrated and often overlooked (in cooking)," said Airman 1st Class David Arceo, 62nd Services Squadron, who along with teammate Airman 1st Class James Parker, 62nd SVS, competed as one of McChord's two teams in the competition. "If you can make a good soup, you can make a good sauce."

Airman Arceo and Airman Parker decided to spice up the ordinary chowder recipe by adding some spices and fresh clams to the recipe.

"Our goal was to make it light but creamy," he said. "I didn't want to go too far from the traditional, but I wanted to bring out the natural flavor of the clams instead of the canned taste."

But the high sodium content of the fresh clams ended up spoiling the broth and making the soup too salty, Airman Arceo said.

"It killed the taste," he said with a laugh. "The contest was fun and I enjoyed it. I can't wait to come back next year."

The other McChord team of Staff Sgt. Jocelyn Ferber and Airman 1st Class Jeffrey Juan ventured off the traditional chowder path, opting to make an island-style chowder with green, red and yellow bell peppers added to the broth and served in a hollowed out pepper.

The team even added some cream cheese and half-and-half to the broth — a sampling of a couple different recipes — and garnished it with sautéed bacon bits on top and a side of potato chips with melted cheese on top.

"It was pretty original and it had a lot of color," Sergeant Ferber said.

Unfortunately, the judges were looking for more



Photos by Abner Guzman

Naval Hospital Bremerton Sailors wait for a reaction from contest judge Col. Shane Hershman, 62nd Airlift Wing vice commander, left, and Lt. Col. Eric Payne, 62nd Mission Support Group, during the judging portion of the competition.

traditional chowder recipes, she said.

"The flavor was good ... it was disappointing," Sergeant Ferber said.

But the team took great solace in the fact that while the soup may not have been a hit with the judges, audience members who came for the free lunch after sure took a liking to it.

"Our pot was gone before anyone else's," she said.

An Army Special Forces team took first place in the contest, while a Coast Guard team took second and a team from the Navy was third.

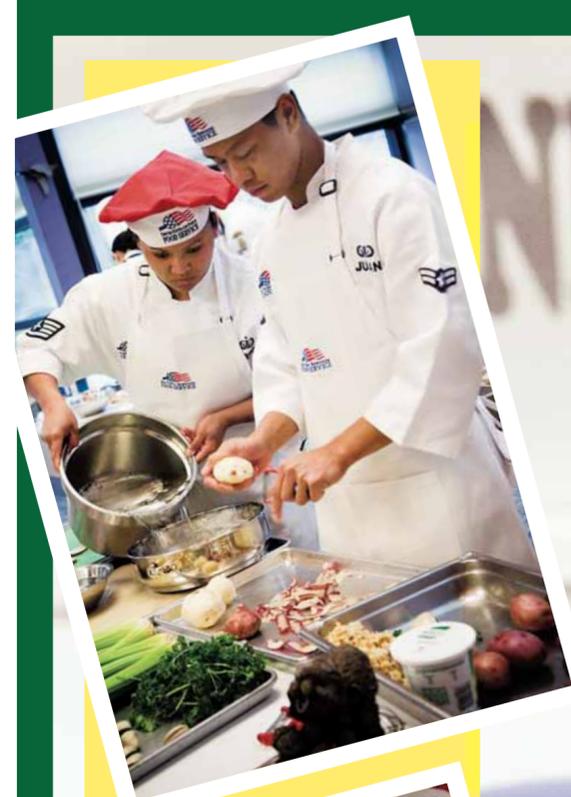
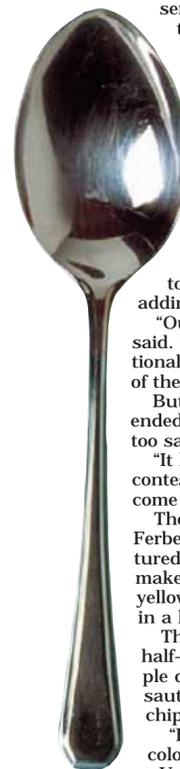
But that likely won't be the last time McChord teams get a chance to compete on their home turf, as contest organizers liked the venue so much the contest will likely return to McChord next year, said food service section chief Master Sgt. Ramon Erpelo, 62nd SVS.

"Everything went great and the participants loved the venue," Sergeant Erpelo said.

He also expects a better showing from the McChord teams next year.

"It's a learning process for us," he said.

# Soup's On!



Top: Staff Sgt. Jocelyn Ferber and Airman 1st Class Jeffrey Juan, both 62nd SVS, demonstrate teamwork by sharing duties during the early stages of the competition.

Middle: Sergeant Ferber adds bacon bits to a batch of potato slices prepared in the dining facility's kitchen.

Bottom: Specialists Ezekiel Ruckle and Jiao Tengbo, Soliders with the 1st Special Forces Group at Fort Lewis, add ingredients to their award-winning clam chowder during the presentation portion of the competition.



Lt. Col. Christopher Lavallee, 62nd Services Squadron commander, welcomes participants to the cook-off.



# 62nd OSS edges APS to win hoops title

By

**Tyler Hemstreet**  
Staff writer

One year removed from missing the playoffs, the 62nd Operations Support Squadron intramural basketball team completed a worst-to-first journey March 28 at the fitness center by wrapping up the 2008 intramural basketball championship.

OSS outscored the 62nd Aerial Port Squadron team 9-5 in the five minute overtime period to hold on for a 53-50 victory.

The win in the title game effectively buried the memory of last year's 3-9 campaign as OSS finished the season 16-2.

But the final win didn't come easy.

APS was playing without two starters, including leading scorer Anthony Calogero. That meant everyone else had to pick up the slack. Guard John Gayle did most of the heavy lifting for APS (17-4), knocking down eight 3-pointers and finishing with a game-high 33 points. Joshua Goss added 10 points for APS.

Tied at 28 with less than nine minutes left in the game, Gayle hit three consecutive 3-pointers during a 9-2 run to give APS a 37-30 lead with 6:26 left in the game.

"I usually try and get everyone involved, but because we were

missing some guys I just started letting it fly," said Gayle, who played high school basketball in Hawaii against current Washington State guard Derrick Low. "They (shots) were falling from everywhere. It must have been the dining facility food I ate before the game."

Knowing APS played back-to-back games the night before and was playing without two starters, OSS coach Jonathan Lankford admitted his team may have underestimated APS a bit.

"We went small at the end ... we had to change our game plan to slow (Gayle) down," Lankford said. "He was really in the zone."

But OSS put together a run of its own and guard Trivone Curry converted two free throws with 4 seconds left to tie the game at 45.

"I was just telling myself to take my time," said Curry, who missed a pair from the line earlier in the half.

The two teams traded leads throughout overtime, but tied at 50 with 46 seconds left Gayle fouled out after being called for a blocking foul defending Curry.

"Right when he fouled out, I had a sigh of relief," Curry said. "He was hitting shots from every spot on the floor all game. He was hot."

Curry hit one of two free throws to give OSS a one-point lead.

Ronald Shaw then stole the APS inbounds pass and scored easily,



Photo by Abner Guzman

62nd Operations Support Squadron guard Trivone Curry pulls up for a jumper March 28 in the intramural basketball championship game against 62nd Aerial Port Squadron. Curry scored 16 points to help lead OSS to a 53-50 overtime win.

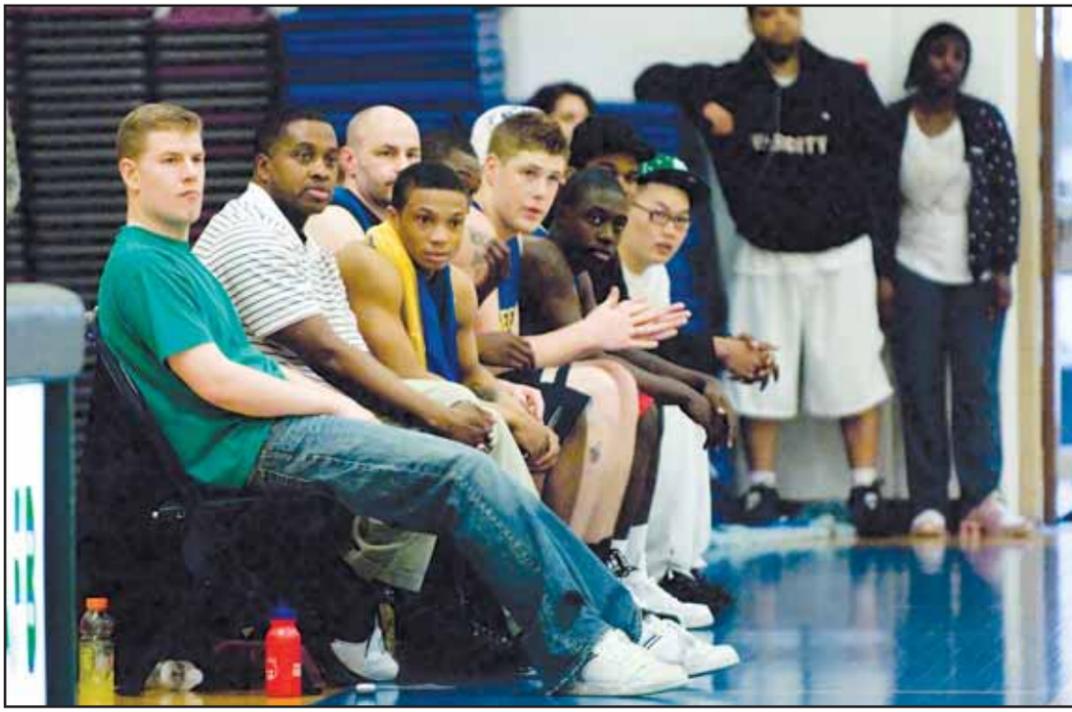
giving OSS some cushion as it held on for the victory. Curry finished with 16 points, while Kendrick Woods added 10 and Justin McCoy scored nine. Shaw and Darren Firth each had five points.

"He's been doing that

all year ...coming up with big plays late in the game," Lankford said of Shaw's game-clinching steal. "As soon as Gayle fouled out, we stepped the full-court press up because they didn't have their

See **HOOPS**, Page 11





62nd OSS coaches and players watch the action intently from the bench.

From **HOOPS**, Page 10 —

main ball handler.”

The win capped off a turnaround season for OSS, which carried over just one player — Firth — from last year’s team. Despite not playing together very long, the roster — comprised of Firth, Curry, Shaw, Woods, McCoy, Joseph Hawkins, Aisha Murray, Michael Owens, Shawn Child and Steven Boykins — fell into place over a very short time.

“It feels good ... we all knew we were good, we were just trying to jell,” Woods said. “We knew we could win this — everything just kind of came together.”



Photos by Abner Guzman

62nd OSS guard Ronald Shaw grabs a loose ball before 62nd APS guard John Gayle can get to it.

## Army vs. Air Force All-Star basketball game

A team of McChord Airmen will take on a team of Soldiers in the annual battle of the services on the hardwood. The game is scheduled for 6 p.m. tonight at the Wilson Sports and Fitness Center on North Fort Lewis (Bldg. 11596).





Photo by Tech Sgt. Sabrina Johnson

Staff Sgt. Molly Whitehurst places C4 on hazardous ordnance items to be detonated recently at Ali Base, Iraq. An explosive ordnance disposal team scoured 159 acres of unexploded ordnance fields picking up debris and marking un-removable items for detonation. Sergeant Whitehurst is the 407th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron Explosive Ordnance Disposal team chief and is deployed from Kadena Air Base, Japan.

## Airmen destroy UXOs to ensure safety on flightline

By

**Staff Sgt. Nathan Gallahan**  
407th Air Expeditionary Group  
Public Affairs

ALI BASE, Iraq (AFPN) — Plumes of smoke rose in the sky as Airmen from the 407th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron used C4 to detonate 13 piles of ordnance here recently.

The ordnance was discovered over a 159 acres area of the base by a six-Airman explosive ordnance disposal team and six augmentees.

The team looks for and uncovers dangerous items such as unexploded ordnance, shrapnel, foreign fuses, rocket warheads and artillery projectiles.

“The number one reason we do this is for safety on the flightline,” said Master Sgt. Curtis Keel, the EOD flight chief, deployed from Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M. “It protects construction crews building or maintaining facilities as well as aircraft arriving and departing the area.”

Each pile contained about five or six UXOs around each marker flag, said Staff Sgt. Molly Whitehurst, the 407th ECES EOD team chief, who is deployed from Kadena Air Base, Japan.

This isn’t the first time an EOD team here has swept the base for dangerous items, Sergeant Keel said. When he first conveyed here from Kuwait in March of 2003 they spent a month clearing the flightline and base of UXOs.

“After Desert Storm, Saddam Hussein’s regime left this place a complete and total mess because it was so far into the no fly zone — he

just abandoned it,” he said. “There were blown up vehicles all up and down the runway and all over the roads when we first got here (in 2003). The place was saturated with debris and unexploded ordnance. We brought 400 pounds of C4 with us, went through that and whatever the British (coalition forces) brought with them in 30 days.”

Over the years teams have discovered and cleared hundreds of assorted unexploded ordnance at 30 separate sites.

Some may question why five years into Operation Iraqi Freedom the EOD teams are still discovering more UXOs; Airmen here are walking all over the answer.

“It’s the sand,” said Master Sgt. Howard Hartz, the 407th Expeditionary Medical Squadron bioenvironmental engineering technician, who volunteered to help search through the UXO fields.

“It’s constantly moving and shifting here, because of the wind and soft clay underneath,” said Sergeant Hartz, who is deployed from Niagara Falls Joint Air Reserve Station, N.Y.

“A lot of these items may have been driven into the earth as far as the water table, and slowly over time they just rise back up,” Sergeant Whitehurst said.

“This is a constant ongoing effort,” she said. “Items will keep rising to the surface for years, and by constantly searching for these dangers we hope to one day have this area cleared as much as possible, so when it is turned back over to the Iraqis it will be as safe as we can possibly make it for them.”

# Combat truckers haul cargo through dangerous roads

By

**Tech Sgt. Michael O'Connor**  
386th Air Expeditionary Wing  
Public Affairs

SOUTHWEST ASIA (AFPN) — After driving 10.9 million miles while coming under attack by the enemy 268 times during 909 convoy missions, Airmen from the 586th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron have earned 10 Purple Hearts, 110 Bronze Stars, and a host of other medals.

While most Airmen perform the exact same skill set at their deployed location as they do at home, vehicle operators drive, fight and win.

Gone are the days when vehicle operators deployed to an air base to ferry passengers, bags and cargo to and from the flightline at 10 to 15 miles per hour.

“What people should understand about this particular expeditionary logistics readiness squadron is that it has a different mission than any other logistics readiness squadron in the Air Force,” said Lt. Col. Kevin Sampels, the 586th ELRS commander who commands 324 Airmen assigned to the 70th and 424th Medium Truck detachments. “We’re at

ground zero in the war and that’s not the normal operation for a deployed ELRS that is typically operating inside of a forward operating base supporting the aircraft mission.”

Members of the 586th ELRS joined the Army’s 1st Theater Support Command, 640th Sustainment Brigade, 1144th Transportation Battalion, located at an Army camp in Southwest Asia that tasks the 70th and 424th MTDs for the missions they conduct.

Vehicle operators have been putting the pedal to the metal while facing enemy ambushes, improvised explosive devices, and explosively formed penetrator attacks right alongside their Army brethren since they began supporting the in-lieu-of taskings in February 2004.

“Airmen inside the 2T1 career field can expect to deploy to the 586th ELRS at least once,” Colonel Sampels said. “But in all likelihood, it’ll be several times as there are already several non-commissioned officers between the 70th and 424th MTDs who are on their third and even fourth tours of duty between the gun truck and line haul convoy operations combined — some with more than 220 combat missions.”

“We have highly trained Airmen providing a myri-

ad of critical logistics functions in support of Army forces,” Colonel Sampels said. “Their mission, in a nutshell, is to deliver equipment, vehicles, supplies and other materials to (forward operating bases) in Iraq.”

“Everyone comes together as a team, and that’s crucial for a successful convoy operation,” said Airman 1st Class Wilson Hernandez Jr. deployed from Andrews Air Force Base, Md. He recently completed his first convoy with the 70th MTD driving the maintenance truck to keep the line hauls moving.

Five rotations and 30 months since the vehicle operators took on their ILO missions have seen them deliver more than 1.75 million short tons of cargo, and continue to move materials that can’t normally be flown out to the FOBs.

“We definitely have an impact on Operation Iraqi Freedom, because without the deliveries we bring in, they wouldn’t be able to sustain their operations,” said Tech. Sgt. Scott Neu, a 14-year veteran and native of Trenton, Ohio. “You can’t get nervous and freak out in my position because the others on your team will see it. You have to develop a layer of toughness. You can’t focus on the dangers. When it’s your time, it’s your time.”



**McChord Thrift Shop**

The McChord Thrift Shop will host a bag sale tomorrow from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. For \$5 per bag (provided by the Thrift Shop) customers can fill the bag with whatever items they prefer. All large clearance items that cannot fit in a bag will be an additional 50 percent off their marked prices. The McChord Thrift Shop is located in Bldg. 717 across from Adventures Unlimited. To get to the Thrift Shop from the Main Gate, turn left on Barnes Blvd., then make a right on Battery. For more information, call 982-2468.

**4th AS Change of Command ceremony**

The 4th Airlift Squadron Change of Command ceremony is 2:44 p.m. April 10 in Hanger 4. Lt. Col. R. Wyn Elder will be relinquishing command to Lt. Col. James R. Ray.

**Parent University seminar**

The annual Parent University seminar is 8 a.m. Saturday at the McChord Clubs and Community Center. The free one-day seminar offers opportunities for all participants to enhance their parenting skills and features workshops, an information fair, door prizes and free child care. For more information or to register, contact Eva Taylor at 982-9043 or 982-9038.

**Names to Note**

The following Airmen recently graduated from Julius A. Kolb Airman Leadership School.

- **Senior Airman Christopher Cabrera**, 143rd Combat Communication Squadron
- **Senior Airman Ruben Ramirez**, 22nd Special Tactics Squadron
- **Senior Airman Daniel Nichols**, 446th Maintenance Squadron
- **Staff Sgt. Richard Bastian**, 62nd Aerial Port Squadron
- **Senior Airman Cory Burton**, 62nd APS
- **Senior Airman David Cazalet III**, 62nd APS
- **Senior Airman Nathan Cody**, 62nd APS
- **Staff Sgt. Christopher Dungca**, 62nd APS
- **Staff Sgt. Justin Edwards**, 62nd APS
- **Senior Airman Matthew Glaus**, 62nd APS
- **Senior Airman Christopher Grulkowski**, 62nd APS
- **Senior Airman Robert James III**, 62nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
- **Senior Airman James Moenning**, 62nd AMXS
- **Senior Airman Bryan Mumma**, 62nd AMXS
- **Senior Airman Blake Casagrande**, 62nd Civil Engineer Squadron
- **Senior Airman Robert Donaldson III**, 62nd Communications Squadron
- **Senior Airman Rachell Martinez**, 62nd Logistics Readiness Squadron
- **Senior Airman William Smith**, 62nd LRS
- **Senior Airman Michael Johnson**, 62nd Maintenance Squadron
- **Senior Airman Shaun Leahy**, 62nd MXS
- **Senior Airman Veronica Watson**, 62nd Maintenance Operations Squadron
- **Senior Airman Aaron Massey**, 62nd Mission Support Squadron
- **Staff Sgt. Adam Miller**, 62nd Security Forces Squadron
- **Senior Airman Michael O'Rorke**, Detachment 1, 10th Combat Weather Squadron

**Award Recipients**

- John L. Levitow Award - **Senior Airman Aaron Massey**, 62nd MSS
- Distinguished Graduate and Academic - **Senior Airman Matthew Glaus**, 62nd APS
- Leadership Award - **Senior Airman Robert James III**, 62nd AMS

