

The NORTHWEST AIRLIFTER

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Connecting Team McChord with the Combat Airlift Mission

March 20, 2009

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Australian air force officials visit McChord

By
Tyler Hemstreet
Staff writer

Royal Australian Air Force officials visited McChord Monday as part of a trip to touch base with their airmen stationed here and at other U.S. Air Force bases across the country.

Warrant Officer of the Royal Australian Air Force John Millar and Carolyn Spittle, assistant secretary of resource planning for the Royal Australian Air Force, spent the day visiting different units on base, talking to their airmen training at the 373rd Training Squadron, Detachment 12, and speaking to McChord Airmen at the Julius A. Kolb Airman Leadership School.

"It's a chance for us to give our airmen a strategic outlook of what's going on at home and what's happening financially within our air force," Ms. Spittle said. "It also gives us a chance to let them know they are loved."

Australian airmen are stationed all over the country on two- to three-year tours at U.S. bases, getting training and working missions with U.S. Airmen each day, said Warrant Officer Millar, whose duties include advising and assisting the chief of the Royal Australian Air Force on the morale of the enlisted force.

There are a handful of Australian airmen currently receiving training at the 373rd TRS, Det. 12.

"It has been Team McChord's privilege to partner with the airmen of the Royal Australian Air Force and help them develop their C-17 capabilities," said Chief Master Sergeant Cary Hatzinger, 62nd Airlift Wing command chief. "The visit today by Warrant Officer Millar and Ms. Spittle was a great honor and helped further cement the ties between our great Airmen."

"I know that they are well looked after here and they are receiving training that is second to none," Warrant Officer Millar said.

"We have a very strong working relationship with McChord and it is much cheaper for us to send our airmen over here for training than build a training facility in Australia," Warrant Officer Millar said. "There is a shared knowledge of how each other works and the high standards each of us hold."

"We have to continue to lobby for funding to keep sending our guys over here for training," Ms. Spittle said.

The visit to ALS provided a chance for the Australians to convey to the students how much they value the relationship between the two countries. "They're the future leaders that will continue training our airmen," Warrant Officer Millar said. "It's important that we continue to strengthen that bond."

After leaving McChord, the Australians met with a group at Boeing before heading to Washington, D.C., to speak to a collection of more than 200 Australian airmen and their families.



Photo by Abner Guzman

Warrant Officer of the Royal Australian Air Force John Millar addresses McChord Airman Leadership School students during a briefing in the ALS conference room Monday.



Photo by Abner Guzman

Spring snow?

A C-17 Globemaster III is dusted with snow on the flightline during recent winter weather. While spring officially begins today, remember to call 982-TALK for base advisories if winter weather conditions return.

Recent base fires spur blaze prevention tips

By
Tyler Hemstreet
Staff writer

Several recent fires on base have McChord Fire Department officials asking the base population to take note of some key fire prevention tips.

Strange as it may sound, a recent fire at Carter Lake Elementary School was caused by the spontaneous combustion of potting soil.

The fire damaged some shelves, books and a bookcase, but was extinguished by the building's sprinkler system before causing any significant damage.

The combination of heat, moisture and the various components in any potting soil can create the conditions for fire to start, said Sandy Cooper, 62nd Civil Engineer Squadron assis-

tant chief of fire prevention.

"It's the most bizarre thing," Chief Cooper said.

Although officials from the National Fire Prevention Association say the occurrence of fires caused by potting soil is extremely rare, the Carter Lake fire is proof it can happen.

"When the soil dries out and the mixture becomes hot, that's when it becomes a problem," Chief Cooper said.

As a preventative measure, Chief Cooper recommends mixing potting soil with regular dirt before putting it in a pot, keeping the mixture moist on a regular basis and keeping the plant out of direct sunlight.

McChord Fire Department officials are also asking Airmen and their family members to use care when

See FIRES, Page 3

Weekend Weather

FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Hi: 52 Low: 36	Hi: 50 Low: 36	Hi: 52 Low: 38

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

Countdown to success

Next MOBEX.....	42 days
Rodeo.....	122 days
Operational Readiness Inspection.....	220 days

Don't miss it ...

Base exercise Tuesday

Expect emergency response activities.



Letter to the Airmen

Balance necessary in today's joint fight

By

Michael B. Donley
Secretary of the Air Force

Every day, you - the Airmen, civilians and contractors of our Total Force team - impress me with your commitment and professionalism. You combine your tremendous talents with our Joint and Interagency partners, delivering unrivaled air, space and cyber capabilities to our national leaders and combatant commanders. In return, part of my responsibility to you is to create balance across the Department of the Air Force.

A balanced approach means prevailing in today's operations while investing in new capabilities, force structure, skills and technologies to meet tomorrow's needs. We are "all in" for today's Joint fight. At the same time, we make policy and resource decisions that shape the future force.

A balanced approach also means delivering capabilities across the spectrum of conflict. As global ambassadors for air, space and cyber power, you strengthen the capacity of our partners, tailoring your outreach across a diverse set of geopolitical and resourcing imperatives. You support irregular warfare

and conventional operations, deftly adapting current systems and skills to the need at hand. You operate and sustain portions of our Nation's nuclear arsenal, enhancing strategic deterrence. From Thule to Khost ... from air superiority to agile combat support ... your contributions are valued.

Finally, a balanced approach means distributing our diverse missions and responsibilities across the Active and Reserve Components, civilian workforce and contractors in ways that maximize effectiveness and efficiency for Joint commanders and the American taxpayer. Total Force Integration has

created exciting new partnerships between our components, and we will capitalize on that momentum with additional integration initiatives.

General Schwartz and I, along with the entire Air Force leadership team, are committed to providing the best combination of air, space and cyber power possible within available resources. We build on the capabilities given to us by past Air Force leaders, knowing that years from now, it is today's young Airmen and Air Force civilians who will grade our work as you continue to advance the world's finest Air Force.

Stop and think about positive impact of driving sober

By

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Michael Husfelt
62nd Airlift Wing

To the frustration of wing leadership and in spite of increased efforts to stem the tide of irresponsible behavior, some Airmen still make seriously poor choices and drive under the influence of alcohol.

What leads one to make such a poor choice? The answers vary and are far too complicated for this editorial. Instead, my focus is to list several reasons to make the right choice and drive responsibly.

First, your career is more valuable than ever. If you haven't noticed, the economy is not exactly providing desirable jobs for everyone

looking. But as an Airman, you have steady income, health insurance and education and veteran benefits, just to name a few. Your checking account may not be overflowing, but the probability of getting paid this month and the next is much greater than a private-sector employee whose business may not offer the same level of job security.

Second, your service is a source of pride for your family and friends (not to mention self-satisfaction). They are proud of you and the sacrifices you have made! They know their nation is more secure because you answered the call to serve. They can sleep soundly at night because they trust you to do your job with integrity.

Third, driving a motor vehicle is serious business and requires the driver to deliver

peak performance. Skilled drivers face enough danger from honest mistakes—theirs and others; the human body isn't built to withstand impact with metal or the ground when moving at high speeds. If you are sober, you are better able to make split-second adjustments that could save a life.

It's often said, "laws are made to be broken." Maybe we should reverse that saying and have a different perspective. Laws are made to protect us—sometimes from ourselves. Although it's probably a good thing to think about the negative consequences resulting from bad decisions like DUI, it's better to focus on the positive impact that comes from making the right choice to begin with.

If the chapel staff can help you get on the road to wise choices, please let us know.

The Sharp Airman ...

knows about **SPORTS** ...

if their weapon fails to fire they: **Slap** upwards on the magazine, **Pull** the charging handle to the rear, **Observe** to see if the chamber is clear, **Release** the charging handle, **Tap** the forward assist button, **Shoot!** In combat, **SPORTS** can save your life!

PROFESSIONALS

of the week

62nd Logistics Readiness Squadron

Airman 1st Class Brian Mould

Duty Title:
Swingshift dispatcher

Duty section:
Vehicle dispatch

Hometown:
Oakridge, Tenn.



Why he's tops:

Airman Mould stepped up to supervise a shift typically reserved for a seasoned noncommissioned officer. He manages overall effectiveness of vehicle dispatch and oversees the distribution and valid use of 57 vehicle fleet worth more than \$3 million. Airman Mould also implements operational plans and checklists and ensures timely delivery. He was awarded coins on several occasions for his professionalism and dedication as a vehicle operator. Airman Mould is also a tireless worker. In the past three months, he has logged more than 120 off-duty hours assisting the shop.

Staff Sgt. Nalopa Sansom

Duty Title:
Assistant NCOIC

Duty section:
62nd LRS training

Hometown:
Yuma, Ariz.



Why she's super:

Sergeant Sansom is an outstanding performer whose efforts have greatly improved the squadron's training program. She has repeatedly shown the ability to control, organize and revamp databases and systems, benefitting the squadron's Airmen and supervisors. Sergeant Sansom helped reconstruct the "status of training" tracker sheet, which provides flight chiefs and commanders a real time overall view of accountability for LRS upgrade trainees. She also ensured training reports were up to date for squadron leadership and managed all student upgrade training efforts.

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cooking with oil on the stove top.

A sudden flare-up fire caused by cooking oil on a stove caused minimal damage only because the individual had a fire extinguisher nearby and utilized it before the flames got out of control, Chief Cooper said.

"It just reinforces the fact people need to pay close attention to what they are cooking when using oil and

to keep the heat low," she said.

Paying close attention also pertains to use of electronic devices in the workplace, as there have been several recent incidents of overloaded power strips melting and unattended food items melting in microwaves, Chief Cooper said.

When plugging items into the power strips, people need to add up all the voltage going into the strip to ensure it isn't overloaded. The cor-

rect use of space heaters is a specific concern.

During a recent annual fire inspection of Bldg. 100, a majority of facility write-ups were space heater-related, said Senior Master Sgt. Ralph Sprout, 62nd Mission Support Group, building facility manager.

Those write-ups included space heaters plugged into modular furniture outlets and left plugged in and in use while the office was unattend-

ed, Sergeant Sprout said.

"The wiring in the modular furniture outlets is unsafe and poses a real fire hazard," he said. "All space heaters (must be) plugged directly into a wall outlet when in use and unplugged when not in use."

Space heaters should also be used no closer than six inches from any combustible object and must have guarded elements and a safety tip-over switch, he said.

Vacation safety tips

By

Master Sgt. Jose Marroquin
62nd Security Forces Squadron

While vacations are a great time to relax and unwind, it is also important to keep safety and security in mind. Consider these tips on how to stay safe while on vacation:

- Before you go, ensure your house is locked when you leave for vacation. Have a neighbor watch your house while you are away or find a house sitter.
- Make sure to let someone know where you are going and your approximate date of return.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash. If you must, do not carry it openly.
- Don't stop to help stranded motorists on the side of the road. Instead, use your cell phone to call for assistance.
- Males should carry their wallets in an inside pocket and females should carry their purses under their arms.
- Label each piece of luggage and if possible, lock it. Consider using a work address instead of your home address on the label.
- When traveling by automobile, always

lock your vehicle when you leave it. Park in well-lit areas. Check back seats before entering the car and keep valuables out of sight.

- When staying at a hotel, keep all valuables inside your room. When leaving the room, take all money, credit cards, car keys and valuables with you.
 - Determine the most direct route from your room to the exits, elevators and emergency exits.
 - When leaving or occupying your room, use all auxiliary locking devices on the door.
 - If visiting an unfamiliar area, ask hotel staff if there are areas you should avoid.
 - Before participating in a guided tour, ensure it is a legitimate tour company. This especially applies when traveling out of the country.
 - If any credit cards are stolen on your trip, call your financial institution and cancel the cards immediately. Ask for the latest transactions on your card to ensure they have not been used.
- These are just a few recommendations to stay safe on your vacation. Take some time while planning your trip to think about safety and security. A few extra minutes of planning can lead to a more enjoyable trip.

You're Invited to a SNEAK Preview of

Coming Home

Military Families Cope with Change



March 25
Base Theater
10 a.m. & 6 p.m.

Sesame Street Television Special featuring Queen Latifah and John Mayer

With help from Elmo and his Sesame Street friends, this program tells the stories of service members returning home with injuries and explores the heroic struggles their families face on the path to finding a "new normal."

Co-Viewing Recommended: This family program is about coping with combat-related injuries. It focuses on the courage of service members and their families. We highly recommend that children watch "Coming Home" with a parent or caregiver who can answer any questions they may have. "Coming Home" will air nationwide on PBS on April 1st at 8 p.m. (check your local listings).

www.sesamestreet.org/tlc



Avoid rush, file taxes before deadline at base tax center

By

Tyler Hemstreet
Staff writer

Having already helped more than 600 Airmen, Retirees and spouses file their returns this year, McChord tax center officials are urging people to not wait until the last minute to file.

The tax center will remain open until April 16, but tax center officials are asking people to plan accordingly to avoid a rush in the final days before taxes are due.

Located in Room 3007 of Bldg. 100, the center is open 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily. Most tax services at the center are through appointment only, which can be made by calling 982-6857. Each Wednesday the center also offers free walk-in filing to Airmen with a single W-2 form. The walk-in service is mainly to help young Airmen eager to file their tax returns, said Patty DeCamp, 62nd Airlift Wing legal office tax reviewer.

"We're here to save them money so they don't have to go off base and pay to get their return done," said Ms. DeCamp, adding that it often costs at least \$75 to file a return off base.

Service on walk-in days is first come, first served.

The following documents and information are needed to complete a tax return:

- Military I.D.
- All W-2, 1099INT, 1099R,

1099DIV and 1098 forms.

- Proof of a bank account if direct deposit is desired.
- Receipts for deductible expenses if itemizing deductions.
- Proof of childcare expenses.
- Amount of any advanced child tax credit received.
- Social Security numbers and dates of birth of your spouse and/or dependents.
- Stimulus check amount.
- Previous year's tax return and any other tax-related documents.

If Airmen bring all their documents and file for their refund to be deposited into their checking or savings account, they will usually get their refund in two weeks, Ms. DeCamp said.

Airmen who can't make it on the walk-in days are encouraged to visit their squadron's Volunteer Income Tax Assistant representative.

Each VITA representative is IRS-trained and certified. A complete list of VITAs can be found on the Share Point site at the 62nd AW Legal Office page: [https:// 62aw.mcchord.af.mil/awstaff/JA/default.aspx](https://62aw.mcchord.af.mil/awstaff/JA/default.aspx).

Airmen interested in getting in touch with their squadron's VITA representative can also contact their first sergeant. If the specified VITA is unable to assist, Airmen may contact a VITA from another unit.

Airmen who have multiple business entities to report on their taxes should seek help from a paid preparer, Ms. DeCamp said.



Photo by Abner Guzman

AFAF can help

A service technician uses a sander to smooth the surface of a set of rotors in preparation for new brake pads at the base auto skills center. Airmen can receive financial assistance for emergency car repairs, as well as other services, through the Air Force Assistance Fund. The 2009 AFAF campaign kicks off Monday and runs through May 1. See your unit representative to contribute.



Town hall meeting tackles joint basing concerns

By

Rich Bartell

Fort Lewis Public Affairs

For many Air Force and Army employees, the upcoming Joint Base Lewis-McChord represents a time of transition and it provokes a lot of questions like, "what's going to happen to my job and the benefits I've earned?"

On March 12, the Joint Integration Office held two non-appropriated fund town hall meetings at the American Lake Club on Fort Lewis to answer some of those questions.

"I was kind of scared when I first heard about how joint basing would affect McChord NAF," said Bonnie Scannell, 62nd Force Support Squadron, a 33-year Air Force NAF employee.

"Change is difficult and dealing with the unknown is a challenge," said Ms. Scannell, an administrative assistant at McChord's Arts and Crafts center.

The town hall sessions provided in-depth benefits information and transitioning to the Army NAF system. Commands from both Fort Lewis and McChord were represented with JIO director Greta Powell.

Ron Courtney, Department of the Army NAF Benefit chief, from Washington, D.C., was key speaker at the town hall forum. He says joint basing is a challenge and also improves job opportunities.

"Joint basing can be a very positive thing. In fact there will be a lot of ca-

reer advancement. We're making sure that folks can transfer their benefits and carry them forward," said Mr. Courtney.

Mr. Courtney had words of encouragement to NAF workers who are transferring to the Army system.

"We want everyone in the NAF system to know that when it comes to benefits, we will take excellent care of you."

All McChord's NAF employees will become Army NAF s employees.

According to Bill Harvey, director of Fort Lewis Morale, Welfare and Recreation, integrating nearly 300 new employees into his organization is a priority.

"We are going to merge organizations into one, in a seamless way and we're committed to taking care of each individual employee," said Mr. Harvey.

He added that no lay-offs are planned and no one would lose pay or benefits. He said that only minor changes in job titles would occur.

"For the most part, employees will be doing the same job," said Mr. Harvey.

Gloria Rodgers is a career NAF worker with more than 35 years in the system. Ms. Rodgers views the consolidation of McChord and Fort Lewis NAF workers as a good occurrence.

"We welcome our Air Force counterparts with open arms and I believe they are getting all of the information they need to make their transition to the Army NAF system," said Ms. Rodgers.

She had visited her NAF counterparts on McChord in order to get ac-



Photo by Rich Bartell

Col. Michael Hornitschek, 62nd Airlift Wing vice commander, left, and Col. Cynthia Murphy, Fort Lewis Garrison commander, field questions during the March 12 NAF town hall forum.

quainted and share information with them.

"I believe we are friends and can work together as a well rounded team," said Ms. Rodgers.

For Ms. Scannell, some of her fears have been curbed.

"The forum answered many of the benefit and retirement questions. Mr. Courtney provided excellent information. I was surprised that there were differences in the two systems, but I'm on board for the Army," said Ms. Scannell.

Ms. Scannell said she enjoyed her

job and was dedicated to her military customers.

"We want to continue to provide a high level of services to our customers because they deserve it," she said.

The Army will manage and provide base support services when Joint Base Lewis-McChord begins operation on Jan. 31, 2010. JB LM will have an Army base commander and an Air Force deputy commander.

A video version of the meeting is available on the internal Lewis-McChord Joint Basing Web site at <https://intra.lewis-mcchord.army.mil>.

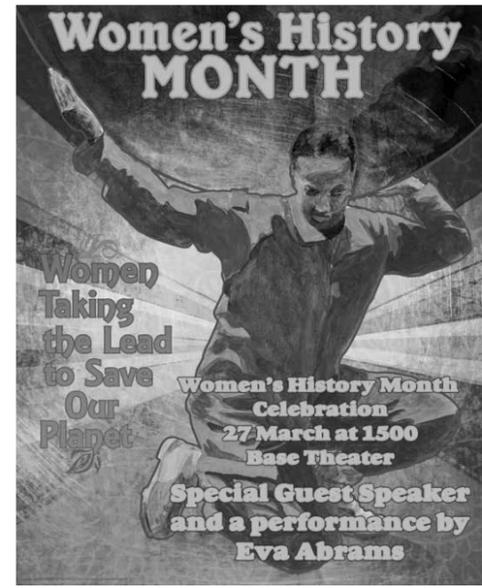




Photo by Abner Guzman

Show and tell

Tech. Sgt. Jason Ryckman, 62nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, briefs a group of members from the Defense Advanced Research Project Agency on an AFSO21 initiative Wednesday at the squadron. DARPA is the central research and development office for the Department of Defense. Its mission is to maintain the technological superiority of the U.S. military and prevent technological surprise from harming the nation's national security.



McChord Airmen

AROUND THE WORLD



Courtesy photo

SOUTHWEST ASIA —Staff Sgt. Alexander Fletcher, 62nd Civil Engineer Squadron, makes one last pass with a “bull float” while finishing a concrete pad during a recent deployment.



Courtesy photo

IRAQ — Staff Sgt. Nathan Beam, 62nd Civil Engineer Squadron, right, demonstrates the latest explosive ordnance device robot, the HD-1, to Iraqi EOD personnel during a recent deployment.



Community center offers something for everyone

Whether it's learning the ins and outs of digital photography, mastering dance steps to the Tango or just meeting up with friends and coworkers at First Friday, the McChord Community Center offers something for everyone.

"We're all about providing opportunities for people to grow artistically, as a family and really share in their McChord community," said Josh Boisvert, 62nd Force Support Squadron's community center director.

That includes planning monthly social events in conjunction with the McChord Club ranging from First Friday to Ultimate Fighting Championship viewing parties at the Hideaway Pub and Deli. The center also offers piano and dance lessons and serves as the planning and organizational engine behind large-scale activity events such as the McChord Star talent competition, the yearly Pet Parade and the food and beer festival Brew Fest.

The center will ramp up the entertainment to another level when Rodeo rolls into town in July, showcasing various musical acts and karaoke contests for the visiting international teams, Mr. Boisvert said.

"We want to make sure all the teams are entertained," he said.

As for entertainment until then, all eyes at the center are focused on McChord Star, which kicks off with audition night April 1 and runs each Thursday night through the end of the month from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the McChord Clubs and Community Center.

Event planners are expecting big things this year from the contest. They even moved the first round of the contest from the Enlisted Heritage Room to the main ballroom to accommodate a larger crowd of participants and spectators.

Seventeen contestants participated in the singing talent competition last year, and that number is expected to increase this year, said Trish LaRock-Barrett, 62nd FSS community center special events coordinator.

Contestants will perform one song for each themed night, starting with "Country Night" in the first round on April 8. "80s Night" is set for the second round, followed by "Old Standard (Classic) Night" before closing the contest on April 29 with "R & B Night."

"We really wanted to open up the themed nights so we didn't limit our range of contestants," Ms. LaRock-Barrett said.

Cash prizes will be awarded (1st place, \$300; 2nd, \$200; 3rd, \$100) for McChord Star winners, who will then have the opportunity to compete against winners from the talent competition at Fort Lewis during Armed Forces Day festivities on May 16.

All of the competition nights at McChord will likely have a party atmosphere with a concert-like feel, Ms. LaRock-Barrett said.

In addition to the local celebrity judges, there will be plenty of food, drinks and even door prizes for those in the audience.

"We want people to come out and really support and cheer on their contestants," she said.



2008 McChord Star winner Airman 1st Class Jonathan Lankford, 62nd Operations Support Squadron, performs for judges during tryouts for the Air Mobility Command Icon contest during the Hot Summer Nights Block Party last year. The Community Center hosts the 2009 McChord Star contest starting April 1.



Community Center staff member Trish LaRock-Barrett, 62nd FSS, sets up a chess board before a recent tournament hosted by the center.



Team McChord members huddle around a poker table during a recent Texas Hold Em' poker tournament hosted by the center.



Community Center staff member Jesse Greenlow, 62nd Force Support Squadron, mans the customer service desk at the club.



Upcoming community center events

- McChord Star — April 1-29
- UFC fight viewing party — April 18
- Pet Parade — May 9
- BBQ and outdoor movie viewing — May 16

For more information including location and times, visit www.mcchordafb.us.

Photo by Abner Guzman

McChord Airmen compete in a challenge during First Friday recently. Community center staff members recently added interactive contests and giveaways to the monthly event. This contest included timing Airmen to see who could put on the heavy fireman's gear and complete sets of pushups and situps the fastest.

Wing safety office garners AF-level award

By

Tyler Hemstreet
Staff writer

The 62nd Airlift Wing Ground Safety office was awarded the Air Force Chief of Safety Outstanding Achievement Award for Ground Safety among large wings, Air Force officials announced March 11 in a statement.

The award highlighted the safety office's outstanding achievements

from Oct. 2007 to Sept. 2008 when it exceeded the Department of Defense Secretary's 75-percent mishap reduction challenge by 20-percent. During that time there were also zero Class A or B mishaps and Class C mishaps were reduced by 54-percent.

"The award shows our commitment to making McChord the safest place to work and live," said Ken Heath, 62nd AW chief of ground safety. "Of course, there's no way we could have accom-

plished anything without the combined safety dedication of leadership, supervision and individuals that make up Team McChord."

The office's other accomplishments include developing a ground safety database, which was identified as a "best practice" by Air Mobility Command and is now used by at least 12 other Air Force bases.

"I realized early on we had a talented and diverse group of individuals who could leverage their ex-

pertise and impact everyone at the base from the top down," said Lt. Col. Rod Lewis, 62nd AW chief of safety. "I told them I wanted them to be the best in AMC — to show up every day ready to use their skills and knowledge to support the people and the mission safely."

"(They) represent the best in a class of Airmen dedicated to making the lives of our members and their families safer and better," said Col. Donald Halpin, Air Mobility Command safety director.



Gen. Schwartz to Airmen: 'We are a family'

By

Airman 1st Class Jarrod Chavana
1st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE, Va. (AFNS) -- The chief of staff of the Air Force had a message for Airmen during an Airmen's Call here March 11: "We are a family and everyone in this room counts.

"This is a big-tent Air Force," Gen. Norton Schwartz said.

"In our business, you don't measure your worth by your proximity to the fight," he said. "We should be proud of who we are and what we do."

The general did encourage a little "sibling rivalry" within the Air Force family, alluding to the friendly competition between Langley Air Force Base squadrons.

"That's the way it should be," he said. "It makes us better. The Air Force is all about performance, excellence and demanding the best from one another."

Demanding the best, he said, is "the Air Force way." Although the service's top Airman admitted mistakes have been made in the past, he emphasized the Air Force in many respects is a no-fail business where good intentions are not enough.

"We are not a corporation," he said. "If a customer doesn't like a particular business, they can go somewhere else. But the American people have no alternative for what we do. We have a special obligation

to do things right, to do things well, to do whatever is required, wherever it is required, under whatever circumstances."

The general also fielded several questions from Airmen in the audience:

Question: As the first chief of staff in the modern era without a fighter pilot background, does this signal a change in focus for the Air Force?

Answer: It shouldn't be interpreted in any shape or form that some elements of our Air Force are ascendent and another isn't. That's not the way it is. Our Air Force is evolving, so there are some things like intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance that are growing because that's what our country needs. Some things are diminishing because we need less of that. It doesn't mean it's less important or that there isn't future in our Air Force.

If you don't think I am committed to making sure the Air Force will sustain its superiority by putting targets at risk any place, any time to maintain air dominance for the joint team, I am trying to persuade you otherwise.

Q: There are changes to how physical training tests are going to be administered. When will this happen?

A: The Air Force had a system that was too complicated and few understood it. In the works is a system that is simpler, that's professionally administered and that makes more sense. The major pieces are height and weight combina-



Photo by Airman 1st Class Jonathan Koob

General Norton Schwartz addresses personnel during an Airmen's Call March 11 at Langley Air Force Base, Va. General Schwartz, the Air Force chief of staff, reviewed Langley AFB's warfighting capabilities, viewed an F-22 demonstration during his visit.

tions and the assessment might be administered twice a year. The logic is fitness, readiness, health and appearance.

Fitness is fundamental to our performance as an Air Force. Another aspect is that the American people have invested in the Air Force and we need to maintain our health on their behalf. Fitness contributes to health, contributes to readiness and also makes us less demanding on the medical system.

Q: With the economy being the

way it is, how will budget constraints hinder how the Air Force operates?

A: The United States can't be a superpower and certainly a foremost military power without a sound economy. We need to be disciplined and responsible. The Air Force is going to have budget cuts and will have to prioritize and make adjustments. We will have less capability on the high end, but we will have more capabilities in those things we will need most in the immediate future.



Officials offer tips to protect personal information

By

Dan Ballard

62nd Communications Squadron

A large number of offices on base handle personal information; therefore, it's imperative that all personnel understand what constitutes Personally Identifying Information and the proper handling of this sensitive information.

What is PII? It's defined as information that directly identifies an individual. Examples include names, addresses, social security numbers, home telephone numbers, dates of birth, personal cell phone numbers, home addresses and email addresses. It's vital to protect this information, because it can easily result in identity theft.

How should you protect PII? Take a step back and look at your job function and the information you handle. Are there forms or documents you collect that contain social security numbers, home addresses, home phone or personal cell phone numbers, or dates of birth? Do you really need to collect the information, or is it something that has just always been done that way? If you don't need it to complete your mission, don't obtain it.

Next, don't leave items such as performance reports, recall ros-

ters or alpha rosters in areas that could lead to their loss or theft. Once you are done with PII, don't just throw it in the trash or recycling bag. McChord has a 100% shred policy ... make sure you adhere to it! Finally, the Air Force has mandated that all PII and "For Official Use Only" information sent over email is encrypted. The importance of safeguarding of your data is not only to comply with regulations, but also to reduce the costs associated with security breaches.

If you discover any disclosures of PII data, report it immediately through your supervisor and chain of command and contact Dan Ballard, base Privacy Act manager at 982-5169.

Additionally, lost, stolen or possible compromised PII must be reported to the US Computer Emergency Readiness Team (<http://www.us-cert.gov/>) within one hour of the discovery. An investigation will be initiated and those found guilty of causing the breach could be charged with criminal and civil penalties.

Identity theft can happen to anyone. The monetary and emotional cost of repairing an individual's identity can be extensive, requiring years to recover. Everyone must be diligent in protecting, storing, transmitting and properly destroying PII.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Eric Burks

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Chief Airey memorial service celebrates life of hero

By

Staff Sgt. Joshua Stevens
325th Fighter Wing
Public Affairs

TYNDALL AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. (AFNS) -- During his life, he was a dedicated member of the profession of arms and fervent military supporter who became one of the most iconic figures of Air Force enlisted heritage and culture -- he was Paul Wesley Airey, the first Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force.

His death was announced March 11 to a mournful Air Force and nation. A memorial service in the Tyndall Air Force Base Chapel Monday brought everyone from top military officials past and present to the newest Airmen. No matter the rank, they all came with the common purpose of paying respect to one of our service's most beloved and cherished leaders.

Those attending the service made their way to the chapel flanked on each pathway by formations of Airmen from the Tyndall Paul W. Airey NCO Academy; upon entering the chapel, row after row of pews was filled with a sea of blue service dress uniforms. All eyes were led to the center of the chapel, where a painted portrait of Chief Airey was placed with flower memorials on each side. In front of the portrait stood a podium on top of which a solitary service cap faced forward to the audience.

Toward the front of the chapel sanctuary, a large screen projected images from the life of Chief Airey, as well as

a tribute slide show developed by the students and staff of the Tyndall AFB Paul W. Airey NCO Academy Class 09-3. The first slide read, "On March 11, 2009, the Air Force enlisted members lost their father figure - Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Paul W. Airey."

Once the general public was seated, the ceremony began with the official procession of the chief's family, close friends and personal clergy. In all, more than 500 people were in attendance. Some Airmen even stood outside, enduring the showering rain, just to pay homage to the chief's legacy.

After the singing of the first hymn of praise of the service, "Abide With Me," Brig. Gen. Darryl Roberson, 325th Fighter Wing commander, introduced the chief's family and friends, along with distinguished community and military members, including the current Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Rodney McKinley, as well as the eighth, ninth, twelfth and thirteenth chiefs to hold the highest Air Force enlisted rank.

He was followed by members of the 325th FW Honor Guard who presented the colors, afterward which Lt. Col. Douglas Hall, 325th FW chaplain, offered a prayer.

Next to the podium was Chief McKinley, who spoke fondly of the man who set the precedent for the job he currently holds.

"If Paul Airey could look through my eyes, he'd smile because all he could see is Air Force blue," he said. "... We can't put into words how much Paul Airey meant to us. We've shed tears, but we should also rejoice. Back

as a POW, he probably thought 'what's going to be my future?' I bet he never would have dreamed he'd live to be 85 years old, but he did, and he didn't just live or simply exist, he lived."

Chief McKinley then noted how Chief Airey influences him almost every day.

He said he has a picture which hangs in the center of his office of Chief Airey; not of him as a young man, but much older, speaking to a crowd but still 'full of piss and vinegar.' "He motivated all of us," he continued. "When I have to make tough decisions, I look at that picture and say 'what would the chief do?' He'd say 'always do the right thing and don't compromise your Airmen.'"

After scripture reading, psalm reciting and more hymn singing, Chief Airey's son, retired Chief Master Sgt. Dale Airey, reflected on his father.

"Dad left this world the same way he led his whole life -- confidently, bravely and with dignity," he said. "He is immortalized as the epitome of what an Air Force NCO should be."

He reminisced on his childhood and how he shared his father's love for the poems of Rudyard Kipling, quoting lines from "Gunga Din" and "Mother of Mine." He chose these because he said they reinforced how his father taught him duty to others, responsibility and zeal. "Dad put pride in people," he stated.

As Chief Airey's son took his seat, lifelong friend of the chief and the eighth Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force, Sam Parish came up to speak. In what was perhaps the most mov-

ing event of the service, Chief Parish reminded everyone though they were there to mourn, they also were there to celebrate the life of Paul W. Airey. As a symbolic gesture, he asked everyone in the room for a round of "resounding applause" - the sound was deafening.

"The impact he had on me and the Air Force family is indescribable," he said. "He was the epitome of core values long before they even were our core values."

The ceremony closed with the singing of "The Air Force Hymn," and people began their departures after the procession of the official party. As people made their way out of the chapel, an elderly woman smiling cheerfully uttered softly, "Paul loved the Air Force, yes, Paul loved the Air Force."

With only a few simple words, she communicated a fundamental reason Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Paul W. Airey's memory will live on in the Airmen who come after him. The love and dedication he gave the Air Force flourishes even further with each coming generation of Airmen. As Gen. Norton Schwartz, Air Force Chief of Staff put it, "His legacy lives today in the truly professional enlisted force we have serving our nation, and for that we owe him a debt of gratitude."

Chief Airey's interment will be at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Va., at a date to be determined. In lieu of flowers, the family has asked people to consider donations to the Air Force Memorial Fund, Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Scholarship Fund or the American Cancer Society.





Air Force Chief of Safety outstanding achievement award for ground safety (category II): **62nd Airlift Wing**

2008 Air Force and Air Mobility Command outstanding contracting unit (small): **62nd Contracting Squadron**

AMC outstanding contracting officer – company grade: **1st Lt. Kellen Logan**, 62nd CONS

AMC airlift crew chief of the year : **Tech. Sgt. Theodore Rohde**, 62nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

McChord Retiree Activities Office 2008 volunteers of the year: **Norman and Dorothy Johnson**

Do you have a story idea?

Spread the news in
The NW Airlifter!

Call Public Affairs at 982-5734
or e-mail us at

northwestairlifter@mcchord.af.mil



Stepfamily seminar

The Stepfamily Seminar for Helping Agencies and Parents is 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday at the McChord Clubs and Community Center. The registration deadline is today. For more information, call the Airmen and Family Readiness Center at 982-2695.

Parent University

The 12th annual Parent University seminar is 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 4 at Evergreen Elementary school on Fort Lewis. Free childcare is provided by Fort Lewis Clarkmoor Child Development Center for military. For information on registration and requirements, call central registration at 967-2494. The registration deadline is Monday. For general information, call 982-9043 or 967-5901.

Scholarship notice

The Pacific Northwest Chapter of Airlift/Tanker Association is offering two \$250 cash scholarships, available to A/TA members or their dependents. Applicants must submit an essay by March 31 on the subject "the age of responsibility: my contribution to the nation." For more information, call 982-3858.

Pitsenbarger Scholarship

Applications for the Air Force Association's Pitsenbarger Scholarship must be turned in to the base education office customer service desk, or education@mcchord.af.mil, by April 1. The scholarship is available to active duty servicemembers working towards a bachelor's degree. Other requirements are listed on the application guidelines. For more information, call 982-5479.

Retirement ceremony

A retirement ceremony for Carole Kaser, 62nd Logistics Readiness Squadron, is 11:30 a.m. April 1 at building 1180. RSVPs are required by March 27. For more information, call 982-3729 or 982-5500.

Chili cook off

The 4th Airlift Squadron's annual chili cook off and homebrew competition is 4:44 p.m. April 4 at Holiday Park here. This year's contest also features family activities and door prizes. For more information or to RSVP, call 982-4111.

Enlisted force structure

The latest version of Air Force Instruction 26-2618, the enlisted

force structure, is available online at: <http://www.e-publishing.af.mil/shared/media/epubs/AFI36-2618.pdf>.

Base firewood permits

A considerable supply of "you-cut" firewood will soon be available for personnel willing to obtain a base firewood permit. To add your name to the wait list, email Carol.Lee@mc-

chord.af.mil with your full name and telephone number. The wait list will be used to notify a group of firewood cutters to obtain a firewood permit.

Flu shots now available

Flu vaccine is now available for active duty family members and retirees at the Immunizations Clinic here. For more information, call 982-5189.



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:

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Study: Chapel Support Center, Bldg. 746

Tuesday:

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

Wednesday:

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

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