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Connecting Team McChord with the Combat Airlift Mission

December 5, 2008

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Base-wide exercise tests emergency responders

By
Tyler Hemstreet
Staff writer

An explosion rocked an area outside Hangar 4, terrorist information was intercepted and analyzed and the entire base sheltered in place bracing for exposure to hazardous chemicals.

Things went exactly as planned Wednesday as a two-day, base-wide exercise wrapped up.

"From the planners to the players, everyone who participated in the exercise did a stellar job of fulfilling their assigned roles and duties," said Capt. Brandon Brown, 62nd Airlift Wing exercise and evaluations.

The no-notice exercise included a wide range of scenarios, from a major vehicle accident and the discovery of an improvised explosive device in an aircraft hangar to the simulated discovery of a bag of altered ID cards and a note with the date Dec. 3 and McChord written on it.

"With this exercise we not only wanted to incorporate a major accident response scenario, but we also wanted to test other various wing emergency management plans," Captain Brown said.

The exercise was closely monitored and evaluated internally by wing personnel. Various units from the McChord Fire Department and the 62nd Security Forces Squadron, as well as a host of other emergency responders' abilities, were put to the



Emergency responders assist a simulated accident victim Wednesday as part of the base-wide antiterrorism exercise.

test over the course of the exercise, said Col. Michael Hornitschek, 62nd Airlift Wing vice commander.

"The exercise reinforced our confidence in our emergency response

procedures, as well as provided valuable, new insight that will further ensure the safety of our military community and the mission success of our Airmen in the event of a crisis

situation," said Colonel Hornitschek. "I appreciate everyone's hard work, from the planners to the participants, in making this exercise a success."

McChord events brighten holidays, bring cheer

By
Tyler Hemstreet
Staff writer

The holiday season at McChord is already in full swing as several base events this week rang in the month of December.

Monday's deployed family dinner attracted more than 200 children and family members, while Santa Claus handed out candy canes to base children during McChord's annual Christmas tree lighting ceremony earlier in the evening behind the Chapel Support Center. More than 100 people attended the event which featured carols, cookies and Santa's arrival on a fire engine.

The holiday festivities continue next week as members from the Officers and Enlisted

Spouses Clubs and base volunteers collect and assemble nearly 500 bags of cookies to hand out to Airmen living in the dorms as part of Operation Cookie Drop.

People can drop off donated cookies next week at the Chapel Support Center from noon to 4:30 p.m. Thursday and 7 to 10 a.m. Friday. The packaging and wrapping begins at 10:30 a.m. Friday.

Students from Carter Lake Elementary are decorating the bags and OSC and ESC members as well as volunteers are filling them.

The annual event serves as an opportunity to reach out to Airmen living in the dorms away from home around the holidays, said Karmen McCloud, a member of the OSC.

"It's a neat way to come together as a community and do something nice for them," Ms. McCloud said.

The volunteers will need more than 6,000 cookies to fill all of the bags.

"The goal is for all of them to be homemade, but whatever kind people can donate are great," she said.

Once the cookies are bagged, the First Sergeants Club will deliver them to the dorm residents.

Finally, the deadline for units to enter the base annual Holiday Card Contest has been extended until close of business Monday. The giant cards will be displayed just inside the main gate for all to see shortly after the contest closes.

Materials may be picked up at the base Self-Help Store; the store will also collect completed cards. For more information, call the community center at 982-0718.

For more holiday event coverage, see Page 3.

Weekend Weather

FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
		
-FOG		
Hi: 47	Hi: 48	Hi: 48
Low: 32	Low: 39	Low: 38

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

Countdown to success

Nuclear Surety Inspection	34	days
Rodeo	227	days
Operational Readiness Inspection	325	days

Don't miss it ...

Special duty briefing

McChord's career assistance advisor hosts a special duty assignment briefing from 3 to 5 p.m. Monday at the base theater.

Airman's Roll Call: America remembers Pearl Harbor



Editor's note: Airman's Roll Call is a leadership tool designed for supervisors at all levels to help keep Airmen informed on current issues, clear up confusion, dispel rumors and provide additional face-to-face communication between supervisors and their teams.

Sixty-seven years ago, the United States endured an attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, that for the next 60 years until Sept. 11, 2001, stood as the most devastating enemy attack on U.S. soil.

Like the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, the Japanese raid on Pearl

Harbor has been called a defining moment in U.S. history. It caught the country by surprise, rallied its people against their attackers and thrust the nation into a long, difficult war against tyranny.

Following are facts about Pearl Harbor for you to think about as we observe this historic anniversary:

- Within hours of the surprise attack in the early-morning hours of Dec. 7, 1941, more than 2,400 Americans were dead. Five of the eight battleships at the U.S. Fleet's Pearl Harbor base were sunk or sinking, and the other battleships,

as well as ships and Hawaii-based combat planes, were heavily damaged.

- By crippling the U.S. Pacific Fleet, Japan hoped to eliminate it as a threat to the Japanese Empire's expansion south.

- President Franklin D. Roosevelt declared Dec. 7, 1941, "a day which will live in infamy" and signed the Declaration of War against Japan the following day.

- Nazi Germany, which already controlled a vast empire, declared war on the United States four days after the Pearl Harbor attack.

- In the four years after the attack, all but three of the sunken ships were repaired, refitted and returned to active duty.

- The USS Arizona Memorial marks the place where 1,102 of the 1,177 sailors killed during the attack remain. The memorial was dedicated in 1962 and is visited by millions annually. Oil from the ship continues to seep out of it, and is sometimes referred to as "the tears of the Arizona" or "black tears."

Find Airman's Roll Call online at <http://www.af.mil/library/viewpoints/>.

Support mission, family so both can be a part of our lives

By

2nd Lt. Paul Dryja
62nd Logistics Readiness Squadron

"If the military wanted you to have a family, it would've issued you one". Unfortunately, I'm sure many of you have heard this at some point in your career. People often use this phrase when a troop needs time off work to take care of some type of family-related issue. Whether it's a spouse's medical appointment or a parent/teacher conference for the kids, there are times when we need to be there for our families. I agree that mission comes first,

and I wholeheartedly agree with the Core Value of "service before self"; however, it is possible to do both.

The majority of us joined the military when we were single, but the reality is that many will eventually start a family. It's imperative that we allow our troops to take care of their families. The Air Force structure necessitates we retain our younger troops to become tomorrow's leaders. If we don't allow our troops to take care of their families, chances are they will choose another career that does. The alternative is to create a military force like the one in the movie "Soldier" with Kurt Russell. If you haven't seen the movie, it is about a man taken at birth and raised as a soldier. His

entire life dedicated to his mission, never knowing a family. In my opinion, this is not a realistic alternative.

Therefore, we need to support mission and family so both can be a part of our lives. For those of you that are still not convinced, I have one last thing for you to consider. Family is also defined as "a group of people united by certain convictions or a common affiliation". The military did issue you a family — your Air Force family. This family is just as important and needs your support as well, whether at home station or while deployed. I ask all of you to take care of your family this holiday season and beyond, whether it's in your home, at the office or in another part of the world.

The Sharp Airman ...

maintains control of the common access card.

- Report a lost or stolen CAC immediately
- Do not leave your CAC unattended in your computer

- Do not let a person in an unofficial government capacity take control of your CAC

- Do not let a person in an unofficial government capacity copy or photograph your CAC

- Remember: The CAC is a secure form of identification ... You must protect it

Professionals of the week

446th Airlift Wing

Minerva Bennett

Duty title:
Administrative support assistant

Duty section:
446th Mission Support Squadron command section

Hometown:
Quezon City, Phillipines

Why she's tops:

Ms Bennett performs a variety of administrative duties. She took on the government purchase card program, managing an average annual budget of \$100,000. She also input of time and attendance forms into DCPS as well as volunteering to assist with training the inexperienced commander support staff. Ms Bennett identified the deficiency and conducted numerous training sessions to get the one assigned individual up to speed. Her actions resulted in a fully operational section.



Erik Hubbard

Duty title:
Aircraft fuel systems technician

Duty section:
446th Maintenance Squadron fuel section

Hometown:
Auburn, Wash.

Why he's super:

Mr. Hubbard is a powerful driving force in the aircraft fuel section. His expertise is instrumental to this minimally manned section's ability to complete 95 percent of tasks within standard time limits while maintaining a 98 percent first-time repair reliability rate. Mr. Hubbard meticulously maintains 53 precision equipment items and when scrutinized by Air Mobility Command Logistics Standardization Evaluation Program inspectors, the equipment and documentation were found flawless. In a shop of 38 people, he is one of two trainers qualified to operate McChord's C-17 maintenance trainers.



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Photos by Carrie Bernard

Annelise Martini, 2, scans the cookie table at the tree lighting ceremony.



Ring in the holidays

Left: Shiann MacGregor, 1, and her mother, Dawn, meet Santa Claus during the tree lighting ceremony.



Santa Claus hands out candy canes to base children during McChord's annual Christmas tree lighting ceremony Monday behind the Chapel Support Center. More than 100 people attended the event which featured carols, cookies and Santa's arrival on a fire engine.





Full bird carving

Col. Jeffrey Stephenson, 62nd Airlift Wing commander, carves and serves turkey to Airmen on Thanksgiving Day at the base dining facility. Along with Colonel Stephenson, 11 Airmen worked the holiday at the dining facility to cook up and prepare more than 120 pounds of turkey, feeding more than 250 people.



Photo by Master Sgt. Rodel Nilo

McChord Airmen

AROUND THE WORLD



Courtesy photo

IRAQ — Master Sgt. Michelle Lee, 62nd Airlift Wing command post, smiles before heading to work during a recent deployment.



Courtesy photo

INCIRLIK AIR BASE, Turkey — Senior Airman Vincent Stutts, 62nd Maintenance Squadron, completes a tool inventory during a recent deployment.



EOD Airmen host personal safety day

By
Tyler Hemstreet
Staff writer

Explosive ordnance disposal Airmen here recently took a day to turn their attention away from bombs and focus on their personal health.

It was all part of an Air Force-level EOD program safety day as EOD units across all commands not operating in a hostile fire or combat zone, took time to focus on lessons learned in combat zones, how to recognize symptoms of battlefield hazards and get familiar with the support programs offered to families of deployed members.

According to an Air Force Civil Engineer memo, many EOD Airmen are experiencing a third or

fourth combat tours. Because of this, Air Force EOD leadership identified the need for a tactical pause to focus on standard operating procedures; tactics, techniques, procedures; and the health of EOD warriors.

The tactical pause here included classified and unclassified briefings and presentations from the chaplain and mental health professionals.

"The safety day matches up with a back-to-basics approach," said Master Sgt. James Ruth, 62nd Civil Engineer Squadron EOD flight chief. "It's about going back to the beginning and tending to the matters our Airmen deal with when they get home ... that's what's important."

In order to help Airmen focus on important issues on the home

front, Chaplain (Capt.) Rachel David spoke to Airmen about post traumatic stress disorder, the need for them to utilize in stress reducers such as maintaining proper diet and exercise and what the base chaplains can offer to Airmen and their families.

The high operations tempo of the EOD shop and the continuity of work halted because of the many deployments sometimes causes Airmen within the shop to get sidetracked when it comes to priorities.

"(The day) helped us focus our thinking toward issues we face when we get back from the desert, because we have a different mission at home," said Staff Sgt. Song Lee, 62nd CES noncommissioned officer in charge of the EOD section.

The visit from the mental health clinic professional created an atmosphere within the shop where EOD Airmen were more comfortable expressing any issues they have faced or are currently facing, Sergeant Lee said.

"In that personal setting where it's just (EOD Airmen), we can all grasp what we've gone through ... so that really helped," he said.

But the day also provided a chance for section members to gather and relish the accomplishments EOD members have achieved in the area of responsibility and talk about actual scenarios where Airmen have been harmed.

"It was nice to be able to sit down and think of different ways of solving problems that come up in the deployed settings," Sergeant Lee said.

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 fulfill roll in MAFEX exercise

BY
Tyler Hemstreet
Staff Writer

McChord is one of 12 U.S. Air Force bases which took part in the Mobility Air Forces Exercise, testing C-17 Globemaster III and C-130 Hercules crews' ability to join together and drop a brigade-size force anywhere in the world

For once, Staff Sgt. Jenna Kramer, a loadmaster with the 7th Airlift Squadron, got to watch the action from the cockpit instead of the rear door of the C-17 Globemaster III. Sergeant Kramer was one of 30 McChord aircrew members who participated in the Air Force weapons school's semi-annual mobility forces exercise Nov. 19 at Nellis Test Range, Nev.

One C-17 from Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii, and another from Elmendorf AFB, Alaska, joined up with four McChord C-17s as part of a six-ship group which flew down to Nevada to join the exercise. The group joined up with another 12 C-17s and 19 C-130 Hercules to perform simulated airdrops and air-land operations.

"That was the first time I'd seen that many aircraft flying together," Sergeant Kramer said. "They started out tiny and got real big as the formation took shape. It was pretty exciting."

The weapons school hosts the mobility exercise to test the ability of C-17 and C-130 Hercules aircrews from different bases around the world to join together in a formation at a specific time and location to insert ground forces anywhere in the world.

In addition to the training the exercise offered the pilots, flight planners here also added a local airdrop training element to the mission, requiring aircrews to make four drops at the drop zone in Moses Lake

before heading south to the exercise, said Capt. Sergio Anaya, 7th AS weapons officer.

"We were trying to maximize the training opportunities on the mission," said Captain Anaya, who also piloted one of the C-17s in the formation.

To add to the realism of the exercise, planners fired "smoky SAMS (surface-to-air missiles)" at the full formation to simulate a real battlefield situation, Captain Anaya said.

The missiles' nose and fin assembly is made of urethane foam and the tube is chemically-treated paper which creates a smoke trail while it burns after being launched.

Pilots qualified to fly in formation were tested during the exercise in that the parameters called for just the pair to man the controls, he said.

In addition to dispensing electronic countermeasures and maneuvering to avoid the SAMS, pilots also were required to maintain radio communication between Air Traffic Control, the other jets in the formation and locations on the ground, while still flying the aircraft.

"That's a lot more than what's usually required by just two pilots," Captain Anaya said. "They keep pretty busy." The exercise also offered pilots qualified to fly just single ships the opportunity to sit in the cockpit and watch to get a better feel for what they can expect when they are trained to fly in formation, he said.

At one point during the exercise, there were 68 aircraft participating, Captain Anaya said.



Photo by Senior Airman Larry Reid Jr.

A formation of C-17s Globemaster IIIs soar over the Nevada desert during the MAFEX, Nov. 19 at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev. Approximately 12 U.S. Air Force bases participate in MAFEX at the U.S. Air Force Weapons School twice a year, testing C-17 Globemasters and C-130 Hercules crews' ability to join together in formation at a specific time and location to drop a brigade-size force anywhere in the world.



Photo by Abner Guzman

From left, Captains Matthew Oliver, Erik Fisher and Sergio Anaya, all 7th AS C-17 pilots, plan details of the exercise before departing.



Photo by Senior Airman Larry Reid Jr.



Photo by Senior Airman Larry Reid Jr.

A McChord C-17 Globemaster III taxis past a group of F-16 Fighting Falcons Nov. 19 during the Mobility Air Forces Exercise at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev.



Photo by Abner Guzman

Pilots participating in the MAFEX attend a C-17 mission briefing at the 7th Airlift Squadron's conference room before departing.



Photo by Senior Airman Larry Reid Jr.

A formation of C-17s prepare to land during the MAFEX.

Falcons lose finale, turn focus to bowl game

By

Maj. Brett Ashworth
U.S. Air Force Academy
Public Affairs

U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. (AFNS) — Air Force concluded the 2008 regular season on a sour note in Fort Worth, Texas, Nov. 22 with a 44-10 loss at the hands of Texas Christian University.

The Horned Frogs dominated both sides of the ball and kept the Falcons' high-powered offense from getting on track on a cool afternoon in Texas.

"You have to play so darn well on the road, especially to beat a top-15 team, and we did not do that today. They did. They played outstanding," said Air Force head coach Troy Calhoun.

TCU took a commanding 24-3 lead into the intermission, then tacked on two more touchdowns in the third quarter to put the game out of reach. However, Air Force

fought to the end with fullback Jared Tew busting loose on a 57-yard touchdown run early in the fourth quarter. But as was the case all day, TCU answered right back with a 10-play, 60-yard touchdown drive of their own, providing the final points of the day.

TCU's stingy defense held Air Force to a season-low 161 yards of total offense.

Clark and Tew paced the Falcons with 63 yards each on the ground. Linebacker Ken Lamendola had an outstanding day for Air Force defensively with 11 tackles including two sacks.

The Falcons will have an opportunity to end the season on a high note as their 8-4 record has qualified them for a bowl game. They should know which bowl game they'll be playing in on this weekend when the Bowl Championship Series games are announced.

The Falcons ended the season 5-3 in Mountain West Conference play, good for fourth in the conference.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Julie Briden-Garcia

Air Force Falcon quarterback Tim Jefferson is chased out of the pocket by Texas Christian University defensive end Jerry Hughes Nov. 22 in Amon G. Carter Stadium in Fort Worth, Texas. The Frogs beat the Falcons, 44-10.



Secretary Gates emphasizes AF nuclear mission importance

By

Donna Miles

American Forces Press Service

MINOT AIR FORCE BASE, N.D. (AFNS) — Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates traveled here Monday to emphasize the importance of the Air Force's nuclear mission — and in maintaining its long tradition of excellence — to the men and women entrusted with carrying it out.

Secretary Gates became the first defense secretary in memory to visit the home of the 91st Missile Wing, one of the Air Force's three operational intercontinental units, and the 5th Bomb Wing, which flies the aging B-52 aircraft he said remain critical to the nuclear deterrent.

"As stewards of America's nuclear arsenal, your work is vital to the security of our nation," Secretary Gates told the Airmen.

"Handling nuclear weapons — the most powerful and destructive instruments in the arsenal of freedom — is a tremendous responsibility," he said. "We owe you the attention, the people and the resources to do your job right."

Secretary Gates reminded the Airmen that their job is the most sensitive in the entire U.S. military, demanding constant vigilance and leaving no room for error.

America's security depends on a reliable and credible nuclear deterrent, Secretary Gates said, even as the country continues to reduce its nuclear arsenal. While few argue that abolishing nuclear weapons is a worthy long-term goal, he said, the grim reality is that day hasn't yet come.

"As long as others have nuclear weapons, we must maintain some level of these weapons ourselves to deter potential adversaries and to reassure over two dozen allies and partners who rely on our nuclear umbrella for their own security, making it unnecessary for them to develop their own," he said.



File photo

Airmen from the 4th Airlift Squadron and host-base ground personnel push nuclear cargo out of a C-17 Globemaster III during a Prime Nuclear Airlift Force mission. Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates told Airmen at Minot Air Force Base, N.D., that the Air Force's nuclear mission and maintaining its long tradition of excellence are vital to the security of the United States.

Secretary Gates cited threats posed by rising and resurgent powers, rogue nations pursuing nuclear weapons, proliferation and international terrorism. These challenges make it necessary for the United States to maintain a hedge that makes clear its ability to provide an "overwhelming, devastating" response to attack, if necessary.

"Try as we might, and hope as we will, the power

of nuclear weapons and their strategic impact is a genie that cannot be put back in the bottle, at least for a long time," Secretary Gates said.

But possessing nuclear weapons means accepting the responsibilities involved, he said citing "serious lapses of last year" over the Air Force's handling of nuclear weapons and related material.

Those involved a mistaken shipment of sensitive missile parts to Taiwan in 2006, and — even more troublesome to airmen here — an unauthorized transfer of munitions from Minot Air Force Base to Barksdale AFB, La., in August 2007.

Severe consequences followed, starting at the unit level and reaching into the highest levels of the Air Force. Secretary Gates ordered the resignations of then-Air Force Secretary Michael W. Wynne and then-Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley. Another 15 officers, including six generals, received disciplinary action in connection with the nose-cone shipment.

The problems, an investigation determined, resulted from "a long-standing slide in the service's nuclear stewardship, where this critical mission — and the career field associated with it — did not receive the attention, funding or personnel it deserved," Secretary Gates said.

But Secretary Gates told the Minot Airmen he's confident the Air Force is now on the right track.

"Based on everything I have seen, heard and learned in recent months, I strongly believe that the Air Force is now moving in the right direction to reclaim the standards of excellence for which it was known throughout the Cold War," Secretary Gates told the Minot Airmen.

**McChord hosts its
Nuclear Surety Inspection
Jan. 7-12**



AF officials reduce waste with recycling program

By

Staff Sgt. Vincent Borden
386th Air Expeditionary Wing
Public Affairs

SOUTHWEST ASIA (AFNS) — Base officials here helped the environment by expanding their recycling program from plastic bottles and aluminum cans to include hazardous materials, chlorofluorocarbons, metals such as copper and steel, and cardboard boxes.

The program resulted in payments that have amounted to \$95,000 so far this year for officials of the 386th Air Expeditionary Wing at this air base in Southwest Asia.

Base members support more than 2,900 Airmen and coalition forces located in the area; however, they also produce a lot of waste. But a contractor who works for a consult company with U.S. Air Forces Central came up with a solution to the waste problem by thinking green.

Kwaku Siriboe is the sole manager of the 386th AEW Environmental Flight and runs the base's recycling program. He handles all the hazardous waste material the base produces, finding ways to get rid of the used oil, old batteries and tons of garbage that comes with feeding thousands of people day in and day out. And he's found a way to make it lucrative.



Photo by Tech Sgt. Raheem Moore

A recycling company worker prepares to cover and haul away a cardboard recycling bin recently at an air base in Southwest Asia. Officials from the 386th Air Expeditionary Wing recycle various items, to include cardboard boxes and plastic bottles. The money that is generated through the recycling program goes back to the base populace for quality of life initiatives and morale, welfare and recreation programs.

Working with a local recycling company, Mr. Siriboe improved a program that started with the problem of disposing of tons of empty water bottles discarded by Airmen trying to stay hydrated in the region's arid climate. He has

expanded the project by recycling metals and boxes. The range of items that can be recycled allows individuals and workcenters of all types around the base to get involved in the program.

"If we could successfully collect

even 70 percent of the items that could be recycled, we could make a lot of money," Mr. Siriboe said.

But Mr. Siriboe isn't just concerned with the dividends. He collects waste material and items that don't pay dividends, such as wooden pallets and old paints products, and finds environmentally responsible solutions to their disposal as well. For those items, he usually hands them off to the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office, which dispose of them locally in environmentally responsible ways. The effort reduces the total footprint the wing has on the Persian Gulf region as a whole.

To collect recyclables, base officials have placed large metal bins are located in high traffic areas throughout the base, such as the dormitory living area, the dining facility and the Logistics Staging Area. The bins are color coded and labeled; blue bins are for plastics, white bins are for cardboard, and the occasional red bin is for old electronics.

The proceeds from the recycling program are distributed to each group in the wing to supplement morale, wellness and recreation programs. But even without the money paid from recycle products, the program is a success. It allows the base to get rid of its waste products and hazardous materials virtually free of charge.



Internal training key to Iraqi air force independence

By

Master Sgt. Brian Davidson
447th Air Expeditionary Group
Public Affairs

NEW AL MUTHANA AIR BASE, Iraq (AFNS) — As the Iraqi parliament works out the details of the new status of forces agreement that calls for American forces to withdraw from the country in 2011, Iraqi air force emergency responders from New al Muthana Air Base took the lead for the first time in a mass casualty response exercise recently as they learn how to operate independent of their American counterparts.

The exercise was the largest and most difficult to date for the fledgling air force that brought together firefighters, medics, security forces, command and control, emergency management and safety elements for the first time in order to test their response abilities, as well as to develop an independent training and exercise capability.

"There have been several medical courses arranged and conducted by U.S. advisers," said Capt. Sunny Holden, a 321st Air Expeditionary Advisory Squadron medical adviser. "The challenge and purpose of this exercise was to continue developing the Iraqi air forces' ability to plan and to conduct their own training and exercise program."

American emergency responders from the 447th Air Expeditionary Group at Sather Air Base, Iraq, and training personnel from the 321st AEAS worked with Iraqi leaders to teach them how to develop exercise scenarios.

This mass casualty exercise was the first of its size and scope, adding a training element the Iraqis have not experienced thus far — real people playing the role of the wounded.

"The exercise scenario was to simulate an Iraqi C-130 aircraft that made a rough landing because a cockpit fire had caused an in-flight emergency," said Master Sgt. Jim Brody, the 447th AEG firefighter and NCO in charge of exercise planning. "We had 20 American and Iraqi volunteers who played the passengers on the aircraft with simulated injuries ranging from minor to critical."

Sergeant Brody is a New York Air National Guard firefighter with more than 20 years of airport emergency response experience. For this exercise, he worked closely with Iraqi officers to coordinate the scenario requirements and to help them learn how to plan future exercises.

"In order to make the training as realistic as possible we used moulage, makeup and synthetic body parts to simulate injuries like broken bones, burns and cuts. There were even injuries that simulated spurting blood," Sergeant Brody said. "This added to the stress of the exercise and demonstrated the kinds of injuries emergency responders would encounter in a real-world situation."

When the exercise began, the Iraqi responders took the lead, but it quickly became apparent that they still needed support and guidance, so the 447th AEG firefighters and medical personnel stepped in to lend a hand.

"The overall exercise was a success in that our international relations continue to improve on all levels of command and control," said Master Sgt. Rodney Metler, the 447th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron Emergency Management Flight exercise evaluation team NCO in charge. "The Iraqi aircrew handled the situation by the book, and the firefighters and medical personnel continue to demonstrate a strong desire to learn."



Photo by Staff Sgt. Paul Villanueva II

An Iraqi medic gives oxygen to a U.S. Airman mock casualty during a major accident response exercise recently at New Al-Muthana Air Base, Iraq. The exercise tests the abilities of a joint response of fire rescue, medical and security capabilities.

Iraqi Col. Mohammed, the New al Muthana Air Base deputy commander, praised both the Iraqi and American airmen for the progress they have made in developing the emergency response program, but said that although they have made great strides, they still have a long way to go.

"This part of the (air force) mission is to save lives, and the exercise helped us see where mistakes are made," Colonel Mohammed said. "Each time we practice, we must not make the same mistakes. We must continue to train more people and we must develop our own training program and staff before we can work on our own."

Col. (Dr.) Paul Young, the Coalition Air Forces Training Team director of Iraqi air force aeromedical services, who was on-hand to evaluate the exercise, agreed that there are still not enough Iraqi

medical personnel in the air force to take over the training process.

"The training is going well, and we are making progress, but it will take time get the needed number of medical personnel in place so they can begin transitioning to independent training operations," Colonel Young said.

While the Iraqi emergency response program has grown into an operational part of the air force, there has still been little progress in Iraqi-led training.

"The exercise was a success, and it's a small victory for us as advisers to the Iraqis," Captain Holden said. "We continue to encourage independent thinking that will lead to observable action, like clinic staff members developing their own training program. Change is sometimes difficult and takes time, but we are headed in the right direction."



Special duty assignment briefing

McChord's career assistance center hosts an AETC special duty assignment briefing from 3 to 5 p.m. Monday at the base theater. Senior airmen with at least 35 months in service and master sergeants with less than 16 years are invited to attend. For more information call 982-3395.

New housing gate hours

The Woodbrook housing gate is now open 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays. These new hours are intended to accommodate an influx of vehicles because of contracted housing demolition and construction. This security initiative is also intended to increase the quality of life for base housing residents. For more information, call the 62nd Security Forces Squadron at 982-5100.

McChord Energy Club

The McChord Energy Club meeting is 4:45 p.m. Wednesday and Dec. 23 in the Wing conference room, Bldg. 100. All are welcome to attend. For more information, e-mail energy.club@mcchord.af.mil.

Law Enforcement Desk relocating

The 62nd Security Forces Squadron relocated the Law Enforcement Desk to Bldg. 1305 during renovation of Bldg. 7. Phone numbers will remain the same. For assistance call 982-5625 or 982-5624. For emergencies call 911 or the crime stop line at 982-5777.

New hours at McChord Clinic

The McChord Clinic doors open at 7:20 a.m. instead of 7 a.m. The change is for safety reasons to ensure there are an adequate number of staff members present to assist patients. Pharmacy windows will continue to open up for patients at 7:30 a.m. and close at 5 p.m.



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, Bldg. 181

5 p.m. Mass: Chapel 2, Bldg. 181

SUNDAY:

9:30 a.m. Mass: Chapel 2, Bldg. 181

11 a.m. Mass: Chapel 2, Bldg. 181

12:30 p.m. Why Catholic? Small Group Study:
Chapel Support Center, Bldg. 746

MONDAY:

11:30 a.m. Mass: Chapel 2, Bldg. 181

Noon Why Catholic? Small Group Study: Chapel
Support Center, Bldg. 746

WEDNESDAY:

11:30 a.m. Mass: Chapel 2, Bldg. 181

6:30 p.m. Faith Formation: 1st, 2nd & 3rd
Wednesday of the month: Chapel Support Center,
Bldg. 746

6:30 p.m. Why Catholic? Small Group Study:
Chapel Support Center, Bldg. 746

FRIDAY:

11:30 a.m. Mass: Chapel 2, Bldg. 181

PROTESTANT SERVICES and RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

SUNDAY:

8:30 a.m. Liturgical Worship: Chapel 1, Bldg.
180

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

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

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

JEWISH SERVICES:

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

OTHER PROGRAMS:

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

THURSDAY:

9 a.m. Women's Bible Study

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MPF customer service hours

Customer service hours for all military personnel flight services have changed. The new hours are 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays. Services are available 7:30 to 9 a.m. for appointments and emergencies only.

Customer service new hours

Customer service hours for passports and in-processing have changed. Passports are from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. for walk-ins and 3:30 to 4 p.m. for appointments and emergencies only. In-processing is now 9 a.m. to noon for walk-ins and 7:30 to 9 a.m. and 1 to 4 p.m. for appointments and emergencies only. Hours for all other services remain the same.

Virtual out-processing applications

The virtual out-processing application available online through the virtual military personnel flight

is mandatory for active duty members at each installation. Due to manning losses, the military personnel flight no longer provides this face-to-face service. Appointments for final out-processing, retirements and separations remain available. This month, assignment notification letters will be sent directly to the member and not through MPF.

Area Defense Counsel appointments

ADC customers must now call and schedule appointments instead of entering on a walk-in basis. For an appointment, call 982-2240.

Thrift Shop temporary closure

The Thrift Shop is closed for business through Jan. 2 as they hire and train a bookkeeper. Consignment checks may be picked-up Tuesday through Thursday, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. and customers may withdraw items at no fee. Checks not picked up by Thursday will be mailed out. Existing

contracts will be adjusted to reflect the full eight weeks of entitled consignment. Call Gwen Hershmann at 253-686-4823 for more information.

Community response

Have a concern, question or complaint? E-mail the action line <http://public.mcchord.amc.af.mil/main/contactus.asp>. The inbox is monitored daily and inquiries are sent to the appropriate base agency for response. Team McChord is encouraged to use this system to resolve issues, after first using the chain of command.

CAC security concerns

Airmen are reminded not 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 common access cards.

