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Connecting Team McChord with the Combat Airlift Mission

April 18, 2008

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Deep Freeze crew gives back to New Zealand

By

Tech. Sgt. Nick Przybyciel
446th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand — Standing onboard the C-17 Globemaster III, five-year-old Benjamin Laury is trying to put everything together.

With a child's enthusiasm, he's talking about elephants, storm troopers and how cool pilots are — all in a single, convoluted sentence. As part of a home-schooling group invited to check out the enormous airplane that just flew into their corner of the world, Benjamin and his friends are trying to make sense of what they're being told.

Their hosts — Reserve and active-duty Airmen from the 446th and 62nd Airlift Wings — are having a blast, creating analogies about their jobs and getting a fair share of "oohs" and "awes" out of their young guests. They're professionals at making this tour engaging for children, having conducted about 50 of them this year alone.

For six months every year, a group of total force Airmen from here flies supplies to a National Science Foundation



Photo by Staff Sgt. Aaron Allmon

Maj. Chuck Corrigan, a Reserve pilot from the 446th Airlift Wing, explains the controls of a C-17 Globemaster III to local children in Christchurch, New Zealand on Wednesday.

research center in Antarctica as part of Operation Deep Freeze. In between sorties, they go well beyond the call of duty to demonstrate their appreciation to the community they stage out of Christchurch, New Zealand.

When not on duty sharing the Air

Force story with New Zealand children, the Deep Freeze crews help in their off-duty time and as a private endeavor to raise funds for local charities. Since beginning this effort three years ago, they've donated around \$14,000 to Christchurch organizations.

Donations this year included a 42-inch plasma screen television and video game console to a children's ward in a local hospital. Before the donation, children would wait for up to 12 hours after treatments with only a tiny television to watch, said Lt. Col. James McGann, commander of the C-17 Deep Freeze missions.

"The entire staff was overwhelmed at the generosity of the U.S. Antarctic Program, and was excited the children had something to look forward to when coming to the hospital," Colonel McGann said. "It was a great day not only for the kids, but for the entire U.S. program."

Deep Freeze crews also gave \$8,000 in privately-raised donations to two other children's charities — the Make-A-Wish Foundation and the Children's Hope Trust.

Although the Deep Freeze season mostly wrapped-up March 1, a crew that flew here this week for one final mission still found time to squeeze in a few tours.

"It's great for the children to get an appreciation of the work these guys do," said Nick Laurey, Benjamin's father.

To read the complete story, visit <http://www.446aw.afrc.af.mil>.

Ninety-two days and counting until 2008 Air Expo

By

Staff Sgt. Eric Burks
62nd Airlift Wing
Public Affairs

Team McChord will host the 2008 Air Expo July 19-20, opening the gate to the Puget Sound community for the first time in three years due to a high level operations tempo at home and abroad.

While the air expo is 92 days away, a small but dedicated group of individuals from Team McChord has been planning for the event since October.

The air expo preparation committee aims to make the 2008 Air Expo the biggest and best the Pacific Northwest has seen in years.

The goal of the air expo is to put America's air power on display in the greatest air event in the nation. Nearly 100 airplanes will be brought in either to perform or serve as static displays, ranging from historic World War II aircraft to the Air Force's latest inventory, said Air Expo Director Maj. Doug Edwards.

There will be a major "first" as the expo will feature four official Department of Defense demonstrations. In addition to performances by the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds and Wings of Blue, there

will be an F-15 Eagle tactical demonstration and a Navy F-18 Hornet tactical demonstration, he said.

"This is our chance to thank the community and show them what we are doing and can do for them," Major Edwards said.

The committee anticipates more than 100,000 visitors each day of the air expo, he said. "This is something that will touch every agency on base."

There are people on the air expo staff with huge responsibilities, he said, who have been working hard in the background to ensure the success of the expo. "Everything has been done through willpower, blood, sweat and tears."

One such individual is Sheryl Swory, 62nd Services Squadron, the committee's commercial sponsorship coordinator.

"We've been going out to the community since January to educate them and strike up interest," she said. "We rely heavily on the community and can't do the things we do without their support."

In December, she said, the planning committee was able to attend the International Council of Air Shows, designed to benefit both military and community air shows.

The relationship between the military and community can be seen in the theme of the 2008 Air Expo: "Freedom: What it Takes." The message is that there are a lot of moving pieces necessary to



Photo by Abner Guzman

Maj. Doug Edwards, McChord's air expo director with the 62nd Operations Support Squadron, right, goes over a base map during a briefing on Wednesday with committee members Capt. Chris McDonald, 7th Airlift Squadron, center, and 1st Lt. Kellen Logan, 62nd Contracting Squadron.

make freedom work, said Major Edwards.

"We are all in the freedom business, from the Department of Defense components to the local sheriff's office. We will all be there for the community," he said.

Weekend Weather

FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Hi: 48 Low: 36	Hi: 46 Low: 32	Hi: 50 Low: 34

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

Mission Accomplished

Total McChord sorties	4,804
Total flying hours	15,149.3
Cargo moved (tons)	34,868.9
Departure reliability rate	95.2%
Mission capable rate	85.3%
Personnel currently deployed	327
Reservists currently activated	153

(Jan. 1 to Tuesday. Numbers updated Tuesday.)

Don't miss it ...

Quarterly Awards Luncheon

The Quarterly Awards Luncheon is 11 a.m. Thursday at the McChord Clubs and Community Center.

Air Mobility Command off to great start in 2008

By

General Arthur J. Lichte

Commander of Air Mobility Command

If the last 90 days are any indication, 2008 is turning out to be an amazing year for Air Mobility Command.

Most recently, March was a record-setting month for mobility Airmen supporting the Global War on Terror. More than 120,000 passengers were transported into, out of and within the Middle East and Horn of Africa, and more than 41 million tons of cargo were shipped in support of the joint warfighter. Adding these achievements to an already-impressive list, air mobility professionals supporting USCENTCOM set new records for the number of passengers

and the amount of cargo moved in a one-month period.

Going back further, we closed out February with the long-awaited announcement of the KC-45A tanker award. As the first increment of a three-decade long process, we are eager to field the new tanker as quickly as possible as we continue the modernization and recapitalization efforts we have all focused on for so long. Making the investments today to ensure tomorrow's dominance is our obligation to the next generation of Airmen, joint warfighters and Americans.

But, it was in January when a significant, yet subtle, milestone occurred — the update of the AF's Priorities. The AF's Priorities have been an effective rallying point for the entire Air Force — to get us flying on

the same heading in a challenging environment. The original priorities were very effective for us as Airmen and, in fact, became a focal point for people looking at the Air Force from outside our ranks. As a result, General Moseley and Secretary Wynne decided to update the priorities' wording to make the message equally effective for both those in and out of uniform.

In January of this year, the Air Force published the updated version of its priorities. The priorities are now: (1) Win Today's Fight, (2) Take Care of Our People and (3) Prepare for Tomorrow's Challenges. The new language is succinct and direct. And, the basic theme of mission, people and tomorrow remains the same. So, even though the words are new, our vector remains the same.

As a command, we will transition to the priorities' new wording over the next several months. My intent is to make this change gracefully and cost-effectively. Continue to use existing products (banners, flyers, etc.) until they are replaced through attrition. Use the updated wording on new products as they are created.

As I look forward to the rest of 2008, I am incredibly proud of everything mobility Airmen have (and continue to) accomplish every day around the world. Your dedication and service provides the clenched fist and outstretched hand of Global Reach that is prized by our nation's leaders, depended on by the joint warfighter, and cherished by those in need of humanitarian assistance. I'm confident the rest of 2008 will hold even more successes.

10 tips for long, successful Air Force career

By

Lt. Col. Mike Cannon

62nd Aerial Port Squadron commander

A few years ago, I read an article written for an Air Force base paper in England. It was written by captain on the Area Defense Counsel. In it, he discussed — from his experiences — the top ten things an Airman could do to stay out of trouble. I've had the opportunity to command five different units and have found that advice to be spot on. I took that top 10 list and modified it a bit to fit my experience and perspective as a commander.

10. **Quit getting sloppy drunk.** The vast majority of Airmen (of all ranks) who come see me in their service dress were for alcohol-related incidents. In fact, most of the other items on this list are either caused or exacerbated by alcohol abuse.

I define "sloppy drunk" using the 0-0-1-3 criterion. Drinking underage? Had an alcohol-related incident? You're sloppy drunk.

9. **Don't EVER do drugs.** There is no room in

our Air Force for drug abusers. Don't do illegal drugs — ever.

8. **Don't lie, even a little.** I correct mistakes and punish crimes. Don't turn a mistake into a crime by lying to cover it up. If you are read your rights, you have two choices; tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, or say nothing at all until you consult a lawyer. Doing anything else will make the situation much worse.

7. **Live within your means.** The formula is easy even if math is not your strongest subject. Write down how much you make each month. Below that, write down how much you spend each month. Subtract the bottom number from the top number. If the answer is less than zero, you are not living within your means.

6. **Be likeable and valuable.** If you are a team player, strive to get along in the workplace and do what is expected of you, your supervisors will notice and appreciate you. They will provide you opportunities to excel.

5. **Don't fight.** If you really want to duke it out with somebody, try organized boxing. It's a

lot harder than it looks. I think they even have a ring over at Fort Lewis.

4. **Be squared away.** When does a good Airman need a haircut? Never — a good Airman gets a haircut before they need one. Be punctual for ALL appointments. If you are early, you're on time. If you are on time, you're late.

3. **Treat everyone with respect.** All of our Airmen have earned and deserve our respect. If we treat each other with respect at all times, most of these other problems go away.

2. **Don't hang out with idiots.** If it looks like a duck, walks like a duck and quacks like a duck, it's probably a duck. You're known by the company you keep. If your friends are doing the things listed above, people will assume you are, too.

1. **Always ask for a lawyer.** It's not only your right, it's a really good idea. If you are in my office in your service dress, you can bet I've already talked to a lawyer. Contact the ADC before answering questions and anytime you are given paperwork. Even if they can't help get you out of the predicament you're in, they will help you present your best case and minimize the damage.

Professionals of the week

62nd Operations Support Squadron

Staff Sgt. Richard Miner

Duty title:
C-17 Globemaster III instructor
loadmaster/joint airdrop inspector

Duty section:
Joint airdrop inspection

Hometown:
Spokane, Wash.

Why he's super:

During the 16 months Sergeant Miner has been assigned to the Joint Airdrop Inspection shop, he has truly set a new standard. He conducted a record-setting airdrop, delivering 32,400 pounds of cargo to four separate drop zones in less than 40 minutes. He was personally responsible for the successful airdrop of a 24-foot, 17,800 pound mass supply platform — the largest platform ever rigged at Fort Lewis. Sergeant Miner's abilities were unquestionably demonstrated when he was chosen to represent Team McChord during Rodeo 2007. Sergeant Miner was also recently awarded his associates degree from the American Intercontinental University.



Tech. Sgt. Richard Stage

Duty title:
Non commissioned officer in charge of
the weather flight

Duty section:
Weather

Hometown:
Elmira, N.Y.

Why he's tops:

Sergeant Stage is a dynamic leader and a technical expert. He led the weather flight through the Air Force Weather Standards and Evaluations Performance Inspection and helped earn the flight an "Outstanding" rating. He consistently performed at the SNCO level as he prepared the flight for the inspection over the past three months during the flight chief's deployment. In addition, Sergeant Stage ensured that normal operations and support to seven flying squadrons and transient crews continued unimpeded. As a squadron physical training leader, Sergeant Stage has a reputation for establishing rigorous programs for Airmen struggling to pass their PT test and for those passing with highly improved scores.



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Base celebrates Earth Day 2008

By
Tyler Hemstreet
Staff Writer

The base will host an informational fair from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday in front of the Commissary as part of Earth Day 2008 festivities.

Started in 1970, Earth Day is celebrated each year on April 22 to promote awareness of environmental issues.

Several organizations including the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Humane Society for Tacoma and Pierce County and Nisqually Natural Resources will be on hand to offer environmental tips and hand out literature.

New to the fair this year are booths from Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium, People for Puget Sound,

Tacoma EnviroChallenger and the U.S. Forest Service, said Valerie Elliott, a member of the 62nd Civil Engineer Squadron environmental flight.

"We used to just have a booth from CE, but we've gotten good response in the past from all the people that have shown up to see the additional booths," she said. "We try to get a good variety of different organizations."

Various promotional items and posters will be available to those who stop at the booths. The 62nd CE booth will also be handing out cards for those who want to collect stamps from the different organizations, which they will be able to turn in and receive an Earth Day 2008 shirt.

Alternative fuel and high mileage vehicles from Lakewood Ford will also be on display for people to see.

361st RS Airman garners award



Courtesy photo

Master Sgt. Michael Lantz, 361st Recruiting Squadron, was recently named the Air Education and Training Command First Sergeant of the Year.

0-0-1-3



The medical standard is one drink for women or two drinks for men if a daily drinker.

For periodic drinking, the standard is to keep the blood alcohol level or blood alcohol content under 0.05.

- Use personal risk management*
- Use situational awareness*
- Use your wingman*
- Use a friend*

- 0 Drinks under age 21**
- 0 DUI's**
- Max 1 drink per hour**
- Max 3 drinks in one night**

DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE



McChord Airmen

AROUND THE WORLD



Courtesy photo

AFGHANISTAN — 1st Lt. Miguel Colon, 62nd Aerial Port Squadron, gets ready to go out on a convoy with the Afghani National Police on a recent deployment.



Courtesy photo

BAGHDAD, Iraq - Staff Sgt. Christopher Frobuccino, left, and Senior Airman Robert Koleas, right, both members of the 5th Air Operations Support Group, sit in a Stryker during a battlefield circulation mission during a recent deployment. Sergeant Frobuccino talks to an aircraft doing convoy over-watch while Airman Koleas is monitoring the Army nets and passing vital information from the convoy commander to the joint tactical air controller through the communications interlink system in the Stryker. They are supporting the 3rd Brigade, 1-23 Infantry Regiment.



AF secretary discusses tankers, cyber operations

By

Chuck Paone
66th Air Base Wing
Public Affairs

HANSCOM AIR FORCE BASE, Mass. (AFPN) — The secretary of the Air Force spoke of the future while reflecting on the past during an recent visit to Hanscom Air Force Base.

“For all the advances we’ve made, I still believe there are more imaginative things to be done with electronics,” Secretary Michael W. Wynne said.

He said he considered Hanscom AFB, which is home to the Electronic Systems Center and the base where he was first stationed, the right place for this additional innovation.

“I remember being here as a brand new second lieutenant,” he said. “Back then, I was working on digital switches before anyone had ever heard of digital switches.”

Secretary Wynne said ESC and Hanscom AFB still provide a critical “nexus of all the advances of electronics for the benefit of the warfighter.”

Going forward, it’s increasingly important to be able to fuse the information and get it to the tactical warfighter, Secretary Wynne said. The center has worked hard to break down information-system stovepipes and is now offering “a much more collective approach to how we share data.”

The secretary witnessed some current examples of this approach. In one demonstration, Secretary Wynne watched a tactical air control party Airman nominate a target, which had been derived through machine-to-machine interface, for close-air support and then automatically transfer the coordinates into the cockpit, streamlining the simulated kill chain.

This sort of rapid, digital infor-



Photo by Mark Wyatt

Staff Sgt. Justin Cremer nominates a target for a close-air-support mission during a demonstration conducted for Air Force Secretary Michael W. Wynne during his visit to Hanscom Air Force Base, Mass., April 3. The target was derived using a machine-to-machine interface, which by automatically transferring coordinates into the cockpit, streamlines the kill chain. Sergeant Cremer is a tactical air control party Airman.

mation sharing is at the heart of Air Force and joint effectiveness, the secretary said.

“The acquisition and disposition of information for command and control purposes is going to be where the Air Force lives,” he said. “Many in the Air Force would say that it’s really our flying and fighting that is our hallmark, but many others would say that they’re in the information distribution business.

“That’s really why space and cyber occupy two-thirds of our mission space,” Secretary Wynne said. “It’s all about collection, and making sure we get the right information into the hands of the theater and combatant commanders who

make the difference in synergizing the war.”

Because of this, “the Electronic Systems Center has a tremendous role to play for a long time to come,” the secretary said.

He addressed other key acquisition issues, too. Speaking of the need to recapitalize, he said, “It’s mandatory, so I’m optimistic.”

If the Air Force doesn’t stay on track, it will simply age out the fleet. “At some point in time, we simply have to recapitalize,” Secretary Wynne said.

He also touched on the recent decision to award the KC-45 tanker contract to a consortium co-led by European-based EADS Corp. and

U.S.-based Northrop Grumman. He acknowledged that some have been critical of the decision, but he believes that criticism is unfounded.

“It’s the law,” he said flatly, noting that the Air Force could not have restricted the competition if it had wanted to.

He also reiterated that the competition was “free, open and above-board,” saying that the Air Force made the right decision in terms of overall warfighter value. He also said he believes the Government Accountability Office, now conducting a review based on a protest by losing bidder Boeing, “will conclude with the fact that the Air Force, in this case, did it right.”

Opening competition to allied-nation corporations is neither new nor unusual, the secretary said, citing several examples of international participation in the U.S. defense industrial base.

“The presidential helicopter was won by an Italian design. The Navy helicopter was won by an international design. So this is not unique,” he said.

Secretary Wynne also addressed the decision to treat cyber as a mission component on par with air and space, speaking of the national implications of cyber attacks and about the role the Homeland Security Department is playing. As for the Defense Department, Secretary Wynne said the need to protect and control cyberspace is clearly no less important.

“In defense, we call ourselves a net-centric fighting force,” he said, stressing the criticality of cyber operations as enablers of all others.

“Cyber is clearly a warfighting domain,” he said, emphasizing again that he’s looking for ESC officials to provide many of the solutions that will allow the Air Force and DOD to enjoy the same dominance it now has in both air and space.



Pilot program looks to curb domestic violence

By
Tyler Hemstreet
Staff writer

Along with several other installations across the Air Force, McChord recently became part of a pilot program aimed at preventing domestic violence occurrences in Air Force families.

The Family Advocacy Safety Education Seminar is a four-hour class taught once a month that helps teach Airmen who have had an incident of spousal or child abuse how to deal with the various emotions that can lead to abuse.

The seminar focuses on stress and anger management, developing better communication between the spouse and children, parenting skills and how to deal with the stress caused by deployments, said Ronica Sobiech, an outreach manager with McChord's Family Advocacy clinic who teaches the seminar.

Although some Airmen and their spouses who attend the seminar are at different stages of coping with their family issues, the focus of the seminar is on education, said Capt. Alexander Macdonald, a family advocacy officer with the 62nd Medical Operations Squadron.

"We want to focus on prevention as much as possible," he said.

While the incident numbers don't illustrate any tell-tale pattern for domestic abuse according to the seasons, Captain Macdonald said there are several factors that can increase the risk of incidents happening in the summer. Those factors include increased use of alcohol at outdoor functions and stress brought on by children being out of school and the high deployment rates, he said.

Some who come to the seminar are hesitant to talk about problems they are having at home or admit they have a problem, while others are interactive and participate in the sharing portion of the seminar, Ms. Sobiech said.

"We like to get couples in when they are at a point where they are doing well in their relationship because they are more open to listening about some of the issues we address," she said.

A large portion of the education focuses on giving individuals the tools to cope with any issues that come up in the home.

"These are things that once they leave the class they might not realize right away, but down the road they may put it into practice and not even realize it," Ms. Sobiech said.

Early feedback from the seminar, which Family Advocacy starting hosting in January, has been very positive, Captain Macdonald said.

Story time at the CDC



Photo by Abner Guzman

Senior Airman Lisa Wood, 62nd Communications Squadron, reads to a group of 2-year-olds Tuesday at the Child Development Center as part of Month of the Military Child activities.



Combat Skills Training

Airmen prepare for downrange

BY Staff Sgt. Eric Burks
62nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

FORT LEWIS, Wash. — At first glance, the group appears to be a team of veteran Soldiers, firing their weapons with uncanny accuracy as they move steadily toward their targets.

But a closer look at their uniforms reveals they are Airmen. Airmen who will soon be deployed, many of them living and working with their Army brethren in hostile areas where a lack of preparedness or awareness can be deadly.

While many Air Force installations provide in-house expeditionary training, Airmen often attend supplemental combat skills training at Army posts, especially if they are filling "in-lieu-of" taskings or deploying in support of unique or highly-specialized missions. One such team of Airmen with a unique mission recently completed a month of combat skills training at Fort Lewis, learning from local Soldiers how to survive and thrive downrange.

Chief Master Sgt. Michael Litke, chief enlisted manager from the 823rd Red Horse Squadron at Hurlburt Field, Fla., said the group will primarily be involved in infrastructure projects such as digging wells, setting up buildings and constructing airfields at different locations across Iraq, Afghanistan and Southwest Asia. Once deployed, the large group will break up into smaller, mobile teams that will move where the jobs are, he said.

While the main body of the team was from Hurlburt Field, the group was a Total Force representation of active duty and Reserve Airmen from 41 different units, including members of Team McChord as well as others based in California, Texas and Germany.

Chief Litke said the training provides an opportunity to work as a team and learn each other's strengths and weaknesses, and also prepares Airmen for when the mission takes them outside the wire.

"Now if something happens, you won't freeze," he said. "You've already seen it and you know how to handle it. That helps tremendously."

Staff Sgt. Barbarita Espinoza, a structural craftsman from the 62nd Civil Engineer Squadron, said "I've learned a lot of different things - what to look for, what to expect. It's made me much more self-aware."

The 191st Infantry Brigade, First Army Division West, trains Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen for missions all over the world, said Capt. Leslie Roberson, the brigade's public affairs officer. Units learn everything from how to analyze troops to task during troop leading procedures, base defense, ground assault convoys, counter improvised explosive devices and how to conduct cordon and searches.

Most units moving through this mobilization station are preparing to deploy to locations such as Iraq and Afghanistan. Trainers use a rigorous validation process to assess if units are ready to deploy. There is one standard for training proficiency regardless of the component. Units will meet or exceed the standard or they will not deploy, Captain Roberson said.

Capt. Myles Gilbert, a projects engineer from the 823rd RHS, called it "the best organized training" he'd ever seen.

As the lens shifts out of focus, once again it is not clear whether the men and women out on the firing range are Soldiers or Airmen. What is clear is that they are one team, training and striving together to achieve a common goal.

(191st Infantry Brigade Public Affairs contributed to this article.)



Photos by Abner Guzman

Airmen participate in Short Range Marksmanship training, designed to engage targets 25 meters and closer, at a Fort Lewis firing range.



Left silhouette: An Airman stares down her target on the firing range during SRM training.

Left inset: Airmen line up while awaiting their turn to fire during SRM training.



Airmen take aim at their targets during SRM training, awaiting orders to advance down the firing range.



An Airman listens for the command to turn and fire during the qualification phase of SRM training. To qualify, 15 of 20 rounds must land in sectors 4-5 of the target, those closest to the center.

Air force has new Web site for retirees

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPN) — The Air Force has a new Web site just for its retiree community that is full of news and information, plus it is easy to access and navigate.

The Air Force Retiree Services site is located at www.retirees.af.mil.

This public Web site offers the retiree family in-depth information on the Survivor Benefit Plan, plus a list of Air Force retiree activities offices worldwide and various other resources. There are also sections dedicated to the Afterburner and Air Force Retiree News Service. Visitors can access the sections by using the

top navigation bar on the home page. The home page also features the latest Air Force headline news and video clips. There is even a special icon for quick access to the Combat-Related Special Compensation information page.

Subscribing to the electronic version of the Afterburner and AFRNS is now much easier: just click on the word "Subscribe" found on the top navigation bar; find "Afterburner/AFRNS" near the top of the second column and click in the circle to subscribe; enter the required e-mail address; and then click on the submit button.



Road Work



Repaving work at the intersection of Barnes Blvd. and Levitow Blvd. starts Monday. The work will be completed in approximately three weeks, weather permitting. A detour will be established around the construction area allowing continued access to the infield and flightline.

Airman brings obscure sport into limelight

By
Tyler Hemstreet
Staff writer

Former Seattle Seahawks lineman Steve Hutchinson had no idea what he was up against one fateful night at a bar in Seattle.

The 6-foot-5-inch, 313-pound NFL star was challenged to a friendly arm wrestling match by a group of friends of Senior Airman Brandon Dye, 62nd Comptroller Squadron.

Much to Hutchinson's surprise, the 165-pound Airman Dye beat him — twice.

What the former Seahawk didn't know is that Airman Dye is a bit of an arm wrestling fanatic.

"If I had taught him a couple of things, he would have probably wasted me," he said.

Since entering and winning his first arm wrestling tournament nearly four years ago, Airman Dye has won 23 of 24 tournaments he's entered. He was twice crowned Washington state champion in the 171-pound weight class and won an Oregon state championship three times in the 176-pound weight class. He's also currently ranked in the top ten on several arm wrestling Web sites that cover the somewhat obscure sport.

"I wouldn't say I eat, breathe and sleep arm wrestling, but it's a fun hobby," said Airman Dye, who won an Oregon state 155-pound wrestling title as a high school junior.

But lots of work goes into training for that hobby. Dye follows a strict workout regimen of curls, pull-ups and work with special hand weights. He also does six hours a week of

cardio so he can maintain a constant weight in order to stay in his correct weight class. He even rigged a specialized training device with a rope and a pulley tied to 200-pound sand bags to simulate the initial pull from opponents.

While it is just a hobby for Airman Dye, co-workers say when he puts his mind to something, he rarely holds back.

"With him it's really all or nothing ... which really echoes the Air Force core values," said 1st Lt. Scott Lee, 62nd CPTS.

While the sport may not have a mainstream following, contrary to what outsiders may think, there is quite a bit of strategy involved, Airman Dye said.

That strategy includes studying how each opponent grips hands and what moves they use to gain momentum as soon as the match starts.

"It's all about reading the person you are going against," Airman Dye said. "Most matches last between a ½ second and two minutes, so you have to be ready to go once the ref starts the match."

While Airman Dye did miss a handful of tournaments due to a deployment, he was able to workout while at Balad Air Base to stay in shape. He's currently training for a May tournament in Reno, Nev.

In the meantime, it's not likely that he's going to lose any impromptu matches on or off base. However, that doesn't include a loss suffered at the hands of former 62nd Airlift Wing Commander Col. Jerry Martinez at wing stand up, according to Lieutenant Lee.

"That might have been his only loss in a long time," Lieutenant Lee said with a laugh.

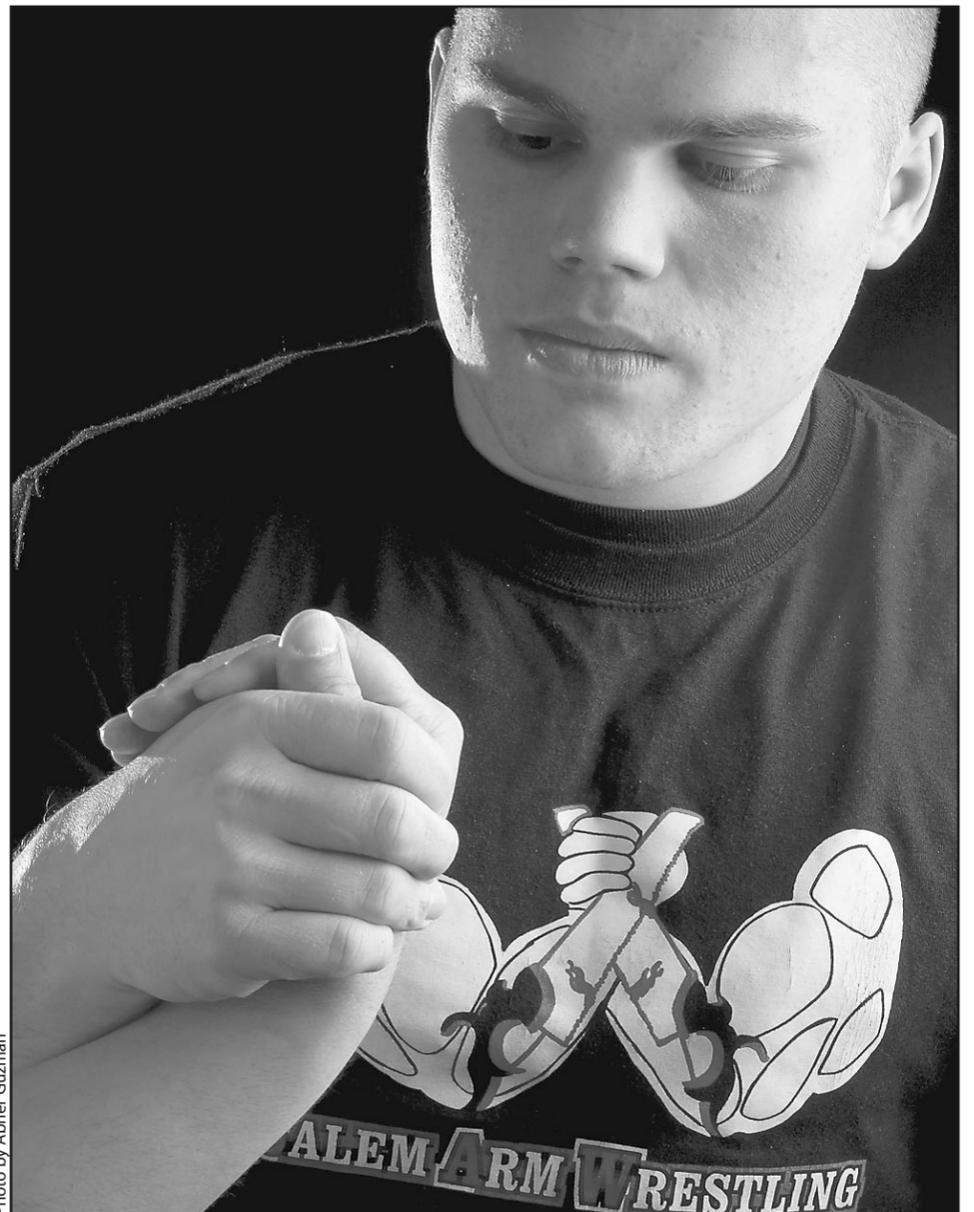


Photo by Abner Guzman

Senior Airman Brandon Dye, 62nd Comptroller Squadron, has won 23 of the 24 arm wrestling tournaments all over the Northwest and California he's entered into over the last four years.

Local support group to host autism walk on Saturday

By

Tyler Hemstreet
Staff writer

When the Fort Lewis/McChord Autism Support Group was established in September 2007, there was a general consensus among the nearly 65 military families in the group that it should host an awareness event to highlight April as National Autism Awareness Month.

The group turned that vision into reality in just seven months, as it will host the first annual Fun Run/Walk and Resource Fair from 8 a.m. to noon on Saturday at Cowan Stadium at Fort Lewis.

The group's goal with the event is to not only inform military families and those in the surrounding communities about autism, but to provide a fun environment for everyone to get together, said

Cheryl Beene, co-president of the support group.

"We want people to not only be informed, but to also have some fun," she said. Caring for a child with autism is a 24/7 job and it changes every day."

In addition to the walk at the track at Cowan Stadium and the various informational booths, there will also be a run offered on the airfield as well as a live band, face painting, raffles, games and a variety of food booths.

Volunteer massage therapists will also be on hand offering participants free massages.

Event organizers are hoping the event will not only bring people together to help answer questions about autism, but also provide resource information, said Tech. Sgt. Christine Uhl, 62nd Civil Engineer Squadron, a member of the group's executive board.

"It's a matter of providing that

resource sharing for parents and letting them know about any respite care opportunities that are out there for them," she said.

Sergeant Uhl, who has a 14-year-old son with autism, has been active in the support group since its inception.

"I've been stationed at several bases and by far this is the most active support group I have had the pleasure associating with," she said. "They care about the families and their well being. They want you to know that you are not alone in your fight with autism."

Early registration entries for the event are showing the group the great support network of military personnel that may not have a child with autism, but just want to come out and show their support, Ms. Beene said.

"We have a lot of medical personnel from both McChord and

Fort Lewis coming," she said. "It's great because they are touched by the event and want to learn more about (autism)."

With autism affecting nearly 1 in 150 births according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Ms. Beene said the group wants to utilize the event and answer people's questions about the disorder.

"It's a very puzzling disorder," she said. "For parents it can be overwhelming at times and every day is a different challenge. Somewhere someone is going to be touched in one way or another by autism ... it's not going away."

In addition to the walk, the group will also be accepting donations during the event. The money will go directly to the nonprofit group and toward providing education and funding respite activities for parents and their children in the group, Ms. Beene said.



Fam-O-Rama aims to 'build stronger families in 2008'

By
Staff Sgt. Eric Burks
62nd Airlift Wing
Public Affairs

Fam-O-Rama, a yearly event sponsored by the 62nd Services Squadron, attracted more than 200 youth and family members Saturday at the youth center building.

McChord Youth Programs director Con Fisher said that 150 "grab bags" were prepared for kids, and all were gone before the doors closed.

One item inside each bag was a puzzle piece, designed to be decorated and then placed with other piece on a wall to form a collage. When the puzzle was complete, it displayed the message "Building stronger families in 2008."

Many base organizations provided volunteers for the activities, which ranged from a scavenger hunt and team games to finger and face paint-

ing.

United Service Organizations Puget Sound provided entertainment for the event, sponsoring a visit by internationally known musicians Tim Janis and Fionnula Gill.

Janis and Gill engaged in several other activities in support of the military community during three days leading up to Fam-O-Rama, said McChord USO center manager Tracye Kakely. They participated in a C-17 Globemaster III tour April 9, followed by Stryker tour at Fort Lewis and a meet and greet with Col. Jeffrey Stephenson, 62nd Airlift Wing commander.

The next day, Janis and Gill presented a music and education introduction program to students at Carter Lake Elementary School here, played for deploying Soldiers at the McChord USO center, and served as guest judges for the McChord Idol competition at the McChord Clubs and Community Center.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Eric Burks

Musicians Tim Janis and Fionnula Gill perform for children Saturday at the McChord youth center as part of Fam-O-Rama festivities.



Arbor Day celebration

The base will host an Arbor Day celebration at 3:30 p.m. on April 25. The celebration will take place on the median strip between Tuskegee Airmen Boulevard East and West between 8th Street and Outer Drive. It will include an award ceremony, where McChord will receive its 15th consecutive Tree City USA award from Mr. Mark Kahley, the resource protection division manager from the Washington Department of Natural Resources. Local Cub Scouts and Girls Scouts will then plant a couple new trees. For information, call Valerie Elliott at 982-3913.

CPF seeks leave donations

The Civilian Personnel Flight has received a request to solicit annual leave donations for Tania Otto, a 446 Airlift Wing employee who has undergone multiple operations and continues to suffer post-surgical complications. People may donate any annual leave, even if it is as little as one hour. Please complete OPM Form 630A and submit it to 62nd MSS/DPCG, Attn: Robert King. For more information, call 982-3805.

Top 3 hosts children's fishing derby

The Top 3 will host a free fishing

derby from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on April 26 at Carter Lake. Sign-ups begin at 9:00 a.m. There will be free refreshments for children and prizes will be handed out for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in each age group (4-7, 8-10 and 11-14) and a grand prize for the largest fish, most weight for five fish limit, most weight for less than five and smallest fish. The derby is limited to one fishing pole per participant. Daily catch limit is five trout, any size, and fishing will be done using only a single non-barbed hook. Children 12 and younger must be accompanied by an adult over the age of 21.

62nd APS retirement

The 62nd Aerial Port Squadron will host a retirement ceremony for Master Sgt. Jeffrey Byrd 3:00 p.m. on May 1 in the upper warehouse of Bldg. 1422.

GPC Vendors' Day set for May 15

The Government Purchase Card Vendors' Day is from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. May 15 in Hangar 9. This is a one-day event for businesses that provide authorized supplies, equipment or services who accept GPC, VISA. More than 100 vendors will be represented and each will display their material and

have information on product lines available for all attendees. Free coffee and doughnuts will be provided. For more information, call Jan Turner with the 62nd Contracting Squadron at 982-3867.

Graphics no longer available on base

The Base Multimedia Center will be without graphics support from now until June 1. All graphics support will have to be accomplished through DAPS or another off base agency using your government purchase card. For more information, call the Public Affairs office at 982-5637.

Knucklebuster 2008 set for Friday

The 62nd Maintenance Group will host Knucklebuster 2008 on Friday in Hangar 3. The event begins at 6 p.m. with social hour. The guest speaker for the evening is Col. Tracy Smiedendorf, 62nd MXG commander. Dress for the evening is BDUs for military members and Northwest Casual for civilians. Dinner will be a barbecue-style buffet line. The Knucklebuster is an award that recognizes the 62 MXG's hard-working men and women that give 110 percent in the performance of C-17 Globemaster III maintenance, mainte-

nance support and maintenance supervision.

Tickets are available now through squadron, section and group representatives. For more information, contact 2nd Lt. Grace Miller at 982-6917 or Master Sgt. Troy Ballard at 982-6907.

Street work on Barnes Blvd.

Repaving work on the intersection of Barnes Blvd. and Levitow Blvd. starts Monday. The work will be completed within approximately three weeks, weather permitting. A detour will be established around the construction area allowing continued access to the infield and flightline.

Traffic lights at Barnes and Levitow will be set to operate as a three-way stop (a flashing red) when Barnes Blvd. is open.

New Housing Office hours

The McChord Housing Office has recently revised its hours of operation. Walk-in hours are now 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Appointment hours are 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday. For community housing assistance, call 982-5517, and for military housing assistance, call 982-5516.

