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McChord Air Force Base, Wash.

Connecting Team McChord with the Combat Airlift Mission

June 20, 2008

INSIDE

Local detachment hosts change of command,
Page 4

Operation Air Force goes overseas,
Pages 8-9

AF marathon sets registration record,
Page 11



Photo by Abner Guzman

Token of gratitude

Navy Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the nation's top military officer, hands a coin to Col. Jon Huguley, 446th Maintenance Group commander, Thursday after a briefing in Hangar 9. During the briefing, Admiral Mullen thanked Airmen and family members for their contributions, outlined some changes and challenges the military will face in the future and discussed the importance of leadership.

New vice commander arrives

By
Tyler Hemstreet
Staff writer

It's no coincidence that new 62nd Airlift Wing Vice Commander Col. Michael Hornitschek already feels right at home here at McChord.

After all, the Air Force Academy graduate was raised on an evergreen farm in Wisconsin and now resides in the Evergreen State.

Colonel Hornitschek comes to McChord after serving as the chief of the International Airmen Division in the Office of the Deputy Undersecretary of the Air Force, International Affairs, in Washington, D.C.

"It's wonderful for me to get back to the operational side of the Air Force," Colonel Hornitschek said. "I'm incredibly excited to be here and it's a privilege to be part of a mission as important as the combat and global airlift we execute for America."

A career-long KC-10 Extender operator, Colonel Hornitschek is a veteran of air mobility, having also served as the chief of programs analysis and systems management branch at the Joint Operational Support Airlift Center, U.S. Transportation Command, Scott Air Force Base, Ill., and as the commander of the 2nd Air Refueling Squadron at McGuire AFB, N.J.

He also served as the combat commander of the 908th Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron, Al Dhafra Air

Base, United Arab Emirates; the Air Force's only combined KC-10/KC-135 tanker squadron.

Colonel Hornitschek first became acquainted with the C-17 Globemaster III when McGuire transitioned to the C-17 after retiring the last active duty C-141 Hercules in 2004. He's looking forward to getting to know the new mission and help Team McChord maintain its well-deserved worldwide reputation for excellence.

"McChord is a showcase for Air Mobility Command and the Air Force," he said. "It's so well maintained, you can really tell how much pride people here have in showing off the base they call home. With only a week on station I see a lot of great leaders at all levels across the wing as evidenced by all the awards and accolades McChord enjoys. I want to do what I can to enhance the base's reputation even further."

Colonel Hornitschek said he is also looking forward to working with the local community and Fort Lewis as the joint base process begins to take shape.

"I've observed a willingness here among our Airmen to embrace sound change for the sake of progress," he said. "That's a good thing because significant changes will be the norm in the Air Force for the next decade. That kind of proactive mindset happens because leadership embraces the type of initiative our McChord Airmen demonstrate every day. It's what allows us to be the most capable Air Force in the world, and I want to be part of that."

Avoiding uniform violations key to looking sharp

By
Tyler Hemstreet
Staff writer

In the midst of an Air Force-wide transformation from the battle dress uniform to the new Airmen battle uniform, some Airmen are falling victim to not properly wearing the uniform in accordance with Air Force Instruction 36-2903.

The most common wardrobe violations include Airmen wearing the squadron baseball caps with their ABUs, wearing the incorrect color T-shirt or socks with their ABUs and having their specialty badges incorrectly sewn onto their ABU jacket, said Master Sgt. Bill Baker, 62nd Force Support Squadron first sergeant.

"There is some ignorance out there when it comes to the rules, but others just get into a rush and mix and match their uniform incorrectly," Sergeant Baker

said. "As for the badges, Airmen need to check to see if they are properly sewn on before leaving the alteration shop."

The tan undershirt and green socks are permitted with ABUs, while a black undershirt and black socks go with the BDUs, according to the AFI. While any detergent can be used to launder the new ABU, fabric softeners or bleach should be avoided. The uniform should be tumble dried at the low heat setting, too.

Airmen not putting on their hats when they go outside is another common violation, said Chief Master Sgt. Russell Kuck, 62nd AW command chief master sergeant.

"The bottom line is you wear a hat when you're outside — there's no undercover rule anymore," Chief Kuck said. "Those same rules apply in base housing."

Other violations commonly occurring on base include Airmen removing their hat and jacket when washing their cars and wearing squadron morale T-shirts underneath their jacket, which are unveiled

usually during events such as bowling, he said.

"It's fine to wear a morale T-shirt (if it's the correct color) as long as Airmen don't take off their jacket," Chief Kuck said.

Airmen should also avoid sticking their hands in their pockets, wearing a unit-issued cell phone on the right side of the flight suit instead of the left and rolling their sleeves up incorrectly, Sergeant Baker said.

As the weather warms up, Airmen should also read up on their unit's rules when it comes to taking off the jacket within the office, he said.

When it comes to enforcing the uniform rules, Chief Kuck said Airmen should use the wingman concept to keep each other looking sharp.

When there is a violation, Airmen should let each other know.

"It's all about approach" when it comes to alerting someone of their violation, he said. "Using tact is the key."

Weekend Weather

FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Hi: 73 Low: 51	Hi: 64 Low: 51	Hi: 65 Low: 47

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

Air Expo 2008 Countdown

visit www.mcchordairexpo.com **29** days

Don't miss it ... Promotion list

The Air Force releases its latest technical and master sergeant promotion lists Thursday.

Feedback essential to productivity of Air Force

By

Maj. Christopher Lavallee
62nd Force Support Squadron
commander

While at my last duty station, the base conducted a survey on military feedback. I was somewhat surprised by what the results of the survey revealed. Based on the military personnel who responded, 70 percent of supervisors were not even giving formal feedback to their people. Even more surprising though, was that 30 percent of the responders were not even sure when they should receive feedback. Of those that did receive feedback, 51 percent stated that it was of little use.

Given the emphasis that is placed on the feedback system and its subsequent tie-in to our enlisted/officer performance report evaluations, this was pretty sobering news. Feedback is an essential tool that all supervisors need to ensure effective performance and

continuing development of our personnel. The bottom line guidance that came out of our leadership at the time was that there was no reason why a supervisor should not be giving feedback. No words could be more true since the importance of feedback lies in giving people information on how to build on their strengths, as well as to identify and overcome their weaknesses. Per Air Force guidance, military feedback is required within 60 days of taking supervision (or 60 days within completion of a performance report) and at the midpoint of the rating cycle. While these guidelines spell out the minimum times, there is certainly nothing that prevents more frequent feedback, whether initiated by a supervisor or requested by a subordinate.

The purpose of feedback is to make our subordinates aware of potential opportunities for success and provide constructive steps they can take to reach these opportunities as well as provide motivation. In addition, we

need to provide constructive feedback when things don't go quite right and correct behaviors before they are ingrained in a subordinate's practice. Based on my opening paragraph though, the key word here is constructive feedback. While being constructive is certainly not easy in all cases, this is the only way to ensure that our people understand how to chart out a path to success.

The first step to achieving constructive feedback begins with scheduling the time to conduct a feedback session. While a session certainly can be shorter, plan for an hour within which you can engage in discussion with your subordinate to clarify any potential misunderstandings. In between sessions, it is extremely helpful to keep some form of notes on what has gone right in your shop and what has not gone as well as expected. These notes will help form the basis of the information that you lay out on the official Air Force Feedback Form. As you write your notes onto

the form, look them over carefully and ensure that you are specific and objective. It's important to cover the good, the bad and the ugly as well as a potential way ahead for success.

In terms of receiving feedback, the best approach to take is to walk away having learned something new both about yourself and your boss. Also, if you're unclear on how things are going in the work environment, it's important as a subordinate to request feedback from your boss. Beyond this, seek feedback from other people you work with since you'll often be surprised by the great advice that your co-workers might have available. While it's by no means easy to seek feedback, this is an important part of the process that is often overlooked.

In short, giving and receiving feedback is not easy. The only way to get better at it is to get out and do it, as well as take the time to learn from each and every session; both as a supervisor and a subordinate.

June holidays invoke reflection, remembrance

By

Senior Master Sgt. Tommy Key
62nd Comptroller Squadron

In the wake of Flag Day on June 14 and Father's Day on June 15, the recent holidays stand as a time for reflection and remembrance with the annual observance in the United States to our national flag and fathers.

Flag Day is the anniversary of the official adoption of the American flag by the Continental Congress in 1777. The first annual celebration of the U.S. flag was introduced in 1885, by Bernard Cigrand, a school teacher. He arranged for his pupils at Stony Hill School in Waubeka, Wis., to celebrate June 14 as "Flag Birthday." Over the next several years, Cigrand advocated the obser-

vance of Flag Day in numerous speeches and magazine articles. It was President Woodrow Wilson who proclaimed the first nationwide Flag Day in 1916. President Harry S. Truman, in 1947, signed legislation requesting that National Flag Day be observed annually.

Also, we are one of the few countries in the world that has an official day to honor fathers. The origin of Father's Day is unknown, but the strongest promoter of the holiday was Mrs. Bruce John Dodd of Spokane, Wash.

Mrs. Dodd felt that she had an outstanding father. He was a veteran of the Civil War. Her mother had died young, and her father raised six children alone.

In 1909, Mrs. Dodd approached her own minister and others in Spokane about having a church service dedicated to fathers on June 5, her

father's birthday. That date was too soon for her minister to prepare the service, so he spoke two weeks later on June 19. From then on, the state of Washington celebrated the third Sunday in June as Father's Day. Many then began lobbying Congress to declare an annual Father's Day. In 1916, President Wilson approved of the idea, but it was 1924 when President Calvin Coolidge made it a national event to "establish more intimate relations between fathers and their children and to impress upon fathers the full measure of their obligations." Since then, fathers have been honored and recognized by their families throughout the country on the third Sunday in June.

Please take the time to reflect on what it means to you to live in this nation and remember the great men who took you under their wings to help you get where you are today.

Professionals of the week

62nd Force Support Squadron

Staff Sgt. Jocelyn Ferber

Duty title:
Shift supervisor

Duty section:
Olympic Dining Facility

Hometown:
Pangasinan, Philippines

Why she's super:

Sergeant Ferber led the charge as lead for the food service team that competed in the Armed Forces Day Culinary Competition. She represented the Air Force with outstanding culinary skills and professionalism against Navy and Army chefs. Her three-person team notched a third-place finish in the Iron Chef event and she also took second place for the chili cook-off competition. She has been a role model ever since she arrived at the dining facility and routinely stays past her assigned shifts to ensure the job gets done right. She has been and continues to be a mentor to all our young Airmen. Sergeant Ferber was also recognized as the squadron's "Volunteer of the Month" for April for her community service and involvement.



Mrs. Erica Hoffman

Duty title:
Recreation aide and motor vehicle driver

Duty section:
Outdoor Recreation

Hometown:
Sioux City, Iowa

Why she's tops:

Mrs. Hoffman constantly helps to improve the Outdoor Recreation program working at Holiday Park, issuing and receiving rental equipment, driving trips — all with aplomb. Her dedication and hard work helped the program win Best in Air Force for 2007 and maintain its Five-Star status three years running. As a Phoenix Spouse, her work does not end when she leaves Outdoor Recreation. She ensures that the 62nd Force Support Squadron's families are doing well and constantly helps take care of Airmen living in the dorms. Her off-duty hobbies include parasailing and gardening and her long-term goal is to become a professional dog walker.



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AMC: New tanker addition may be delayed

By
Air Mobility Command
Public Affairs

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, ILL – The Air Force general responsible for the nation's air refueling fleet said he's disappointed efforts to bring a new tanker into operation may be further delayed.

Wednesday the Government Accountability Office released a decision that sustained portions of a protest filed by Boeing. The contract is for the development and procurement of up to 179 tanker aircraft and is valued at approximately \$35 billion.

"While I respect the process for appealing the Air Force's decision and understand the important role

of the GAO, I am very disappointed to hear the tanker acquisition process may be further delayed," said Gen. Arthur J. Lichte, commander of Air Mobility Command. "It's vitally important that we get this critical asset in the hands of our warfighters. Without a new tanker, this capability — and our nation's ability to project power and humanitarian assistance in the future — is

in significant jeopardy."

The average age of the Air Force's KC-135 fleet is now 47 years. Replacement of the aging aircraft is the Air Force's #1 acquisition priority.

"We need a quick resolution to the issues identified by the GAO," General Lichte added. "We must move forward as soon as possible — recapitalizing the tanker fleet is simply a matter of national security."

62nd FSS lodging section prepares for Rodeo 2009

By
Tyler Hemstreet
Staff writer

Thanks to a little help from Air Mobility Command commander Gen. Arthur Lichte, the 62nd Force Support Squadron's lodging section is moving forward on improvements that will better prepare the base for visitor accommodations during Rodeo 2009.

The section was recently granted nearly \$2.6 million from AMC to begin renovation of 100 rooms in Buildings 1149 and 1150, said Master Sgt. Brent Kerns, 62nd FSS lodging section chief.

The renovations will turn the former dormitories into lodging rooms to accommodate international team members during Rodeo.

"There was a very quick turnaround on the request for funds," Sergeant Kerns said. "We didn't think we'd get it that fast. Our goal is to get the rooms back on line for Rodeo."

The section is set to vacate 107 lodging rooms in Buildings

595, 596 and 597 in October because the buildings are old and not up to the current lodging standards, said Capt. William Parker, 62nd FSS.

"Initially, we were set to lose nearly one third of our lodging capabilities," Captain Parker said.

But that won't be the case now thanks to the money from AMC.

Renovations to the rooms in Buildings 1149 and 1150 include modifying the dormitory-style suites so guests don't have to walk through a shared bathroom to gain access to their lounge. Roughly half of the rooms in the new buildings will be suites, Captain Parker said.

"It's a much better arrangement for everyone," he added.

The new additions will not only help the section avoid sending international guests to hotels off base, but also keep more of the guests staying on base closer to the main lodging building, Sergeant Kerns said.

The lodging section also recently completed a \$700,000 project in Buildings 1147 and 1148, installing new carpet and furniture.

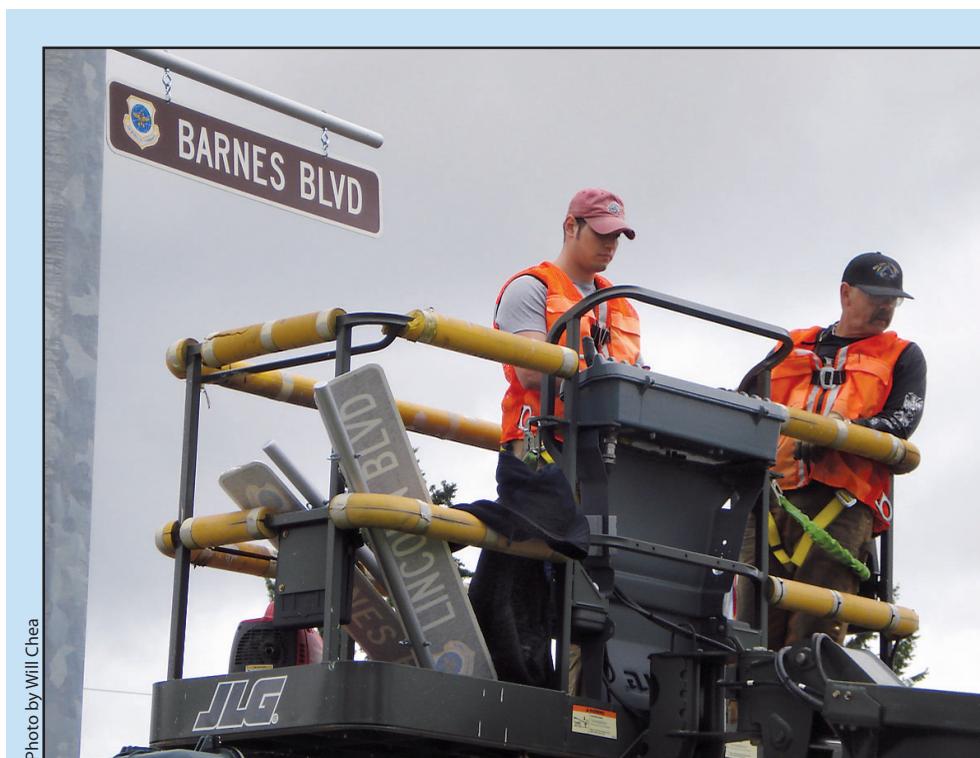


Photo by Will Chea

Sign of the times

62nd Civil Engineer Squadron workers Sam Guerrero, left, and Dave Emerson wait to be lowered back to the ground last week after putting up a new sign on Barnes Boulevard. The crew also put up new signs on Lincoln and Pitsenbarger Boulevard in order to help people navigate the base easier.



Local AF detachment transfers command

By

Staff Sgt. Eric Burks
62nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

KENT, Wash. — Members of McChord's Honor Guard stood patiently outside the door, awaiting the signal to enter the room and post colors during a change of command ceremony June 13.

Col. Joseph Wiley, 62nd Operations Group Commander, was one the distinguished guests in the audience, but the change of command did not take place at McChord.

The ceremony, held at the Boeing facility in Kent, was not for a unit or tenant of the 62nd or 446th Airlift Wing, but for Detachment 1 of the 505th Operations Group. The group is assigned under the 505th Command and Control Wing, Hurlburt Field, Fl., and ultimately reports to the Air Warfare Center, Nellis AFB, Nev.

Det. 1, USAF Tactical Air Warfare Center was activated in 1972, as a member of the E-3A AWACS Joint Test Force, the Boeing Company,

Seattle, Wash.

The JTF has a complicated mission involving AWACS testing and development, and is committed to "providing world class next-generation command and control equipment," said incoming detachment commander Lt. Col. Peter Bastien.

While the detachment is not administratively part of Team McChord, it relies on the base for support functions such as visits to the military personnel flight, base clinic and Airman and Family Readiness Center. Additionally, Master Sgt. David Dant, the emcee for the change of command, even lives in McChord's base housing.

Col. Patrick Raglow, commander of the 505th Operations Group at Nellis AFB, Nev. thanked Col. Wiley for coming to the event and said that the support the detachment receives from McChord was outstanding.

"We love being part of a small Air Force community, while at the same time having a much larger Air Force family just down the road," said outgoing detachment commander Lt. Col. William Neuenswander.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Eric Burks

Col. Patrick Raglow, left, 505th Operations Group commander, presents Lt. Col. Peter Bastien the Detachment 1, 505th OG flag at the change-of-command ceremony June 13 at the Boeing facility in Kent.

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

IRAQ — Senior Airman Verne Patterson, 5th ASOS, poses during a battlefield circulation mission on a recent deployment.



Courtesy photo

IRAQ — Staff Sgt. William Walden, 5th Air Support Operations Squadron, rests after a battlefield circulation mission during a recent deployment.



Some plastics raise concerns

By

Capt. Bethany Druckenmiller
62nd Medical Operations Squadron

Polycarbonate is a type of plastic that is clear, tough and lightweight. It is ideal for a number of popular consumer products such as baby bottles, compact discs, water bottles and food storage containers. In recent years, this type of plastic has come under scrutiny due to results of animal studies that showed evidence that one key ingredient, bisphenol A, may cause negative health effects in lab rats.

Researchers found that some lab rats exposed to BPA experienced behavioral changes, early puberty and reproductive changes as well as possible pre-cancerous changes. These studies brought about concerns that humans may also be at risk due to the increasing number of polycarbonate products used in our everyday lives. Some research has been conducted in humans by a number of agencies, including the Food and Drug Administration, National Institutes of Health and the National Toxicology Program. Unfortunately, the results have been less than conclusive and there is no clear evidence that BPA is or is not harmful to humans. Some studies show some

risk, while others show no risk at all.

Although there is no direct evidence that exposure to BPA adversely affects human health, an April 14 draft report from the National Toxicology Program determined the possibility that BPA may impact human health cannot be dismissed, said Lt. Col. Jeffrey Mason, the 62nd Medical Group's bioenvironmental engineering element chief.

"More research is needed," Colonel Mason said.

These concerns have raised consumer awareness and despite recommendations from the FDA to not limit the purchase or use of these products at this time, some companies have responded.

According to 62nd MDG public health officials, it's clear that people are paying attention and looking for alternatives. Fortunately, companies are listening, and consumers certainly have other options.

Not all plastics contain BPA and it is relatively easy to know the difference. Polycarbonate plastics are easily identified by the recycling No. 7 on the bottom of the package. However, plastic grocery bags, disposable water bottles, medicine containers and many other plastic products are BPA-free. These are identified by recycling Nos. 1-6 on the bottom of the package.

62nd MDG Public Health recommends that anyone with concerns about BPA should take steps to reduce their exposure. Options include:

- Avoid plastic containers made of polycarbonate. These can be identified with the No. 7 in the recycle triangle on the bottom.
- When possible, prepare and store foods — especially hot foods and liquids — in glass, porcelain or stainless steel.
- Do not microwave polycarbonate containers. Some studies show that the plastic is more likely to breakdown and release BPA when repeatedly heated to high temperatures.
- Do not expose polycarbonate plastic containers to hot or boiling liquid; doing so could release BPA at a higher and faster rate.
- Use infant formula bottles and sippy cups that are made of glass or BPA-free plastic.
- When possible, replace canned foods with fresh/frozen foods or foods packaged in shelf-stable boxes/containers.
- A good alternative to polycarbonate is polyethylene, which has the recycling No. 1 on the bottom.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Eric Burks

Setting sail

Team McChord members board boats at the Evergreen Fleet Cruise event Wednesday at the Tacoma Yacht Club. Dozens of generous community leaders donated their time and yachts for the annual cruise hosted by the Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber of Commerce, Tacoma Yacht Club and Harborstone Credit Union. The event was designed to unite civic and military leaders.



Cadets learn complexity of overseas mission as part of ...

Operation Air Force

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

Somewhere over the Pacific Ocean, Air Force Academy Cadet Third Class Carly Olsowski stood in the cockpit of a C-17 Globemaster III from McChord and looked out across the vast expanse of blue. With a vision to fly jets for the Air Force after graduation, she spoke with C-17 pilots Lt. Col. Douglas Patterson and Maj. Rob Luzader from the 313th Airlift Squadron.

"My dream aircraft was the A-10 Warthog," said Cadet Olsowski, "but since I have been at McChord, I have begun to think that flying heavies is the sort of lifestyle that I would like to have."

If one day in the future she finds herself behind the controls of a McChord C-17, she would be following in the footsteps of Colonel Patterson, who graduated from the academy in 1989. Laughter filled the cockpit when Cadet Olsowski noted that she was born the same year.

Cadet Olsowski is one of 18 academy cadets visiting McChord during the first phase of Operation Air Force, a career-broadening program. Sunday and Monday, they took part in a C-17 mission

from here to Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii, and back. The flight was a combined effort of the 62nd and 446th Airlift Wings, as the mission was planned by the 7th AS and ultimately flown by pilots from the 313th AS.

The mission served several purposes, said Capt. Ian Ostermiller, the 10th AS facilitator who accompanied the cadets.

"It's a great location, so in a sense it's an advertisement for the mobility mission," he said. "You see a lot of the world, and Hawaii is a good way to get somebody's attention."

However, the captain added, it's more than just a day at the beach.

"Local training sorties can't capture the complexity involved in leaving home station and going overseas," he said.

"An off-station trainer that crosses the ocean is a great way to get cadets close to the mission in a controlled environment," said Captain Ostermiller. "They get to see all aspects, from working with the aerial port troops to interacting with the aircrew."

"Hopefully they come away from the experience with a smile on their face, but also with a better understanding of all the moving pieces involved in getting from A to B, especial-

ly when B is across the ocean," he said.

On Saturday, the cadets experienced an event neither frequent nor uncommon in modern aviation – a flight delay. Before an aircraft from McChord is cleared to fly, there are numerous safety procedures and checklists that must be completed. One minor issue kept the mission's C-17 grounded that day. However, it served as a teaching point for the cadets – how important safety is to the Air Force and its mission.

Safety is paramount, said Capt. Dale Moree, 7th AS.

"The purpose of checklists is to ensure all systems are operating correctly, enabling the success of the C-17's diverse missions," he said.

The cadets and crew arrived back here Monday evening. Cadet Third Class Daniel Venable said the off-station trainer showed him the real diversity and complexity of Air Force missions.

"Operation Air Force has really opened my eyes to many new career fields," he said. "It has given me a really good perspective on how things work outside of cadet life at the academy."

Phase one of Operation Air Force here concludes Saturday.



Cadet Third Class Carly Olsowski talks with Lt. Col. Douglas Patterson, a pilot with the 313th Airlift Squadron, during Monday's flight from Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii, back to McChord.



Cadets arrive Sunday at Hickam AFB, Hawaii.



Capt. Dale Moree, 7th AS, briefs cadets Friday prior to the mission.



Cadets prepare for Monday's flight back to McChord.

Sather Airmen foster relationships with local community

By

Tech. Sgt. Amanda Callahan
447th Air Expeditionary Group
Public Affairs

SATHER AIR BASE, Iraq (AFPN) — The sounds of children laughing fill the air as they run across the dusty soccer field. Despite the heat and dirt, parents and friends cheer and join in to play from time to time.

But this scene isn't from a typical Saturday afternoon in suburban America. This is Iraq and another example of how Airmen here are working together to help rebuild the local community through the Good Neighbor Program.

Started a year ago, the program gives Sather Air Base Airmen an outlet to help the local community as it tries to rebuild from the shadows of conflict. Not through military might or infrastructure, but by simply bridging cultural and economic gaps.

"The program builds a relationship with Iraqi families beyond war," said Master Sgt. Crystal Amos, the pro-

gram's coordinator and liaison. "It shows we care about their needs on a personal level."

This care is demonstrated through the many boxes full of items donated by Airmen. Soccer balls and stuffed animals to shoes and hygiene supplies, these are all collected and delivered to thankful parents and excited children, who range in ages from 3 to 13.

"I am thankful for America, and I am happy anytime you come here" said Iraqi Maj. Raheem, a father of twins who just received new stuffed animals.

Staff Sgt. Deric VanBree of the 447th Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron deployed from Hill Air Force Base, Utah, was one of the 20-plus Airmen who volunteered their time with the Iraqi families.

"It's nice to help these guys," she said. "It's great to see the excited kids — especially with the soccer balls!"

The memory of these children even brought one Airman back. After participating in the program during his deployment last year, Tech. Sgt.

Matthew Land, a member of the 447th



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Allen

Senior Airman Charles Woford stretches to block a shot by a local Iraqi child recently at Sather Air Base, Iraq. Airman Woford, assigned to the 447th Air Expeditionary Group Chapel, was one of a group of Airmen who delivered toys and gifts donated by the Airmen assigned to Sather AB.

Expeditionary Communications Squadron, remembered the smiles and the looks on the children's faces and had to participate again.

"I do it to see the kids," Sergeant

Land said, who is deployed from Robins AFB, Ga. "I have three (children), so it makes me feel better while I'm here. Those smiles say they're happy we're here."



2008 AF marathon to set registration record

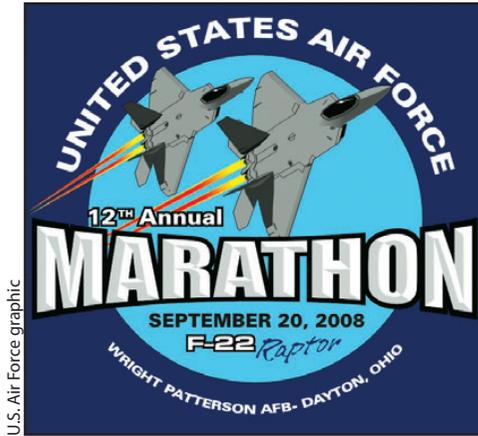
WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio (AFPN) — If current figures are an accurate predictor, the 2008 U.S. Air Force Marathon appears well on its way to shattering last year's registration record of more than 6,700 runners and could approach the 10,000 mark.

As of June 13, the total number of runners registered for the 12th annual event stood at 2,326. That compares with 1,013 total registered runners at the same time a year ago, or about a 130 percent increase.

According to Molly Loudon, marathon director, enhanced marketing and publicity efforts combined with strong word-of-mouth from previous marathon participants is helping fuel the surge in registration.

"For the past three years, we have stepped up marketing," Ms. Loudon said. "We've consistently attended regional marathon expos and advertised in national magazines.

"Also, word of mouth is a huge



Runners are encouraged to register early online not only to save money, but to ensure they get into the event. Enhanced marketing and publicity efforts combined with strong word-of-mouth from previous marathon participants is helping fuel the surge in registration.

factor, and the marathon has received fantastic reviews from past runners on running blogs like marathonguide.com."

Registration numbers are confirming high interest in both the full and half marathon. The June 13 figures show 1,098 runners registered for the full marathon, compared to 512 for the same time last year; the half marathon has received 885 registrants, compared to 333 for the same date a year ago.

Ms. Loudon said runners planning to participate in this year's marathon are encouraged to register early, especially considering the significant increase in registrants to date.

"We are encouraging runners to register early online not only to save money, but to ensure they get into the event," Ms. Loudon said. "This is the first year we might have to close registration due to the number of registrants. It is very exciting, but our numbers are nearly triple what they were last year. For planning purposes, we will close registration if we get near the 10,000 mark."

A prominent change to this year's marathon is the phase-out of the

four-person relay teams and the introduction of a 10k. Runners registering for the 10k can do so as individuals or can run as part of a four-person team.

Each 10k team member will start the race at the same time and will end at the same location. By including a four-person 10k team option in place of the marathon four-person relay, marathon officials sought to eliminate challenges such as team members having to wait for buses or searching for teammates on the course.

For the second straight year, the marathon's 5k will take place the day before the marathon on Sept. 19 at Wright State University. According to Ms. Loudon, the marathon, half marathon and 10k taking place Sept. 20 at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base will be limited to 10,000 runners, and the 5k at Wright State University will be limited to 2,000 runners.

For more information or to register for the marathon, visit www.usafmarathon.com.



AFPC completes transformation to virtual service center

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPN) — Blanca Rubio, a contract scanning team leader at the Air Force Personnel Center here, performed an electronic scan of the Air Force's last paper unit personnel record June 3.

This was an important digital milestone because it completed the paper conversion to a Web-based, around-the-clock "virtual service center" located at the virtual Military Personnel Flight.

"This is significant because unit personnel records for active-duty members will no longer be physically located at the military personnel flights," said Sharon Hogue, chief of AFPC's Master Personnel Records Branch.

"Instead of Airmen standing in line and depending on others to do updates, they can now access their records online from their desks at their convenience," she said. "Additionally, this major accomplishment is an enabler for future transformation initiatives like automated boards and assignment processing."

The paper-to-electronic records transition is part of the Air Force's ongoing commitment to personnel services delivery transformation.

Since September 2006, AFPC specialists have scanned about 325,000 records that were



Photo by Richard Salomon

Blanca Rubio, a contract scanning team leader at the Air Force Personnel Center at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, scans the last paper unit personnel record June 3. Since September 2006, AFPC specialists have scanned about 325,000 records.

shipped to the branch from every active-duty base in the Air Force. Each record was then scanned into the Automated Records Management System, which indexed them

through the identifying data such as name, date, Social Security number and document type.

"Coding the records this way makes it easier to retrieve them later if needed," said John Sabo, the branch's quality assurance chief. "Getting to this point has been a challenging base-by-base process, but it's great to see that our efforts have paid off."

Each unit personnel record group, or UPRG, contains about 33 documents and includes all personnel information that cover an Airman's career, such as citations, enlistment papers, promotion certificates and education records.

"Depending on its complexity, each record takes about 3-5 minutes to scan," said Lezley Gonzalez, one of a 70-person team working the record scanning project. "Even though we use high-end scanners, it has been a manual, document-by-document process."

That's about 10,500,000 total documents.

"While this is a significant milestone, there is still much work to be done," said Ms. Rubio. "We will continue to look for ways to streamline our processes and improve customer service. Serving our Airmen in the most efficient and effective way technology will allow is both an ongoing and evolutionary effort."



Airmen go from flight operations to the operation table

By

Staff Sgt. Mareshah Haynes
332nd Air Expeditionary Wing
Public Affairs

BALAD AIR BASE, Iraq (AFP) — Many Airmen never get the opportunity to see firsthand what Airmen outside their career field do on a day-to-day basis, let alone experience it.

That's exactly what the "swap" program at the Air Force Theater Hospital at Balad Air Base allowed a handful of Airmen to do.

Airmen from the 23rd and 332nd Expeditionary Fighter squadrons swapped jobs with Airmen from the 332nd Expeditionary Medical Group for a day to gain a greater appreciation of the mission performed by their peers.

Staff Sgt. C.J. Cruz-Francois of the 332nd EFS and Senior Airman Nicole Vaughn of the 23rd EFS spent the day at the AFTH, assisting the staff with tasks including stocking medical supplies, cleaning linen bins and observing operations.

"We try to expose them to every facet of the hospital," said Chief Master Sgt. David Nordel, assigned to the 332nd Expeditionary Medical Group. "Although traditionally the medical group is the smallest of the groups on base, we have by far the most Air Force specialties within one unit. The goal is for the individual to experience the diversity of the expeditionary medical group and get

an appreciation for the amount of teamwork that is needed to accomplish our mission of combat trauma care."

The duo checked on patients in the intensive care ward with trained medical technicians who described the injuries and treatments and provided help to each individual so the patients could be as comfortable as possible and recover from their injuries and ailments.

The exchange Airmen also saw a part of the medical career field that no servicemember hopes to experience, but the AFTH staff has to deal with all too often.

They witnessed a fallen angel ceremony for a 21-year-old Soldier, who despite doctors' efforts, died from a gunshot wound. The ceremony, which is a memorial held for servicemembers who gave their lives defending freedom, was attended by the operating room staff, hospital chaplains and helicopter pad crew.

"Seeing the guys coming who are injured and hurt — it really opens up your eyes as to why we're here in Iraq, what we're supporting and what the mission is," said Airman Vaughn, who is deployed from Spangdahlem AB, Germany. "Today was very intense."

"The impact of the loss of a brother or sister in arms is something that medical warriors have to face and deal with, just as maintainers have to deal with 120 degree days or other factors that make their tough job tougher," said Chief



Photo by Staff Sgt. Mareshah Haynes

Senior Airman Nicole Vaughn spends time with a young Iraqi girl who is a patient at the Air Force Theater Hospital recently at Balad Air Base, Iraq. Airman Vaughn is involved in the job-swap program, which allows Airmen outside of the medical career field to spend a day shadowing hospital personnel. Airman Vaughn is assigned to the 23rd Expeditionary Fighter Squadron and deployed from Spangdahlem AB, Germany.

Nordel, who is deployed from Grand Forks Air Force Base, N.D. "That part of the medical mission truly defines who and what we are about."

After experiencing a day in the life of a medical technician at the AFTH, it seemed the experience did cause a deeper appreciation and an insight into the overall Air Force

mission and how each job is integral to accomplishing the mission.

"It puts things into perspective," said Sergeant Cruz-Francois, an aircrew resource management specialist deployed from Spangdahlem AB. "It's (the work done at the AFTH) phenomenal. When you witness it, you know why you're here (in Iraq)."



Escape Zone closure

The Escape Zone will be closed Wednesday due to training requirements. For more information, call 982-2695.

Air Force Marathon

The 12th annual United States Air Force Marathon is Sept. 20 at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio. Air Mobility

Command will again sponsor a team comprised of both male and female runners representing various age groups to compete in the full marathon. Team members will be selected based upon submitted AF Form 303. The completed forms should be submitted through your base Fitness Center by July 16. Those selected will be notified by AMC and placed on Permissive TDY for the marathon.

In addition to the official AMC competitive team, all others interested in competing in the Air Force Marathon are encouraged to do so at their own expense. Other events include a wheelchair marathon, half marathon, individual 10K and team 10K. In addition, a 5K race is Sept. 19 at Wright State University.

Please contact the Fitness Center for additional Air Force Marathon information.

Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School is from 9 a.m. to noon Monday through Friday at the Chapel Support Center. The program is for all children from preschool to fifth grade. To register, visit the Chapel Support Center. Volunteers are still needed to help with the program. Those interested in volunteering are encouraged to call Robbin Large
—————Continued on next page

**Do you have a story idea? Spread the news in *The NW Airlifter*!
Call Public Affairs at 982-5637 or e-mail us at northwestairlifter@mcchord.af.mil**



BRIEFS

or Karen Lynch at 982-5556.

New Housing Office hours

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

Lost and found

The 62nd Security Forces Squadron is currently in possession of numerous items of personal property such as bicycles, keys, etc. These items were found on or near McChord and may be reclaimed by contacting the Security Forces Investigation Section, located in Bldg. 160. For more information, contact the Investigations Section at 982-5936.



Faith and Worship Programs

**For more information,
call the chapel support center
at 982-5556.**

The following chapel program takes place at the base chapel support center, Bldg. 746, unless otherwise noted:

Adult Bible study is from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Wednesdays.

Schedule of worship services

Catholic Services:

All Catholic services are in chapel two.

Saturday: 4 p.m. Confession

5 p.m. Mass

Sunday: 9:30 a.m. Mass

11 a.m. Mass

Protestant Services:

Sunday: 8:30 a.m. Liturgical worship:

Chapel one

9:45 a.m. Sunday school for all ages at the chapel support center

11 a.m. Traditional worship:

Chapel one

11 a.m. Contemporary service:

Chapel support center

Jewish Services:

Friday: 6 p.m. Fort Lewis chapel every 1st, 3rd and 5th at the corner of 12th Street and Liggett Avenue 967-6590

Orthodox Activities:

Sunday: 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy, St. Nicholas Church, 15th Street and Yakima Avenue, Tacoma

Other services:

Orthodox Christian Community, Cascade Chapel, Fort Lewis

Sundays: 8:45 a.m. Pre-Communion prayers

9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy

Confession is by appointment only.

Call Father John Anderson at 967-1717

or 906-6843 or e-mail father.anderson@us.army.mil.

Correction

In the June 13 edition of *The Northwest Airlifter*, photo cut-line information on Page 8 gave the incorrect squadron for Staff Sgt. Shawn Delang. Sergeant Delang is from the 62nd Maintenance Operations Squadron.