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Connecting Team McChord with the Combat Airlift Mission

September 12, 2008

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McChord completes historic NVG landing

By

62nd Airlift Wing
Public Affairs

On Thursday, Team McChord Airmen from the 62nd and 446th Airlift Wings assigned to Joint Task Force Support Forces Antarctica took off from Christchurch, New Zealand, and landed at McMurdo Station, completing the first-ever night vision goggle mission there.

"The successful completion of this mission opens the door for us to provide support to the National Science Foundation on a year-round basis," said Operation Deep Freeze Commander Lt. Col. Jim McGann, who is assigned to the 62nd Operations Group. "McChord has performed Deep Freeze missions for more than 10 years and this mission demonstrates our ability to provide the NSF with critical logistical capability well into the future."

The joint aircrew was extremely pleased all the training and careful planning that went into the historic NVG mission, initially planned landing in April, had finally paid off.

"For five months of the year the Antarctic shelf is in complete darkness," said Operation Deep Freeze Deputy Commander Lt. Col. Scott Weichert, who is assigned to the 446th Operations Group. "You're talking about a half the year without being able to assist our partners in the National Science Foundation. Now, that can all change."

From August through February each year, Airmen from McChord deliver supplies to the National Science Foundation in Antarctica.



Photo by Master Sgt. Chris Vadnais

Lt. Col. Scott Weichert, a C-17 evaluator pilot with the 313th Airlift Squadron at McChord, looks out over the ice after the first-ever night vision-assisted landing on Pegasus Ice Runway near McMurdo Station, Antarctica, Thursday.

This mission could result in the capability to fly missions to that continent year-round.

"I can't tell you how proud I am that Team McChord is part of this historic event," said Col. Jeffrey Stephenson, 62nd Airlift Wing commander. "The successful completion of this mission is a true testament to the global reach capabilities of our Airmen and the C-17. Our team is proud to help expand our support to

the National Science Foundation and U.S. Antarctic Program as they continue their research in Antarctica, and to help their people when they are most in need."

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

deliver supplies to the NSF from August through February each season.

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

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

Colonel McGann explained that the runway used at McMurdo was much like landing on Puget Sound's Elliot Bay in Seattle — if Puget Sound was frozen solid.

"Despite the environment our aircrews fly into, landing and off- and on-loading people and cargo in temperatures at times nearing minus 58 degrees F, we didn't miss a beat," said Colonel McGann. "But we can always find ways to do it better and this mission provides a revolution in Antarctic logistics that will pave the way for a quantum leap in science on the ice."

Operation Deep Freeze missions start in Antarctica

HICKAM AIR FORCE BASE, Hawaii — Operation Deep Freeze, the U.S. military's support of the U.S. Antarctic Program and the National Science Foundation, kicked off the 2008-2009 season Sept. 4 as the first C-17 Globemaster III delivered passengers and cargo to McMurdo Station, Antarctica.

The C-17, based out of McChord, flew multiple missions from Christchurch International Airport, New Zealand, to McMurdo Station as part of Springfly Sept. 4-10.

Christchurch is the staging point for deployment to McMurdo Station, a key research and operations facility for the U.S. Antarctic Program.

Formerly known as Winfly, Springfly is the ODF ramp up phase to prepare buildings and equipment, as well as pave the overland traverse to the South Pole, in preparation for the arrival of the main body of military and civilian personnel during the main season in October.

ODF involves operational and logistic support of the National

Science Foundation's scientific research activities in Antarctica by U.S. Air Force, Navy, Army and Coast Guard forces. This support is provided by the Joint Task Force Support Forces Antarctica headquartered here and led by Lt. Gen. Loyd S. "Chip" Utterback, 13th Air Force and JTF SFA commander.

JTF-SFA coordinates strategic intertheater airlift, tactical LC-130 deep field support, aeromedical evacuation support, search and rescue response, sealift, seaport access, bulk fuel supply, port cargo

handling, and transportation requirements for ODF. Active duty, National Guard and Reserve personnel from the U.S. Air Force, Navy, Army and Coast Guard work together as part of the Joint Task Force.

Antarctica is the coldest, windiest and most inhospitable continent on the globe. The U.S. military is uniquely equipped and trained to operate in such an austere environment and has provided support to the U.S. Antarctic Program since 1955.

Weekend Weather

FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Hi: 75 Low: 49	Hi: 73 Low: 49	Hi: 82 Low: 52

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

Countdown to success

Nuclear Surety Inspection	118	days
Rodeo	311	days
Operational Readiness Inspection	409	days

Don't miss it ...

POW/MIA Luncheon

The luncheon starts at 11:30 a.m. Thursday at the McChord Clubs and Community Center.

Stepping away from swivel chairs

By

Chief Master Sgt. Russell Kuck
62nd Airlift Wing
command chief master sergeant

As I prepare to retire after more than 29 years of service to the Air Force, I want to leave supervisors with one last piece of advice ...

"No good decision was ever made in a swivel chair."

Now Gen. George Patton may have expressed that sentiment more than 60 years ago, however, it reflects how I was brought into the Air Force and

who I am today as a chief master sergeant.

As I look back, I don't think my first supervisor, Staff Sgt. Henry Pregnal III, ever sat down. He was constantly by my side, mentoring me about my attitude, professionalism and customs and courtesies. He taught me time management, how to prioritize and every aspect of my job. He set me up for success, and for that I will forever be thankful.

My commander and superintendent at time, Lt. Col. Jerome Pauley and Chief Master Sgt. Terry Firman, also took this stance on leadership.

It wasn't odd to see them in my work center, checking up on the Airmen, educating themselves on our processes, working environment and challenges. The colonel and I actually arrived on station at the same time, and he made a point to ensure we in-processed together.

These individuals started me on the right path to supervision; they will never fully know the impact they had on me. To this day I still carry their words and actions with me.

Remember, those you supervise are a reflection of your leadership. I've never met anyone who credits their

military success to someone who led from behind a desk or through a computer. Only your active commitment to those you supervise and dedication to setting the example will stand the test of time and ensure the success of those you're charged with.

As I look forward to retirement, I leave my hope for peace, happiness and every success in life with you all. I am proud to have served by your side and am forever grateful to the supervisors, leaders, coworkers, friends and family who made me the Airman I am today.

Hooah!

Juggling challenges, responsibilities, can be difficult

By

Lt. Col. James Shigekane
10th Airlift Squadron
commander

Managing the various challenges and responsibilities in life has often been compared to the skilled art of juggling. Most of us began by learning to juggle school and extracurricular activities. During our high school years, we discovered the wonderful new world of dating and needed to improve our juggling abilities. Many also added a part-time job to their routine.

As we progress through our lives, our juggling skills must continue to improve and adapt to

accommodate additional demands. Our educational commitments and our professional responsibilities increase, our relationships become more serious, and many of us start families. Military members face the additional challenges of deployments, temporary duty assignments and permanent change of stations. With all of these additional responsibilities, our balance becomes increasingly difficult to maintain.

In order to be successful, we must ensure that we prioritize accordingly and understand the composition of each "items" we are juggling. Some items are very resilient and will survive a "drop" or two. Some items, however, are extremely fragile and must be handled with care. The most delicate is our families and relationships. I compare

these as glass balls, similar to Christmas ornaments. If you've ever dropped one, you know that it will shatter into many, many pieces. Even if you are lucky enough to find all of the pieces and are able to put them all back together, it will never be as strong and will have to be handled with much more care than ever before. Additionally, if you hold it up to the light, you will forever see all of the fractures caused by a moment of neglect.

I ask that we all take extra time as we approach the holiday season to invest in and nurture our relationships. As our responsibilities increase, and our juggling routine becomes increasingly challenging, we must pay special attention to ensure that we keep our families and relationships foremost in our crosscheck.

The Sharp Airman ...

The Sharp Airman ... wears blues correctly

- Men should center occupational badges half-inch above ribbons or the pocket if not wearing ribbons.
- Women should center name tag on right side, even with 1-1/2 inches higher or lower than the first exposed button.
- Center occupational badge half-an-inch above the ribbons. When not wear-

ing ribbons, center badge parallel to the name tag.

- When wearing the pullover or cardigan, officers and senior noncommissioned officers should wear shoulder boards. Enlisted Airmen (E-1 to E-6) should wear metal rank five-eighths of an inch from the edge and centered on lapel.
- The lightweight blue jacket may be worn indoors or outdoors and must be zipped at least halfway.
- Officer rank on flight caps should be 1-1/2 inches from the edge and bottom of cap.
- A tie for men and a tie tab for women are mandatory when wearing a long-sleeve blue shirt.

Editor's note: The Sharp Airman is a leadership tool designed to reinforce professionalism of all Airmen.

Professionals of the week

62nd Aerial Port Squadron

Tech. Sgt. Deric Walker

Duty title:

Noncommissioned officer in charge of packing and crating

Duty section:

Packing and crating

Hometown:

Colorado Springs, Colo.

Why he's tops:

Sergeant Walker is responsible for the 62nd Aerial Port Squadron's packing and crating section. He manages the packaging operation that handles on average 14,000 time-sensitive outbound government shipments during the course of a year. As the NCOIC, he recognized a need to reorganize the section's equipment and supplies. Sergeant Walker implemented two Air Force Smart Operations for the 21st Century lean initiatives that revamped the packing and crating's tool room and reclaimed 1,200 square feet in reusable container storage area.



Staff Sgt. Richard Bastian

Duty title:

Squadron safety, security and reserve program manager

Duty section:

Combat readiness and resources

Hometown:

Williamsport, Penn.

Why he's super:

Sergeant Bastian continually receives written and verbal laudatory comments and inspection results on all programs he is directly in charge of. The 62nd APS continually receives written and verbal laudatory comments and inspection results on all programs he is directly in charge of. He is also the squadron anti-terrorism and force protection NCO, vice-president of the unit booster club and squadron sports representative. He spearheaded the squadron's involvement during Air Expo 2008, directly resulting in the unit booster club receiving more than \$3,000 for future morale events.



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7 AS returns from hurricane mission to New Orleans

By

Airman 1st Class Kirsten Wicker
62nd Airlift Wing
Public Affairs

Airmen from the 7th Airlift Squadron here returned Sept. 2 from a mission to New Orleans, La., to bring relief supplies and an aeromedical evacuation crew to assist officials during and after Hurricane Gustav.

Pilot Captains Dave Morey, aircraft commander, Ben Wood, Vic Mota and loadmasters Senior Airman Rika Smith and Senior Airman Jeremy John, all 7th AS, crewed the C-17 Globemaster III on a flight carrying four humvees and

two generators to the Big Easy Aug. 30 to Sept. 2.

The trip included a stop at Kelly Air Force Base, Texas to pick up an aeromedical evacuation crew, then on to New Orleans where the aircraft was met by members of the Air National Guard.

"This mission displayed the dedication and service by the men and women of team McChord to our fellow Americans in crisis," said Captain Morey.

Once the aircraft was unloaded, the crew flew to Little Rock, Ark. to stand on alert as the hurricane roared toward the coast.

"We sat on stand-by waiting for the hurricane to hit," Senior Airman Smith said. "We didn't unpack or go

very far from the hotel; we just stayed close by until we got the call to leave."

The crew completed another tasking over the weekend to Kelly AFB before returning to Little Rock with Red Cross supplies, only to encounter a portion of the storm on the way in.

"It was pretty bad weather," Captain Morey said. "There was very low visibility and high winds, but our crews train for difficult conditions."

The crew successfully and safely landed in Little Rock that night for the final leg of their mission.

Hurricane Gustav made landfall on Monday, with less severity than city officials were expecting.

"Everyone learned important

lessons from a few years ago. With the mayor of New Orleans calling this, [Hurricane Gustav] the 'mother of all storms' they prepared very well," said Captain Morey. It was downgraded to a category 2 once it made landfall."

Mission complete, the crew headed back to McChord.

"This definitely wasn't a routine mission or series of flights," said Senior Airman Smith. "But we are well-trained and ready and we completed this mission successfully and safely."

"Our crews stand ready at a moment's notice to go anywhere at any time," Captain Morey said. "I'm proud to have commanded an excellent crew on a successful mission."



Photo by Tyler Hemstreet

Fruitful choices

Carla Richards helps herself to a banana from a fruit basket Tuesday at the fitness center. The Health and Wellness Center placed fruit baskets at several locations on base this week as part of Air Force Fruit and Vegetable Month to encourage people to add more fruits and vegetables to their diet.



AMC avoids fatalities during 101 CDS campaign

By

Roger Drinnon
Air Mobility Command
Public Affairs

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill. — Air Mobility Command's 101 Critical Days of Summer campaign was its most successful one ever, with no fatalities among AMC Airmen between the Memorial Day and Labor Day holidays.

"I want to express my gratitude to every member of AMC for making this year's 101 Critical Days of Summer campaign our most successful to date," said AMC Commander Gen. Arthur Lichte. "Due to ... strong leadership, combined with everyone's outstanding efforts, Air Mobility Command was able to meet the command goal of zero fatalities for the very first time."

The campaign was themed "Be Your Own Safety Manager" and supported a similar Air Force-wide promotion which is conducted annually. The campaign increases personal awareness of safety risks and is aimed at reducing the number of preventable mishaps

and deaths during June, July and August.

Personal responsibility, traffic safety awareness and a "wingman" attitude were cornerstones to the success of the 2008 campaign, said General Lichte.

"This year's success is a direct reflection of each individual embracing their responsibility to 'Be Their Own Safety Manager,' as well as a reflection of our command's strong wingman culture," he said.

The success of the campaign also produced stellar results at McChord, as the 62nd Airlift Wing saw the number of reportable injuries drop by nearly half versus the 2007 campaign.

The wing sustained 21 reportable injuries in 2007, but only 12 in 2008, according to Ken Heath, 62nd AW chief of safety. A reportable injury is something that causes an Airman to miss one or more workdays.

"The key is that none of the categories of injuries that were reported stood out as being a trend," Mr. Heath said. "Our overall numbers are down and we attribute that to individuals taking responsibility for their actions."

(62nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs contributed to this article.)



Photo by Airman 1st Class Kirsten Wicker

Helping hand

Spouse Laurel Rogers helps Koine Parker color a Moroccan at a crafts table for children Monday at the Deployed Spouses Dinner. The Mexican-themed event at the Chapel Support Center drew nearly 200 people, served Mexican cuisine and featured fiesta-style arts and crafts for children. The next dinner is scheduled for December.



McChord Airmen

AROUND THE WORLD



SAUDI ARABIA — 1st Lt. Rena Sandgren, 62nd Force Support Squadron, receives a coin for her hard work from Lt. Gen. Gary North, 9th Air Force and U.S. Air Forces Central commander, during a recent deployment.



KUWAIT — Tech. Sgt. Richard Putman, 62nd Security Forces Squadron, conducts fly away security tactical training during a recent deployment.



Work set to begin on lodging for Rodeo 2009

By

Tyler Hemstreet
Staff writer

Thanks to a little help from Gen. Arthur Lichte, Air Mobility Command commander, 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."

A contractor for the project was recently selected and work will start next month, said Johnnie Bennett,

general lodging manager with the 62nd FSS.

The section has vacated 107 lodging rooms in Buildings 595, 596 and 597 because the buildings are not up to current lodging standards, Mr. Bennett said.

Initially, the section was going to lose nearly 1/3 of its lodging capabilities, 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, Mr. Bennett said.

"It's a much better arrangement for everyone," he added. "We're pretty excited about it."

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.

Secretary Gates cancels air-refueling solicitation

By

Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Defense Secretary Robert Gates has cancelled the competition for the \$35 billion Air Force tanker contract.

Secretary Gates told the House Armed Services Committee Sept. 10 that he decided the contract cannot be awarded by January, and that rather than award a contract that will be contested, the better idea is to let the next administration make its decision.

"It has now become clear that the solicitation and award process cannot be accomplished by January," he said. "Thus, I believe that rather than hand the next administration an incomplete and possibly contested process, we should cleanly defer this procurement to the next team."

Air Force officials had awarded the contract for what's known as the KC-X to the Northrop-Grumman/EADS/Airbus consortium, which prompted a protest from rival bidder Boeing. Inspectors in the General Accountability Office found irregularities in the awarding of the contract, Secretary Gates re-opened the bidding process on July 9.

Secretary Gates told the representatives that the department has been trying for seven years to find the proper way to replace the current fleet of KC-135 Stratotankers. During that time, the



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Michael Voss

A KC-135 Stratotanker assigned to the 376th Air Expeditionary Wing touches down at Manas Air Base, Kyrgyz Republic, following a refueling mission in support of operations in Afghanistan. Defense Secretary Robert Gates has cancelled the competition for the \$35 billion Air Force tanker contract. He's been assured that the current KC-135 fleet can be adequately maintained to satisfy Air Force missions for the near future.

process has become most complex and emotional, Secretary Gates said, partly because of Defense Department mistakes.

"It is my judgment that in the time remaining to us, we cannot complete a competition that will be viewed as fair and competitive in this highly-charged environment," the secretary said. "I believe the resulting cooling-off period will allow the next administration to view objectively the

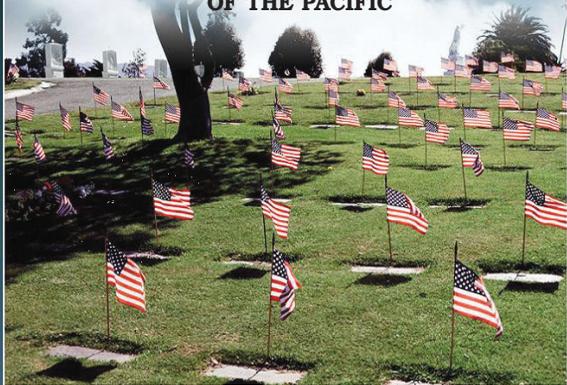
military requirements and craft a new acquisition strategy for the KC-X as it sees fit."

Secretary Gates said he's been assured that the current KC-135 fleet can be adequately maintained to satisfy Air Force missions for the near future, sufficient funds will be recommended in the fiscal 2009 and follow-on budgets to maintain the KC-135 at high mission-capable rates.



IN THESE GARDENS ARE RECORDED
THE NAMES OF AMERICANS
WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES
IN THE SERVICE OF THEIR COUNTRY
AND WHOSE EARTHLY
RESTING PLACE
IS KNOWN ONLY TO GOD.

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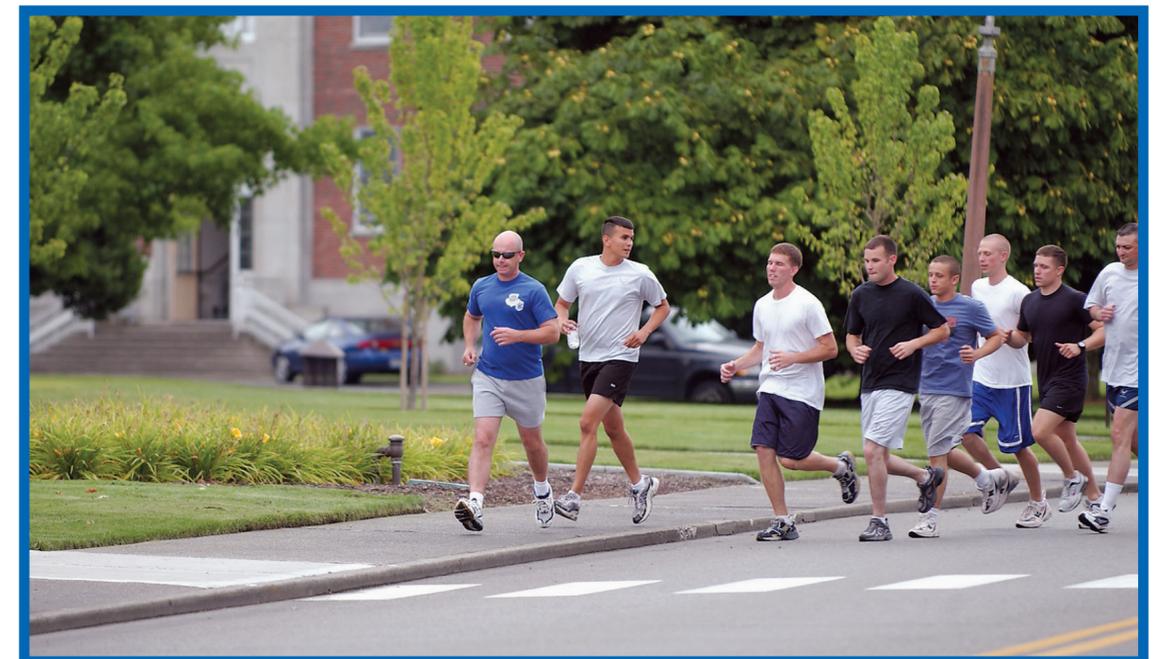
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Team McChord bids a fond farewell to Command Chief Master Sgt. Russell Kuck as he retires. On these pages are photos highlighting his remarkable time here.



Falcons defense stifles Wyoming, 23-3

By

John Van Winkle
U.S. Air Force Academy
Public Affairs

LARAMIE, Wyo. (AFPN) — A 74-yard end-around by U.S. Air Force Academy wide receiver Kyle Halderman broke a defensive slugfest and gave the Falcons the game-deciding play against Wyoming Saturday in Laramie.

But by calling the end-around, Air Force coach Troy Calhoun found a way to find one touchdown. From the Falcons' 25-yard line, quarterback Shea Smith gave the ball to Halderman, who picked up just enough key blocks to get around the outside. Emerging from traffic, the wide receiver dashed for daylight down the left sideline in what would be the game's longest play.

"I thought for sure Halderman's run would get into the end zone. On a play like that you have to make

sure you don't hit a triple and then squeeze in a run, you want to be able to get a score on that play," Coach Calhoun said.

Wyoming safety Chris Prosinski took just enough of an angle to tackle Halderman at the 1-yard line.

Two plays later, quarterback Shea Smith dove into the end zone to score the game's first touchdown. Kicker Ryan Harrison added the extra point, giving the Falcons a comfortable 13-3 lead with four minutes left in the third quarter.

With a 13-point lead, the Falcons kept the ball on the ground with a double tight-end formation to grind out the clock and wear down the Wyoming defenders. Well into the fourth quarter, the Falcons' ball-control offense kept piling on the yards, until fullback Todd Newell dove over the pile for a one-yard touchdown. It would be more than enough as Air Force notched a 23-3 win, lifting the Falcons to 2-0 on the season.

The three points allowed by Air Force is the team's best-ever defensive effort in a Mountain West Conference game, in the 10 years that the conference has been in existence.

"Anytime you win on the road it's a big win," Coach Calhoun said. "But when you beat a team that has a tough defense and a good offensive line, then it becomes a little bigger."

Coach Calhoun was quick to credit the win to his defense, which has only allowed opponents to score 10 total points this season. But he will be expecting more from his defenders as the season progresses.

That defense was led by senior defensive end Jake Paulson, who recorded two solo tackles, one assist, one tackle for loss, one forced fumble and his third quarterback third sack of the season.

On the other side of the ball, the Falcons offense ground 261 yards on 63 rushing attempts, and controlled the clock for more than 37



Photo by John Van Winkle

U.S. Air Force Academy wide receiver Kyle Halderman races down the sideline for a 74-yard gain, which set up the Falcons' first touchdown of the game Saturday in Laramie, Wyo. Halderman finished with three rushes for 85 yards in the Falcons' 23-3 win over Wyoming.

minutes.

The Falcons next play at Houston Saturday. Kickoff is set for 2:30 p.m., Central Standard Time.



AEF Airman adds impact to ceremonies

By

Tech. Sgt. Francesca Popp
407th Air Expeditionary Group
Public Affairs

ALI BASE, Iraq (AFPN) — Airmen gathered around the base flag pole just before 7 a.m. line up in formation and wait to hear the command, “Sound Reveille!”

Those two words are Airman 1st Class Caitlin Davies’ cue to begin playing her solo.

Airman Davies, a 407th Expeditionary Communications Squadron Operations Flight network integration technician here, may be the only bugler deployed to Iraq, said Master Sgt. Abdullah Mustapha, NCO in charge of the Ali Base honor guard.

“We are really proud that she stepped up to do this,” Sergeant Mustapha said. “It brings us back to a time when there were no recordings, and it adds a nice touch to the ceremonies here.”

Sergeant Mustapha recently learned that Airman Davies could play the bugle while the two were cleaning out the honor guard storage closet.

“She grabbed the bugle and started playing,” he said.

Airman Davies has 13 years of musical experience. She said she’s honored to provide live music during ceremonies here.

“It means a lot to provide a familiar tradition to service mem-

bers during a time of war,” said Airman Davies, who is deployed from Tinker Air Force Base, Okla. “The bugler position is a hard one to fill because qualified musicians aren’t always in abundance, so, I’m glad to fill (the position) while I can.”

Having a bugler actually play Reveille gives the ceremony more impact than recorded music, said Sergeant Mustapha, who is deployed from Eielson AFB, Alaska.

“It just gives our ceremonies a more organic and original touch,” he said. “It helps us reflect on our history and the history of the armed forces.”

“The goal of music is to move the spirit in whatever style the music calls for,” said Airman Davies. “Would you rather see the Grand Canyon for yourself or view a photograph in National Geographic? We want to see things in person for ourselves. The overall effect is more engaging.”

Airman Davies said she practices five days a week for 15 minutes and for two hours during honor guard practices.

“She has a great attitude and initiative,” said Sergeant Mustapha. “She embodies everything that an honor guard member is supposed to be.”

Airman Davies’ forte is the French horn. She had not played the bugle before deploying nearly four months ago.

“Solo bugling is very new to me,”



Photo by Staff Sgt. Scott Sturkol

A deployed Airman salutes the American flag posted at half-mast in Southwest Asia in observance of Patriot Day, Sept. 11. The base flag shown here flew at half mast the entire day honoring victims of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks in New York, the Pentagon and Pennsylvania.

she said. “I was rusty the first time because it had been a while since I had performed a solo. French hornists almost always play harmony; not all are in the limelight providing

melody.”

Airman Davies gathers her emotions to express them in music, puts the shiny instrument to her lips and proceeds to sound Reveille.



Airmen employ laser joint direct attack munition in Iraq

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq (AFPN) — Airmen employed a guided bomb unit-54 laser joint directed attack munition Aug. 12 against a moving enemy vehicle in the Diyala province to support a combined Iraqi army and U.S. Marine operation.

The GBU-54 is the Air Force's newest 500-pound precision weapon, equipped with a special targeting system that uses a combination of Global Positioning System and laser guidance to accurately engage and destroy moving targets.

F-16 Fighting Falcons from the 77th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron deployed the munitions.

"This employment first represents a great step in our Air Force's ability to deliver precise effects across the spectrum of combat," said Lt. Gen. Gary L. North, the U.S. Air Forces Central commander and U.S. Central Commands Combined Force Air Component commander. "The first combat employment of this weapon is the validation of the exacting hard work of an entire team of professionals who developed, tested and fielded this weapon on an extremely short timeline, based on an urgent needs request we established in the combat zone."

Identified as an urgent operational need in early 2007, the Air Force completed the GBU-54's development and testing cycle in less than 17 months, fielding it aboard 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing aircraft in May.

"We have consistently used precision-guided weapons to engage stationary threats with superb combat effects," said Brig. Gen. Brian T. Bishop, the 332nd AEW commander. "This weapon allows our combat pilots to engage a broad range of moving targets with dramatically increased capabilities



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Erik Gudmundson

Staff Sgts. Michael Jackson and Anthony Bagen align a 500-pound guided bomb unit-54 laser joint direct attack munition before connecting it to an F-16 Fighting Falcon Aug. 14 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq. Two F-16 pilots with the 77th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron here employed a GBU-54 Aug. 12 against a moving enemy vehicle in the Diyala province to support a combined Iraqi army and U.S. Marine operation. Sergeant Bagen, a weapons load crew chief with the 77th EFS, is originally from Tampa, Fla. Sergeant Jackson, a weapons load crewmember with the 77th EFS, is originally from Union Springs, Ala. Both are deployed here from Shaw Air Force Base, S.C.

and it increases our ability to strike the enemy throughout a much, much broader engagement envelope."

Teamwork in all aspects from development to the actual weapon employment was crucial.

"Teamwork was the name of the game to accomplish this," General North said. "From the experts in our Air Force Materiel Command

who shaped our requirements, then developed, tested and fielded the weapon, to our aircraft maintainers, our munitions Airmen, and weapons loaders ... and everyone in between ... they made the operational employment of this weapon possible.

"At end game, on Aug. 12, the team of the joint terminal attack controller, alongside his ground

unit commander in this event, ensured all criteria were met for the first combat delivery of the (laser joint directed attack munition). And finally, our F-16 pilot accurately and precisely delivered and guided the weapon to desired weapons effects, the disabling and destruction of an enemy vehicle and personnel," General North said.



Rape Aggression Defense course

A free RAD course will be taught here throughout the month of October.

The classes are from 1p.m. to 4 p.m. each Tuesday of the month and the course is open to women ages 16 and older. Participants learn risk reduction tips and physical defense strategies taught by certified instructors in this national and internationally accredited course. Prior self defense experience is not required. Call 982-0457 for registration.

Area Defense Counsel appointments

The ADC is asking customers to call and schedule an appointment instead of entering on a walk-in basis.

This will not only help the ADC, but also help clients see an ADC as soon as possible. For an appointment, call 982-2240.

Retiree appreciation day

Retiree Appreciation Day is 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sept. 20 at the McChord Clubs and Community Center. For more information, call 982-3214.

CAC security concerns

Recently there was an issue reported concerning the scanning of an active duty members' Common Access Card to receive military discounts. Officials are reminding Airmen to not allow any person in an unofficial government capacity (i.e. commercial businesses, hotel or motel, bank, etc.) to take control of, scan, swipe or photocopy your CAC cards.

2008 Air Force Ball

The 2008 Air Force Ball is Sept. 13 in Hangar 9 and is open to active duty, reserve, DoD civilians and retirees. Social hour begins at 5 p.m., with dinner served at 5:45 p.m. A classic buffet will be pre-

pared and served by the McChord Clubs and Community Center staff.

The theme for this year's ball, "Berlin to Baghdad: A 60-Year Legacy of Victory through Airlift," was organized to recognize how airlift has played a significant role in the war fighting capabilities of the Air Force.

Tickets can be purchased through an electronic pro rata distributed by e-mail from wing executives. Tickets will no longer be available for purchase after Sept. 10. The cost of tickets for E-1 to E-6 and GS-6 and below is \$15; E-7 to O-3, GS equivalent, retirees and civic leaders is \$20; O-4 and above is \$25. Enlisted Airmen should wear semi-formal or mess dress uniform. Officers should wear mess dress. Civilians should wear a civilian equivalent. For more information or to volunteer to help, call Capt. Samuel Aston at 982-9450 or Master Sgt. Brian Baker at 982-2925.



Names to Note

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

- **Senior Airman Debra Alvarez**, 62nd Medical Squadron
- **Senior Airman Siobhan Barrett**, 62nd Operations Support Squadron
- **Senior Airman Jason Edwards**, 62nd Communications Squadron
- **Senior Airman Cody Fitch**, 62nd Security Forces Squadron
- **Senior Airman Jeremy Foor**, 62nd Maintenance Squadron
- **Senior Airman Manuel Garcia**, 62nd Civil Engineer Squadron
- **Senior Airman Vincent Garcia**, 62nd Logistics Readiness Squadron
- **Senior Airman James Garrigus**, 5th Air Support Operations Squadron
- **Senior Airman James Goodrich**, 446th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
- **Senior Airman Joshua Hendrickson**, 62nd Maintenance Squadron
- **Senior Airman Jason Hopper**, 1st Air Support Operations Group
- **Senior Airman Amanda Human**, 62nd SFS

- **Senior Airman Joshua Jaburek**, 62nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
- **Senior Airman Naziroh Kreil**, Western Air Defense Sector
- **Senior Airman Randall Kroeger**, 62nd AMXS
- **Staff Sgt. Brian LeCloux**, 62nd SFS
- **Senior Airman Steven Moerch**, 62nd SFS
- **Senior Airman Michael Naramore**, 62nd MXS
- **Senior Airman Christopher Severe**, 62nd CES
- **Senior Airman Nicholas Tari**, 5th ASOS
- **Senior Airman James Taylor**, 62nd CES
- **Senior Airman Tristan Walder**, 62nd APS
- **Senior Airman Demetrius Williams**, 62nd MXS

AWARD RECIPIENTS

John L. Levitow Recipient: Airman Garrigus

Distinguished Graduate: Airman Williams

Leadership Award: Airman Hopper



McChord Chaplain Corps Faith & Worship Programs

For more information on Chapel services and programs, please call 982-5556.
To contact Duty Chaplain after duty hours, contact the Command Post at 982-2635

CATHOLIC SERVICES and RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

All Catholic services are in chapel two.

Saturday:

4 p.m. Confession: Chapel 2, Building 181
5 p.m. Mass: Chapel 2, Building 181

Sunday:

9:30 a.m. Mass: Chapel 2, Building 181
11 a.m. Mass: Chapel 2, Building 181
12:30 p.m. Why Catholic? Small Group

Study: Chapel Support Center, Building 746

Monday:

12:00 p.m. Why Catholic? Small Group
Study: Chapel Support Center, Building 746

Wednesday:

6:30 p.m. Faith Formation: 1st, 2nd & 3rd
Wednesday of the month: Chapel Support
Center, Building 746
6:30 p.m. Why Catholic? Small Group
Study: Chapel Support Center, Building 746

PROTESTANT SERVICES and RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

Sunday:

8:30 a.m. Liturgical Worship: Chapel 1,

Building 180

9:45 a.m. Sunday School: Chapel Support
Center, Building 746

11 a.m. Traditional Worship: Chapel
1, Building 180

11 a.m. Contemporary Worship: Chapel
Support Center, Building 746

JEWISH SERVICES:

Friday:

6 p.m. Every 1st, 3rd & 5th Friday of the
month: Ft Lewis, Chapel 5, Building T-2270

OTHER PROGRAMS:

The following Chapel programs take place at
the Chapel Support Center, Building 746.

Tuesday:

9:30 a.m. Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS);
2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month

6 p.m. Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS)
Bible Study; 1st, 3rd & 5th Tuesday of the
month

Wednesday:

11 a.m. Adult Bible Study

