

The NORTHWEST AIRLIFTER

Vol. 41, No. 11

McChord Air Force Base, Wash.

Connecting Team McChord with the Combat Airlift Mission

March 27, 2009

INSIDE

Maintenance skills competition,
Page 4

Major Accident
Response Exercise,
Pages 8-9

Intramural basketball
tournament results,
Page 11



Photo by Abner Guzman

Carried away

McChord firefighters carry an Airman with simulated injuries away from the scene of Tuesday's Major Accident Response Exercise. The scenario depicted a collision between a train and a bus near the Base Exchange. For more on the exercise, see Pages 8-9.

Transition to Air Mobility Command SharePoint site set for April 3

By
Tyler Hemstreet
Staff writer

Air Mobility Command officials moved one step closer to making it easier to share information within squadrons, wings and across all of AMC on March 20, wrapping up a 14-month Enterprise Information Management deployment tour across the command.

The seven-person EIM team spent three weeks at McChord, meeting with SharePoint site managers across the 62nd Airlift Wing in an effort to prepare them for the transition to the command's EIM site April 3.

"The new site will have a different look and feel, along with better user interface and added capabilities," said Leroy Rolston, a contract consultant traveling with the team.

In addition to teaching site managers the nuances of the new system, the team also took note of some of the best SharePoint practices developed by McChord Airmen, taking the information back to AMC headquarters, said Maj. Ken Nguyen, EIM branch chief.

"The lack of standardization and training with the old SharePoint created an environment for individuals to

come up with several different creative ways of getting things done on the site," Major Nguyen said.

McChord was one of the bases among the command where units really took charge and maximized use of SharePoint, the team said.

"Benchmarking processes across AMC is the key to making the system better," said Master Sgt. James Irwin, EIM deployment team lead.

The new system provides an avenue for customer-oriented offices to create interactive request forms and automate processes without the expense of buying new software. Since EIM is powered by Microsoft Windows, users already familiar with SharePoint shouldn't have much of a problem navigating it, Major Nguyen said.

One of the improved features includes giving users the ability to synchronize their Outlook calendar with the SharePoint calendar.

"We're making everyone's jobs easier," Mr. Rolston said. "It's going to make everyone more efficient and make it easier to find and share information."

In addition to training site owners, the team said there will also be user tutorials and other written material available to help Airmen get familiar with the new site.

McChord flying squadrons continue to meet the mission

By
Tyler Hemstreet
Staff writer

Entering this week, McChord's three flying squadrons (the 7th Airlift Squadron is currently deployed) had combined to fly 3,078 sorties, transporting more than 25,000 tons of cargo and piling up more than 11,000 flying hours since the beginning of the year.

Airlift taskings continue at a heavy pace due to ongoing operations in Afghanistan and Iraq, and McChord aircrews are meeting the challenge.

"It's as busy now as I've seen it in the past year," said Lt. Col. Stephen Ritter, 10th AS director of operations.

Between scheduling upgrade training for pilots at Altus Air Force Base, Okla., flying local training missions and flying transport missions in and out of the area of responsibility, Colonel Ritter said it is a constant challenge to provide aircrews predictability in their schedules with everything that is going on.

"That's the life of a strategic airlifter," he said. "We just encourage them to take leave when they

can and really enjoy the time that they are off."

Aircrews can usually sense an uptick in the operations tempo and they know that it is just a reality that happens from time to time, said Lt. Col. James Ray, 4th AS commander.

"We try to let them know what's going on with everything ... we give them as much information as we can so they can plan their lives accordingly," Colonel Ray said.

The one bit of predictability schedulers can offer is the set date for pilots to attend their upgrade training, Colonel Ritter said.

"That way, they can plan some of their leave around it," he said.

As increases in mission taskings are not unusual, Colonel Ray said it's something his Airmen are prepared to handle.

"They always rise to meet the challenge," he said. "We let them know their efforts are appreciated. We have a great group and they know what their commitment to the Air Force entails. They always come prepared."

That dedication is one large piece of how McChord's active and reserve operations, maintenance and support groups ensure McChord continues to provide world class airlift support to the



Photo by Abner Guzman

McChord aircrews have flown 3,078 sorties delivering more than 25,000 tons since the beginning of the year.

nation, said Col. Joseph Wiley, 62nd Operations Group commander.

"Whether it's Presidential support, contingency operations or joint training, the green tail flash is a mark of excellence," Colonel Wiley said.

Weekend Weather

FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Hi: 54 Low: 40	Hi: 49 Low: 35	Hi: 51 Low: 38

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

Countdown to success

Next MOBEX.....	35 days
Rodeo.....	115 days
Operational Readiness Inspection.....	213 days

Don't miss it ...

Women's History Month celebration

3 p.m. today at the base theater



Airman's Roll Call: Stimulus package to aid Airmen

Improvements in dormitories, child development centers and energy conservation plans will benefit as the Air Force receives about \$1.7 billion in Defense-related appropriations through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, military finance officials said.

With a focus on Airmen care, families and environmental stewardship, the Air Force's portion of the stimulus will spur about 1,500 military construction and facility improvement projects, including

quality-of-life upgrades and renewable energy research.

"ARRA funds are being used for high priority maintenance and repair projects as well as new child development centers, military family housing and dormitories," said Air Force Civil Engineer Maj. Gen. Del Eulberg. "This is consistent with Air Force goals to improve the quality of life for its Airmen and their families."

ARRA funds will also be used to support high-priority programs such as fuel-cell, wind and solar

research and energy security. Air Force leaders support national and Defense Department efforts to achieve greater energy independence through funding these critical military energy research programs.

ARRA funded projects include more than 1,500 maintenance and repair projects valued at \$1.1 billion in addition to \$260 million for Air Force military construction and housing:

- \$100 million for four dormitories
- \$80 million for seven child de-

velopment centers

- \$80 million for two military family housing projects

Additionally, Air Force engineers will construct four Energy Conservation Investment Program projects using \$17 million provided to the Defense Department.

Airman's Roll Call is 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.

Continuity and progress – building on tradition to improve

By

Col. Joseph Wiley

62nd Operations Group Commander

The Spanish philosopher José Ortega y Gasset wrote in his important work, "Toward a Philosophy of History":

Man's real treasure is the treasure of his mistakes, piled up stone by stone through thousands of years ... Breaking the continuity with the past, wanting to begin again, is a lowering of man and a plagiarism of the orangutan. It was a Frenchman, Dupont-White, who around 1860 had the courage to exclaim, 'Continuity is one of the rights of man; it is a homage of everything that distinguishes him from the beast'."

Continuity in our Air Force is manifested in our traditions and heritage. It is the foundation of our organization's success. The sac-

rifices and achievements of the past set the expectations for continued standards of excellence.

One of our duties as military professionals is continuous improvement of our body of knowledge and intellectual ideas regarding the nature of warfare and our contribution to our chosen vocation. As military professionals, we respect the continuity our doctrine, regulations and instructions provide for us. The contemporary author Samuel Huntington notes in "The Soldier and the State":

"In the military view, man learns only from experience. If he has little opportunity to learn from his own experience, he must learn from the experience of others."

This statement implies that continuity is not incongruous with progress. Our Air Force places great stock in providing its personnel with the opportunity to study and learn their craft. Taking advantage of that opportunity is

the mark of a professional. Whether looking to the past to study the traditions that form the strong foundation our service is built upon, or gaining experience through individual activity or collective learning in venues such as Squadron Officer School or Airman Leadership School, the true professional is always seeking to improve their craft.

Take time each day to polish your professionalism through study and discussion. Engage with your contemporaries, subordinates and superiors. Relish the opportunity to learn from the past and from other's experience. Forge your own way ahead by honing a new vision of what our Air Force can become. With a disciplined habit of study and continuous desire for improvement, every Airman can better their organization. Make your effort count and challenge the maxim of Field Marshall Viscount Montgomery that, "Change is inevitable. Progress is not inevitable."

The Sharp Airman ...

uses the **S-A-L-U-T-E** report as a quick and effective way to communicate ground enemy attack information up the chain of command.

- Size** - the number of persons and vehicles seen or the size of an object
- Activity** - description of enemy activity (assaulting, fleeing, observing)

Location - Where the enemy was sighted (grid coordinate or reference point)

Unit - distinctive signs, symbols, or identification on people, vehicles, aircraft, or weapons (numbers, patches, or clothing type)

Time - time the activity is observed

Equipment - equipment and vehicles associated with the activity

PROFESSIONALS

of the week

8th Airlift Squadron

Airman 1st Class Eric Hoyt

Duty Title:
C-17 loadmaster journeyman

Duty section:
Loadmaster flight

Hometown:
Orderville, Utah



Why he's tops:

Airman Hoyt is a tremendous new asset to the 8th AS loadmaster cadre. As a first-term Airman, he completed his mission ready training and career development courses during operational missions in support of Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom, scoring 97 percent on his end of course CDC test. Airman Hoyt completed his mission ready training in minimal time, accumulating 101 flight hours on 76 combat missions while airlifting 575 pallets and 4,375 troops totaling 27,247,000 lbs. Having attended one year of college, Airman Hoyt plans to continue his education and ultimately earn a commission.

Staff Sgt. Douglass MacGregor

Duty Title:
C-17A evaluator loadmaster

Duty section:
Standardization/evaluation

Hometown:
Wildwood, Fla.



Why he's super:

Sergeant MacGregor completed instructor school and evaluator upgrade training in less than a year after of his first check-ride, achieving 98 percent on his end of course test for instructor school with a "Q1-excellent" on his final evaluation. During deployment, he accumulated more than 245 combat hours during 44 sorties including three combat airdrop lines in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Sergeant MacGregor completed his associate of science degree with the Community College of the Air Force and Embry Riddle and plans to continue his education.

Contracting squadron earns Air Force-level award

By

Tyler Hemstreet
Staff writer

The 62nd Contracting Squadron was recently named the Air Force fiscal year 2008 Outstanding Contracting Unit (Small).

The award is a first for the squadron and is particularly meaningful

since the 62nd CONS will be fully consolidated into the Joint Base Lewis-McChord Procurement Office by October 2010, said Maj. Jack Jackman, 62nd CONS commander.

"The members of our squadron are very honored and proud of being recognized at the Air Force level," Major Jackman said.

The 62nd CONS had its share of challenges in 2008 as the squad-

ron's deployments were extended to six months while home station dwell time was shortened to a one-to-one ratio. Civilian personnel turnover averaged 32 percent, which also reduced the overall experience levels within the unit, Major Jackman said.

"But squadron productivity, the quality of our contracts and customer service levels were increased

significantly," he said. "I believe the primary factors that led to our selection for this award was strong leadership within each of the flights coupled with ingenuity, great teamwork and a willingness by numerous individuals at all levels to place service before self."

The award will be presented April 17 at an awards ceremony at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Eric Burks

Helping hands

Airmen with the Women's History Month committee here prepare care packages for McChord's deployed female Airmen March 20. The packages contained reading material, Girl Scout cookies, travel kits, personal care and other items. The packages are going to 15 McChord Airmen deployed to various locations around the world.



McChord competes at AMTS Maintenance Skills Competition

By
62nd Maintenance Group

Three Air Mobility Command maintenance teams gathered March 9-12 in Las Vegas, Nev., to compete in the Aviation Maintenance Technology Society's second annual Maintenance Skills Competition.

Teams from McChord, Dyess and McGuire Air Force Bases, as well as a U.S. Navy team, competed with civilian maintenance teams from commercial airlines, aviation colleges, and other organizations.

The competition consisted of 12 separate events testing the maintenance technicians' ability to accomplish various tasks commonly found in the civilian aircraft maintenance profession. These included a 40-minute engine event in which the teams simultaneously worked a hydraulic pump and tachometer generator; an advanced composite material damage event where teams used a tap inspection method to find damage not visible from the surface; and an electrical troubleshooting event in which the teams had to find the best fix for various fault codes while spending minimal money on parts.

Though the events were geared toward the civilian sector of aircraft maintenance, the skills required were very similar to those used by

military maintainers. Safety played a large role in the overall scoring of each event as each team was required to follow safety guidelines enforced in both military and civilian sectors, such as safety goggle use.

In civilian aircraft maintenance, technicians have an "airframe and powerplant" license and are expected to perform in all areas of aircraft maintenance. As the competition was designed to test the skills of an A&P licensed mechanic, AMC teams faced the additional challenge of selecting the right mix of career fields to best cover all the events, some of which occurred simultaneously.

Each event was graded based on completion time, with teams receiving a time penalty for incorrect troubleshooting or safety violations. The team with the shortest overall time was named the winner in each of the four competition categories: military, aviation college, general aviation, and commercial.

After two days of heated competition, the results were in and two out of the three AMC teams took home awards in the military category. Third place went to the Navy team, whose time was five hours, five minutes and 18 seconds. McChord's team took second place, with a time of four hours, 33 minutes and 22 seconds. First place went to the McGuire team, which finished at four



Courtesy photo

McChord maintenance team members simulate rigging a flight control using a tensiometer to measure tension while adjusting two turnbuckles to obtain correct specifications in a timed event at the AMTS maintenance skills competition.

hours, 25 minutes and eight seconds.

The McChord team finished sixth overall out of fifteen teams.

"Although we didn't know what to expect competing in civilian aircraft-based events, we were happy to bring home some hardware and we look forward to next year's competition," said Master Sgt. Michael Wisniewski, 62nd Maintenance Squadron, McChord's team chief. "Hopefully we'll bring 'Best Maintenance Team' hon-

ors to McChord."

The other members of McChord's team were Staff Sergeants Anthony Nowak and Paul Weeks, 62nd MXS, and Technical Sergeants Seanjon Judkins and Nicholas Thompson, 62 Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

"I was very proud of our team's effort, motivation and professionalism," said Col. Tracy Smiedendorf, 62nd Maintenance Group commander. "They represented Team McChord with class and confidence."



Photo by Staff Sgt. Eric Burks

Pilot panel

Karen Borders, standing, NASA Explorer School team lead at Key Peninsula Middle School in Lakebay, Wash., introduces pilots from McChord's airlift squadrons and civilian pilots during Monday's pilot panel. McChord annually sends pilots to speak on the panel, which gives students a chance to ask questions ranging from "what is your favorite aircraft to fly?" to "what are your words of advice on achieving your goals?" This year's pilots from Team McChord were 1st Lt. Aaron Kottowski, 4th AS; Captains Daniel Arneson and Brian Yeargan, 10th AS; and Maj. Kevin Cummings, 8th AS.

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



Air Force Assistance Fund campaign kicks off

By

Tyler Hemstreet
Staff writer

The Air Force Assistance Fund campaign kicked off Monday, providing Airmen the opportunity to contribute to any of the four official Air Force charitable organizations.

"The fund offers a unique opportunity to support our own," said Capt. Ian Ostermiller, 10th Airlift Squadron and AFAF instal-

lation project officer. "It's a way of helping fellow Airmen that brings a sense of reality to the idea of an Air Force family."

Now in its 35th year, all of the designated AFAF contributions will benefit active-duty, Reserve, Guard, retired Airmen, surviving spouses and their families.

"Our 2009 campaign comes when the economic forecast looks grim, and McChord families have redoubled their efforts to spend wisely," said Col. Jeffrey Stephenson, 62nd Airlift Wing com-

mander. "You might be tempted to think of charity as a luxury expense, but those who need it will tell you otherwise. In fact, your help means even more this year to those who will face the tragic or unexpected."

"I think we're sometimes in danger turnings creeds into slogans, but programs like the AFAF encourage us to take a minute and re-dedicate ourselves to worthwhile principles," said Capt. Ostermiller.

Personnel can contribute cash,

check or money order or use payroll deduction for the Air Force Aid Society (www.afas.org), the Air Force Enlisted Village Indigent Widows' Fund (www.afenlisted-widows.org), the Air Force Villages Indigent Widows' Fund (www.air-forcevillages.com) and the General and Mrs. Curtis LeMay Foundation (www.afvw.com/lemay.html).

For additional information on AFAF, visit <http://www.afassistancefund.org/>, or see your unit representative to contribute. The campaign concludes May 1.



Stimulus funding benefits Defense Department

By

Jim Garamone

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON - Projects resulting from the \$7.4 billion Defense Department portion of President Barack Obama's economic stimulus package will start to be visible soon, defense officials said recently.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which President Obama signed in February, provides \$787 billion to stimulate the economy and help the nation and world recover from the global economic crisis.

"The recovery plan we passed is the first step in getting our economy back on track," President Obama said during his speech to a joint session of Congress.

While most of the money will go to civilian agencies, the \$7.4 billion Defense Department portion is aimed at projects that could be accelerated or started at once. The department can obligate stimulus funds for military construction projects through the end of fiscal 2013, and the rest through the end of fiscal 2010.

A focal point of the bill is \$555 million for a temporary expansion of the Homeowner's Assistance Program benefits for private home sale

losses of both military and civilian Defense Department personnel. The program reimburses those who lose money on a home sale due to a forced relocation.

Under the legislation, \$4.2 billion is available in operations and maintenance accounts to upgrade military facilities, including energy-related improvements, officials said.

The act calls for \$1.3 billion in military construction for hospitals, and \$240 million for child development centers.

The legislation also provides \$100 million in military construction for warrior transition complexes, and about \$600 million for military housing projects for the troops and their families.

The department will receive \$300 million to develop energy-efficient technologies and \$120 million for the Energy Conservation Investment Program. Another \$15 million is marked for inspector general oversight and audit of Recovery Act spending.

Pentagon officials are working with service leaders to finalize details. The legislation calls on federal agencies to report on their use of the stimulus funds on March 3. Defense Department and service officials are working to determine which bases will receive construction projects.

446TH AIRLIFT WING 2009 ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

SATURDAY, APRIL 4

I AM AN AMERICAN AIRMAN...

TIME: 5:30 P.M. SOCIAL // 6 P.M. BANQUET

COST: \$26 PER PERSON

DRESS: MESS DRESS OR SEMI-FORMAL

MCCHORD CONSOLIDATED CLUBS

MENU

LONDON BROIL (BEEF) OR ROSEMARY GARLIC CHICKEN

VEGETABLE LASAGNA (PREORDER ONLY)

RESERVATIONS: SQUADRON FIRST SERGEANTS

DEADLINE: MARCH 27

0-0-1-3



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

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

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

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

DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE



McChord Airmen

AROUND THE WORLD



Courtesy photo

AFGHANISTAN — 2nd Lt. Jason Quick, 62nd Civil Engineer Squadron, takes a break after inspecting water flow in canal systems around Bagram Air Base during a recent deployment.



Courtesy photo

IRAQ — Staff Sgt. Shauna Rosa, 86th Aerial Port Squadron, receives a coin from Lt. Gen. Gary North, U.S. Central Command commander, during a recent deployment.



MARE

tests emergency responders

Tuesday's major accident response exercise was a grisly scene — by design.

From Airmen being carried away on stretchers to hazmat crews responding to a simulated 1,000 gallon diesel fuel spill, the realism of the scenario stressed the importance of the quarterly exercise.

The scenario depicted a collision between a mid-morning train traveling on the installation and a military bus near the Base Exchange, resulting in one simulated death and 24 simulated injuries.

McChord first responders included emergency personnel, augmented by Airmen from the 62nd Security Forces Squadron, 62nd Medical Squadron, 62nd Civil Engineer Squadron and 62nd Logistics Readiness Squadron.

"We really wanted to test the communication between everyone involved, from leadership all the way down to the first responders," said exercise planner Capt. Joseph Jensen, 62nd Airlift Wing plans and programs.

Role players with simulated injuries were transported to Madigan Army Medical Center as part of the exercise to incorporate that capability into the response, Captain Jensen said.

Thirteen firefighters responded to the scene and facilitated removal of accident victims from the area and contained the simulated diesel fuel run-

off.

"Our firefighters were very hands-on with the exercise ... I thought they did an outstanding job," said John Harris, 62nd CES deputy fire chief. "I thought it was one of the best and most realistic MAREs the installation has ever put together."

There was also smooth flow of communication between the firefighters, aerospace medical team members and those working in the medical triage.

Mr. Harris said.

The exercise also tested the 62nd SFS' ability to secure the accident scene and maintain day-to-day operations within surrounding buildings affected by the mock disaster, said Tech. Sgt. Richard

Putman, 62nd SFS.

"The situation dealt with communication, re-routing traffic and relocating people," Sergeant Putman said. "It provided an excellent opportunity to train for a peace-time disaster."

Exercise planners were pleased with the initial feedback received from various units participating in the exercise.

"It's always a challenge to plan a realistic exercise that satisfies the requirements and provides excellent training," Captain Jensen said.

The exercise will be reviewed Tuesday at 10 a.m. in the 62nd AW conference room.

"I think there are going to be a lot of positive things said," Captain Jensen said.

By
Tyler Hemstreet
Staff writer



McChord firefighters from the 62nd Civil Engineer Squadron approach the scene carrying stretchers for simulated accident victims.



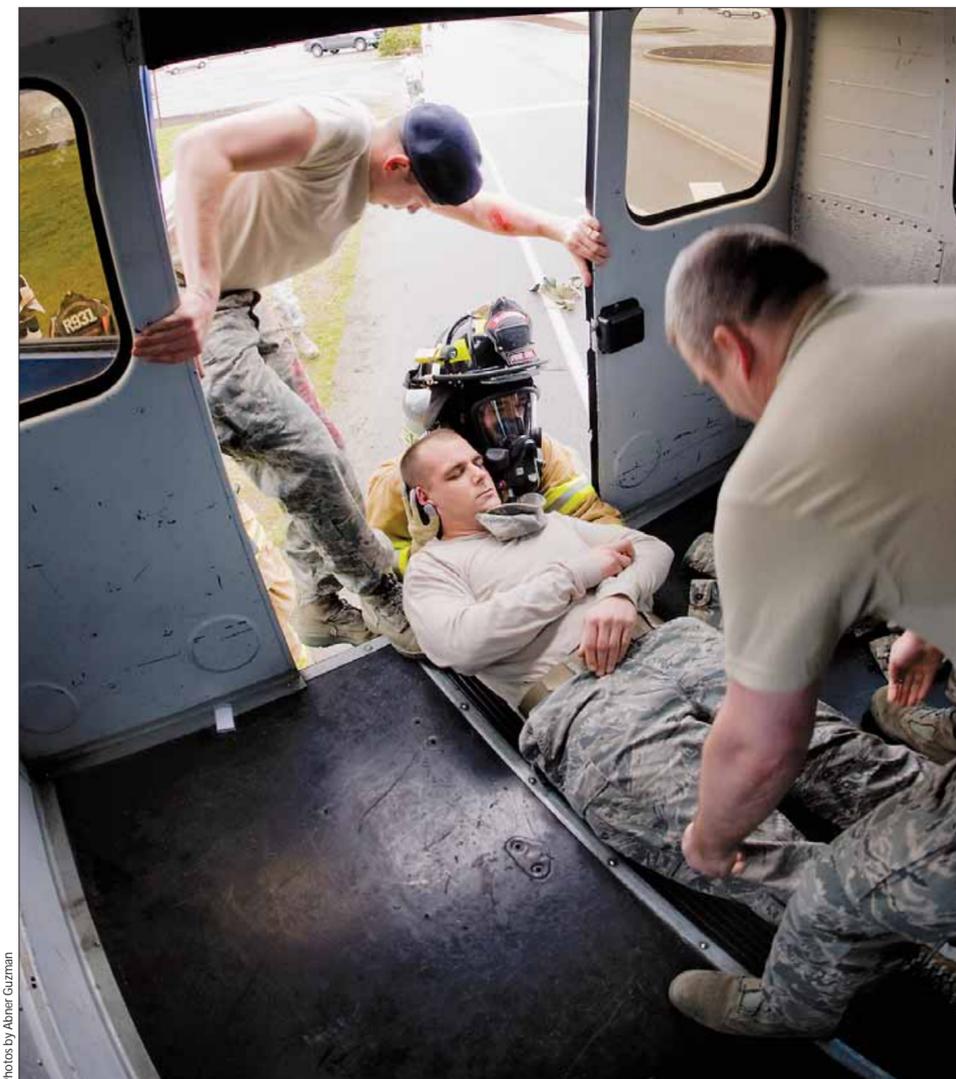
First responders team up to remove a passenger from the rear emergency exit of the bus.



Senior Airman Rika Smith, 7th Airlift Squadron, suffering from a simulated leg wound, waits for first responders after the simulated collision along the railroad tracks behind the base commissary.



Senior Airman Hyo Oh, 62nd Logistics Readiness Squadron, uses his Airman's manual to assess the condition of Airman 1st Class Erik Cohen, 62nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, a passenger on the bus.



Photos by Abner Guzman

First responders use a stretcher to remove a passenger from the bus as EET members evaluate their performance.

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Oshawn Jefferson



Outstanding preparation

(From Left) Tech. Sgt. Carlos Lagman, Master Sgt. Leanna Rominger, both 446th Airlift Wing Personnel Support for Contingency Operations Airmen, Tech. Sgt. Mikell Manuel, a 62nd AW PERSCO Airman, and Master Sgt. Thomas Karpinski, a PERSCO Airman from the 319th Air Refueling Wing at Grand Forks Air Force Base, N.D., discuss the best way to set up PERSCO functions for the operational readiness inspection during a site visit to the Volk Field Air National Guard Base, Wis., combat readiness training center March 18. A 60-man team of Airmen from McChord and Grand Forks visited CRTCs in Michigan, Mississippi and Wisconsin March 16-19 in preparation for the 2009 ORI.



2009 McChord Intramural Basketball Championships

1st round games

(Wednesday's final scores)

(No. 1) FSS 54, (No. 8) 4th AS 32

(No. 4) SFS 47, (No. 5) 22nd STS 43

(No. 3) APS 42, (No. 6) COM 39

(No. 7) OSS 43, (No. 2) AMXS 39

Monday's quarterfinal matchups

FSS vs. SFS, 5:30 p.m.

APS vs. OSS, 6:30 p.m.

All games are played at the gym in the main fitness center. The semifinal game is set for Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. The winner from Tuesday's game will take on the team that emerges from the consolation bracket in a 6 p.m. matchup on April 3. The team from the consolation bracket will have to win twice to claim the championship.

Chief McKinley hoops it up with fellow Airmen

By
Scott Knuteson
Air University Public Affairs

MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE GUNTER ANNEX, Ala. (AFNS) — An early morning lesson in basketball from the chief master sergeant of the Air Force has become a tradition for instructors at the Senior NCO Academy here, and the Feb. 25 game was no different.

The morning after each one of the school's graduations -- five times every year -- Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Rodney J. McKinley and other command chiefs from throughout the Air Force present for the week's events challenge the Senior NCO Academy instructors.

"The game is always a highlight of his visit," said Chief Master Sgt. Shelia Knox, the vice commandant of the Senior NCO Academy. "This is just a small example of how Chief McKinley likes to be among the Airmen."

Speaking about the importance of health and fitness for all Airmen, Chief McKinley said basketball is his way of staying in shape.

"I've always loved playing basketball," Chief McKinley said. "Whether I was a senior airman, a technical sergeant or chief master sergeant of the Air Force, I've made it a point to get to the fitness center."

And although fitness was certainly a byproduct of this game, the goal

for both sides today was to win.

"I think we're about 19 and 2," Chief McKinley said of his team's winning record.

In spite of their losing streak for the majority of the past twenty-something games, the commandant of the academy and his instructors were determined not to lose.

"Not this time," said Chief Master Sgt. Dennis Norman, the Senior NCO Academy commandant prior to the game.

"I put a requirement out that our players had to be taller than 6 feet and not scared to rough up a chief in the paint," he added, tongue-in-cheek.

But this time, like so many previous games, was no different.

Chatter after the game among the winning team indicated maybe age and "experience" had something to do with their chalking up another win.

Whether the instructors are politely deferring to their superiors or the chiefs are truly more talented may continue to remain a matter of debate. Either way, fitness was the ultimate goal.

"Fitness is an integral part of everything we do," said Chief Master Sgt. Anthony Brinkley, the command chief for the 19th Airlift Wing at Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark. "As our mission continues to grow, we need to continue to focus on it. We get paid to stay fit to defend our nation."

When working with classified information, keep security in mind at all times! Use approved OPSEC, EMSEC, COMPUSEC and Info Protect facilities and equipment only!



Senior leaders speak out on diversity, equal opportunity

By

Tech. Sgt. Amaani Lyle

Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

WASHINGTON — Officials in the Air Force Equal Opportunity Office and the Strategic Diversity Integration Office joined forces to produce a video that demonstrates the commitment of senior Air Force leaders to diversity and equal opportunity programs.

In the video titled "Diversity and Equal Opportunity in Our Air Force," Air Force senior leaders voice their perspectives on diversity and equal opportunity, citing the strength of the service: people.

"This video proclaims the value of the unique qualities of each individual in the total Air Force," said Mrs. Rose Gault, deputy assistant secretary for the Strategic Diversity Integration Office

and video co-author. "We must continue to foster an environment where every individual's contribution is valued and respected."

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz discussed his commitment to diversity and noted the importance of all individuals to mission readiness and warfighting capabilities.

"No one's value to the mission is measured by their proximity to the fight," General Schwartz said. "Diversity provides our force with an aggregation of strengths, perspectives and capabilities that transcend individual contributions."

Diversity is defined as mission-oriented: exploiting the uniqueness of each Airman to enhance organizational effectiveness and readiness. Equal opportunity is defined as compliance-oriented: ensuring Airmen are treated fairly and work in an environment free of harass-

ment and discrimination.

Brig. Gen. Ronnie Hawkins Jr., deputy director of policy and resources, office of warfighting integration, and chief information officer, said diversity inspired him early in and throughout his career.

"I wouldn't be where I am had I not seen another African American general officer back when I was a second lieutenant, and in so doing I said, 'Hey, there is room and value for me,'" General Hawkins recalled. "My father is a retired chief master sergeant, so I already knew the Air Force had a solid equal opportunity program. I've known since I joined in 1978."

Lt. Gen. Richard Y. Newton III, Air Force deputy chief of staff for manpower and personnel, said the service takes a "total force" approach in leveraging the spectrum of talent and perspectives of its members.

Diversity allows everyone -- active

duty, Guard, Reserve and civilians -- to reach his or her potential and provide their capabilities to the Air Force and to the joint team, General Newton said.

Kimberly Litherland, director of the Air Force equal opportunity office and video co-author, said she is extremely proud of this tangible product which demonstrates the importance of the application of diversity and equal opportunity principles to an organization's accomplishments.

"The Air Force embraces equal opportunity and diversity, which yields phenomenal results, a great, effective team who delivers anytime, anywhere," Ms. Litherland said.

To view the video and hear various testimonials from senior leaders including the Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force and the service's top cop, visit <http://www.af.mil/tv/index.asp?showid=6970>.

Push-Pull exercise to test real-world Air Force capabilities

By

Richard Salomon

Air Force Personnel Center Public Affairs

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFNS) — Push-Pull 2009 may sound like a new type of fitness regimen to some, but to about 150 regular Air Force retirees it will be a mobilization exercise of a different kind April 6 through 10 at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

The Push-Pull 2009 exercise is designed to exercise and evaluate mobilization processes and crisis-action procedures.

In January, Air Reserve Personnel Center officials in Denver sent letters to a preselected group of pretrained individual manpower, or PIM, Airmen asking if they would like to take part in the exercise. Retired regular Airmen selected from those initial volunteers received their orders earlier this month and will be "pushed" to Lackland AFB for reorientation and other processing activities.

"Although this is the first time we've used retired regular Air Force Airmen for the exercise, it doesn't mean we are trending toward wide scale activation or mobilization of this segment," said Lt. Col. Steven Cram-

ner, the Reserve adviser at the Air Force Personnel Readiness Division at the Pentagon. "Testing this population brings new people to the planning process and gives us an opportunity to explore issues not encountered with other sections of the PIM."

Air Force officials have not involuntarily activated retired regular Air Force Airmen since Operation Desert Storm; however, the secretary of Defense is required by law to exercise mobilization processes and systems to maintain a basic level of preparedness. The Air Force Personnel Readiness Division staff executes that tasking on behalf of the Air Force.

"Since 9/11, this population has voluntarily contributed their services to the war on terrorism and have challenged the old paradigm of retirement equals 'contribution complete,'" Colonel Cramner said.

For this particular exercise, selected retired active-duty majors and master sergeants, who have been retired for more than 90 days and less than three years, will be asked to reorient themselves back "into the blue."

Airmen participating in biennial Push-Pull exercises receive active-duty pay and allowances commensurate with their rank and years of service.



Fort Lewis-McChord Autism run/walk

The second Autism "fun run/walk" and resource fair, presented by the Fort Lewis-McChord Autism Support Group, is 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 18 at Cowan Stadium on Fort Lewis. The event is open to everyone with access to the installation, and registration is recommended, but not required. For more information, call 589-2572, 588-8783, or visit: <http://flmcafbasg.clubspaces.com>.

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 Tuesday 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 Wednesday. 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. Wednesday at Bldg. 1180. RSVPs are required by today. For more

information, call 982-3729 or 982-5500.

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. For more information, call 982-9043 or 967-5901.

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. 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, e-mail Carol.Lee@mcchord.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.

Retiree Activities

The Retiree Activities Office is looking for volunteers to assist with upcoming events and work in the office located in the customer service mall in Bldg. 100. The RAO

is a resource and referral center which offers information concerning issues pertinent to retirees, including ID cards, DEERS, Tri-Care, health benefit changes, social security and Space available travel.

This year's dining out event is set for 6 p.m. April 17 at the McChord Clubs and Community Center. In addition to the banquet, the event includes a guest speaker and historical military reenactment.

The RAO is open weekdays from 9 a.m. to noon. For more information on the RAO or the dining out event, call the office at 982-3214 or visit www.mcchordrao.com.

McChord Phoenix Spouse voicemail

The McChord Phoenix Spouse program has voicemail (982-PHNX)

for families wanting to contact or get more information about their unit's Phoenix Spouses. The voicemail gives every squadron the ability to have a personalized mailbox where people can leave messages for Phoenix Spouses.

Peanut recall

Updated information on the recall of contaminated peanut products is available at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration Web site: <http://www.fda.gov/oc/opacom/hottopics/salmonellatyph.html>.

The Public Health office here is coordinating recalls with base food establishments. According to Public Health officials, recalled items have been pulled from McChord shelves and no illnesses have been attributed to affected food items. For more information, call the Public Health office at 982-3717.



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:
Noon. 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

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

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



Caring partners

Lynne Hammonds, 62nd Force Support Squadron, right, was named the 2009 June Esche Volunteer of the Year at the annual American Red Cross recognition and awards ceremony Tuesday at the McChord Clubs and Community Center. June Esche, left, the award's namesake, was present at the ceremony, which honored the hard work and sacrifices of Red Cross volunteers supporting the McChord and Fort Lewis Communities. Ms. Hammonds received the award for demonstrating how a volunteer's actions benefit the clients of Red Cross and the military communities, improving the quality of services provided. She has volunteered with the Red Cross for 29 years.



Photo by Photo by Lorin Smith



NAMES TO NOTE

Air Mobility Command command post Airman controller of the year: **Senior Airman Andrew Menard**, 62nd Airlift Wing Command Post

If your group, squadron or unit received an AMC-level or higher annual award (group or individual), contact the 62nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs office at northwestairlifter@mcchord.af.mil.

More than 70 tickets are still available at Adventures Unlimited for the seventh annual "Salute to Armed Forces Night," as the Seattle Mariners take on the Detroit Tigers April 18. Tickets are just \$10 – seats are in rows 14-18 of section 323. The deadline to pre-order tickets is April 6. For more information, call Adventures Unlimited at 982-2206.

