

The NORTHWEST AIRLIFTER

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McChord Air Force Base, Wash.

Connecting Team McChord with the Combat Airlift Mission

April 17, 2009

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Rodeo less than 100 days away

By

Tyler Hemstreet
Staff writer

With three months remaining until Air Mobility Command's Rodeo 2009 kicks off here, event planners gathered this week in Hangar 4 for the first of many preparatory meetings.

AMC Rodeo 2009 is the Mobility Air Force's readiness competition, which focuses on improving worldwide air mobility forces' professional core abilities.

Approximately 70 U.S. and international teams are set to compete here July 19-25 in a wide variety of air mobility-themed events.

AMC Rodeo 2007 here was proclaimed to be the "biggest and best" in the history of the event, according to then-AMC commander Gen. Duncan McNabb.

General McNabb and other leaders in attendance were extremely pleased with the 2007 event.

The plan this year is to improve an already solid formula, said AMC Rodeo director Bill Bradley.

"You have to make small tweaks to keep Rodeo relevant," Mr. Bradley said.

Those tweaks include adding a high-altitude precision airdrop competition, a command and control mobile operations competition and a competition involving flight attendants and emergency aircraft evacuations, he said.

Participants in the "Fit-to-Fight" competition will also now run with a tracking chip attached to their shoe, eliminating the need for personal timers for the event.

"It will let us do 'Fit-to-Fight' as one big group," Mr. Bradley said.

Rodeo is expected to bring an estimated 3,000 visitors to the base.



Photo by Abner Guzman

Security exercise

62nd Security Forces Squadron Airmen, left, provide exterior security as Pierce County Sheriff's Department Special Weapons and Tactics Team members prepare to enter an adjacent building during the base anti-terrorism exercise Thursday. The scenario simulated criminal activity, escalating to a hostage situation resolved by emergency responders.

Wing graduates AFSO21 facilitator class

By

Tyler Hemstreet
Staff writer

McChord recently took another big step in building a culture that embraces continuous process improvement.

Seven Airmen and one civilian completed a weeklong Air Force Smart Operations for the 21st Century class, enabling them to become Level 1 facilitators capable of leading events which focus on eliminating wasteful processes in the workplace.

Students were selected through an interview process in front of a board of commanders, who pared

down volunteer candidates based on criteria such as rank and grade, retainability and individual passion for AFSO21 processes, said Robert Shaw, a contracted consultant with the 62nd Maintenance Squadron and one of the course instructors.

The class used discussions and exercises as well as visits to various squadrons that have put AFSO21 processes into effect to give students initial tools and familiarization to lead AFSO21 efforts.

Another portion of the class focused on ways to read body language so facilitators can get a better feel for those playing a role in the process and identify leaders who will help foster the culture, Mr. Shaw said.

"If people don't buy into the 'lean' culture, it won't work," said Michelle Love, 361st Recruiting Squadron operations secretary. "You have to show them that (the new process) will work."

The class also helps students tune into their surroundings to inspire and facilitate others around them to identify processes that need to be fixed, Mr. Shaw said.

"We want 80 percent of the ideas for 'lean' events to come from people who do the work," he said.

Now that the graduates have completed the class, they are wing assets capable of leading events throughout the base, said co-instructor Linda Myers, 62nd MXS.

"Leadership is very committed,

empowering individuals who've completed the course to lead various events and spread the culture," she said.

The next step for the graduates is continuing with bi-monthly facilitator training and conducting AFSO21 events to further their experience.

That also includes speaking about the processes to Airmen at the First Term Airman's Center, Ms. Myers said.

"It's a good way for them to get proficient," she said.

The goal for the program is to retain and establish a core group of nine facilitators to lead projects around the base and continue to foster the lean culture, Mr. Shaw said.

Weekend Weather

FRIDAY SATURDAY SUNDAY



Hi: 57
Low: 35



Hi: 64
Low: 41



Hi: 72
Low: 44

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

Countdown to success

Next MOBEX..... 14 days

Rodeo..... 94 days

Operational Readiness Inspection..... 192 days

Don't miss it ...

Walk to End
Sexual Violence

Tuesday at 3 p.m.

Planning, safety critical to continued success

By

Lt. Col. Stephen Mortensen
62nd Airlift Wing Director of Staff

One of the many axioms I've learned over my career is 'Fail to plan, plan to fail'. We planned and worked very hard for the January Nuclear Surety Inspection and were very successful. Right on its heels, our team is in full swing for a successful Air Mobility Command Rodeo in July.

Finally, Team McChord continues its planning efforts with an eye to the October Operational Readiness Inspection with warrior days, fly-away mobility exercises and targeted training opportunities.

Through all our preparation, make sure to also plan for yourself. With Easter behind us, sunnier skies and warmer temperatures should be on the way. Use your hard-earned leave. Spending time with family and friends or taking that vacation you've been waiting for will recharge your batter-

ies as we continue our trek down the road ahead. We'll need all our best efforts to ensure continued success for Team McChord.

Last, but certainly not least, also plan to be safe. Whether you're participating in one of the upcoming exercises or dusting off the baseball equipment for the first game of the year, incorporate a strong safety philosophy into every action, every process, every decision and every operation. The loss or injury of just one member of our team due to a safety-related incident is one too many.

Learning from history — does what you do matter?

By

Staff Sgt. Toby Housey
62nd Airlift Wing
Equal Opportunity Office

How many times have you been in a situation and thought to yourself, "I am only one person, I cannot do this alone?" Well, I would like to remind you that what you do matters.

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum has identified the 2009 Days of Remembrance theme as "Never again: what you do matters." Think about it like this, we

as the world's greatest Air Force function collectively as one body. We all contribute individually to the overall success of the mission whether through direct operations or support. Think about it ... if an Airman from maintenance neglects to repair an aircraft properly, their action (or inaction) will have an adverse impact (possible defueling, crew exchanging, a potential investigation) and delay the mission. As you can see, our actions matter.

During World War II, more than six million Jews were murdered in Germany as the result of racial prejudice. Annually, federal, state,

and local government organizations remember the Holocaust during the Days of Remembrance observance in April. Although many people did not actively participate in the cruel and inhumane treatment of these victims, neither did they take action to prevent the loss of lives. They could have taken measures to mitigate or halt these acts, but instead, many stood by and took no action. One act or helping hand from one person could have saved at least one life. Just think of the number of lives that could have been spared if many more reacted. Did their actions matter? Yes, because a life

they could have saved was not.

As a nation, we have always thrived on taking action to change things. Hopefully, following these Days of Remembrance, we can walk away saying, "never again." I challenge you to take a stand when you see something wrong. If you see someone being discriminated against unlawfully or if you see someone doing something against policy, take a stand. This philosophy can be applied to your personal and professional life — your actions do matter. One act has the potential to save a life and shape a society.

The Sharp Airman ...

knows leadership is the art of influencing and directing people to accomplish the mission. This definition highlights two fundamental elements:

- (1) the mission, goal, or task
- (2) the people who accomplish it

Leadership must support both elements. Accomplishing the mission is the primary task of every military organization; everything else must be subordinate. However, a successful leader recognizes that people perform the mission and that, without their support, the unit will fail (AFPAM 36-2241).

PROFESSIONALS

of the week

62nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

Airman 1st Class Nicholas Tran

Duty Title:
Crew chief

Duty section:
Blue aircraft maintenance unit

Hometown:
Torrance, Calif.



Why he's super:

Airman Tran's exemplary duty performance led to his selection as the March unit crew chief of the month. In addition, he recently scored an exceptional 92-percent on his aerospace maintenance career development course end-of-course exam. His professional conduct and unwavering dedication to duty led to his selection to represent Team McChord as a member of the base Honor Guard.

Senior Airman Micah Howanic

Duty Title:
Aircrew debriefer

Duty section:
Aircraft support flight

Hometown:
Coos Bay, Ore.



Why he's tops:

Airman Howanic has raised the bar for Airmen assigned to the squadron. He has input over 900 discrepancies, 8,700 flying hours in 2,000 sorties and corrected 547 maintenance data collection system errors with zero defects. A true wingman, he volunteers as a designated driver for organized and personal events. His peers recognized him as the flight's December 2008 professional of the month. Airman Howanic plans to continue his education and pursue a Bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering after completing his Community College of the Air Force degree.



Arrive Alive!

Don't Drink and Drive!

AADD's mission is to provide free, safe, confidential rides HOME to McChord Personnel who have been drinking within a 30 mile radius of McChord AFB and make the responsible decision to let someone else do the driving.

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McChord tax center cashes in for Airmen

By

Tyler Hemstreet
Staff writer

McChord tax center officials and squadron volunteer tax assistants filed more than 950 returns this tax season, saving customers an estimated \$178,000 in tax fees had every customer paid for commercial tax preparation services.

Tax center customers also received a combined \$1.7 million-plus in refunds, said Patty DeCamp, 62nd Airlift Wing Legal Office tax reviewer.

"We're proud of all the hard work our volunteer representatives put in to help get all of the returns filed and get Airmen and their families the refunds that they deserve," Ms. DeCamp said.

Airmen returning from deployed locations outside the U.S. and Puerto Rico who missed Wednesday's dead-

line for filing qualify for an automatic two-month extension, according to the Internal Revenue Service.

For Airmen serving in a combat zone the deadline for filing tax returns, paying taxes, filing claims for a refund and taking other actions with the IRS is automatically extended, according to the IRS.

For those who owe, there is also an option to file a Form 4868 by June 15 for an additional four-month exten-

sion.

However, an extension of time to file does not mean there is an extension of time to pay any tax due. Airmen must estimate their tax due and send in a payment along with the Form 4868.

Although the tax center closes today, Airmen returning from deployments still have the opportunity to receive help filing their taxes by calling the 62nd AW Legal Office at 982-5513.

Civilian employers get a taste of Reserve life

By

Staff Sgt. Grant Saylor
446th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

More than two dozen employers traveled here April 4 to participate in the 446th Airlift Wing's employer orientation day.

The event gives civilian employers a chance to see the important work their Reservists do during drill weekends and deployments, and culminates in an orientation flight on a C-17 Globemaster III.

"This is an once-in-a-lifetime event," said Valerie Hudson, an employer from the Boeing Company who was invited by Staff Sgt. Thomas Mariano, 446th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

"I was very impressed by the amount of detail that goes into these missions," said Ms. Hudson. "This is a very enthusiastic, dedicated team of

people."

Just like the Reservists they employ, the employer participants had to wake up early to get to McChord. Once here, they were whisked to a mock deployment meeting where they received a detailed intelligence brief before being sent through a deployment line.

Wing Airmen then showed employers a variety of deployment preparation tactics, from suiting up in full chem gear to practicing self-aid and buddy care.

"It's obvious that everyone has a part to play," said Neil Kocina, an airworthiness manager with the Boeing Company.

Mr. Kocina said the dedication of his Reservist employee, Senior Master Sgt. Patricia Pyles, was an inspiring part of his day's experience.

"I learned about her importance in preserving our rights and sovereignty as a nation," said Mr. Kocina. "I really

appreciate what you guys do, and it's especially nice that you put on this program so we can actually see what you do."

Employers capped their day by boarding a C-17 for a flight to a Moses Lake drop zone, where they witnessed a cargo airdrop. Digital camera flashes pulsed as the training load jettisoned out the open rear ramp of the aircraft. Then employers were treated to a first-class view of Mount Rainier, taking turns to fly in the jump seat behind the pilots. When not up on the flight deck, employers had the opportunity to take a look at an aeromedical display on the aircraft and discuss aeromedical evacuation with Airmen from the 446th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron.

"Very impressive," said Chuck Christy from Nisqually Family Medicine. Mr. Christy said one of the Reservists he supervises, Tech Sgt

Kristy Wellman from the 446th AES, just returned from deployment while another, Staff Sgt. Juanita Elliott, also 446th AES, has just been activated for training.

Other employers shared in the adulation for their citizen warriors.

"It's incredible and pretty awesome what these Reservists do to serve our country," said Dave May of the Federal Aviation Administration.

Mr. May was invited to employer orientation day by Tech. Sgt. Christy Helgeson, 446th Maintenance Group.

The 446th AW hosts an employer orientation day twice a year. The next one is scheduled to take place this fall. However, because of the upcoming operational readiness inspection, the exact date for employer orientation day is yet to be determined.

For more information, contact the 446th AW Public Affairs office at 982-3330.





CELEBRATE

Earth Day April 22, 2009

Join the McChord Energy Conversation Committee in conversing about conserving.



The McChord Energy Conversation

VISION: A McChord Community That Makes Energy A Consideration In All It Does

MISSION: To Inspire a Culture of Energy Security Through Collaborative Education and Value-Added Community Energy Projects



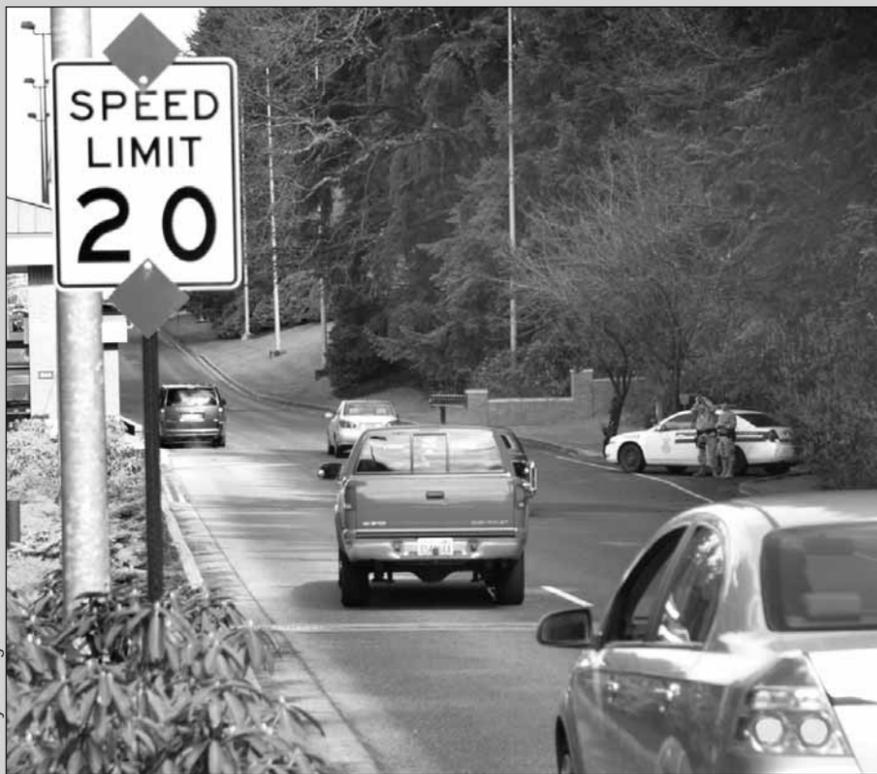
McChord Energy Conversation Committee meets Thursdays 1645-1800 in the Wing Conference Room.

Positive Energy...Positive Leadership.

<https://e1m.amc.af.mil/org/62aw/mec/default.aspx>



Photo by Staff Sgt. Eric Burks



Slow down!

Staff Sgt. Michael Marcellus, left, and Master Sgt. Robert Sabarese, both 62nd Security Forces Squadron, monitor outgoing vehicle traffic near the base main gate Tuesday. 62nd Airlift Wing Ground Safety officials recently added two new 20 mph speed limit signs near the exit to the main gate to remind drivers of the speed limit. Safety officials are asking drivers to watch their speed and be aware of traffic being rerouted around the main gate into the exit lanes.





Photo by Abner Guzman

Planting awareness

Senior Airman Jonithan Vanscoy, 62nd Communications Squadron, foreground, plants a tree with other Airmen on the grounds of the Chapel Support Annex Monday during a Sexual Assault Awareness Month event. Other events this month include Tuesday's "Walk to End Sexual Violence" and Rape Aggression Defense classes for women Monday and April 27. For more information, call 982-0457.

Walk to End Sexual Violence

Date: April 21

Time: 3 p.m.

Please join the SAPR Office outside the Chapel Support Center, Bldg 746 across from the Base Theater.

Prevent Sexual Assault!



For further information, contact:
Ms. Heather Van Mill
Phone: (253) 982-0473/0457
Email: heather.vanmill@mchord.af.mil



McChord Airmen

AROUND THE WORLD



Photo by Staff Sgt. Joshua Garcia

SOUTHWEST ASIA – Senior Airman Cecil D'Souza, 62nd Force Support Squadron, serves breakfast at an air base dining facility during a recent deployment. Military members working in the dining facilities aid local contract workers in preparing and serving food during peak meal hours.



Photo by Senior Airman Courtney Richardson

SOUTHWEST ASIA – Staff Sgt. Nahkoma Doyle, 62nd Logistics Readiness Squadron, inspects C-17 Globemaster III parts before restocking the items during a recent deployment.



62nd LRS material handling equipment mechanics keep mission flying

When Senior Airman Joseph Berggren's phone rings in the middle of the night, he knows something is awry on the flightline.

"That's never fun," the 62nd Logistics Readiness Squadron Airman says of waking up to the distress calls.

But it's just one of the many responsibilities of 62nd LRS Airmen in the squadron's material handling equipment section. If a 60,000-pound loader breaks down and blocks the flightline or prevents a mission from departing, reinforcements must be called in to get the mission back on track.

"If you aren't out there to get it done, the (flying) mission could be cancelled," Airman Berggren said.

The 14-man section maintains and repairs the wing's 100 pieces of cargo-moving equipment, ranging from forklifts and "K-loaders" (cargo off-loading vehicles) to baggage conveyors.

"We do routine maintenance all the way up to complete engine rebuilds," said section NCOIC Staff Sgt. Larshenrik Christensen, 62nd LRS. "If you take good care of the vehicles, they'll last forever."

And that's something the section prides itself on, considering some of the pieces of equipment cost more than a million dollars.

All of the Airmen in the section must be well-versed in how to fix every component on each of the many pieces of equipment, Sergeant Christensen said.

"There is so much they have to be familiar with," he

said. "Much of it is mission-critical."

The ability to repair and troubleshoot problems on a wide variety of equipment also makes the Airmen in the section extremely valuable in deployed locations, Sergeant Christensen said.

Daily operation of the section is meticulously chronicled in reports so the wing can track how various equipment is aging, what kind of maintenance its undergoing and how the shop's time is being spent.

Some maintenance activities are painstakingly slow and require great attention to detail, Sergeant Christensen said.

A routine service on a 60,000-pound loader can take two Airmen up to 12 hours to complete.

But the challenges the job presents always keeps them coming back for more.

"Nearly every day it's something new that I've never done. These are complex vehicles," Airman Berggren said. "There are lots of learning experiences."

Sometimes those learning experiences can benefit not only the Airmen themselves, but also the companies that make the equipment. Recently corporate representatives and a company CEO visited to solicit feedback on how to make servicing one of the pieces of equipment more user-friendly.

"It was pretty neat ... the factory guys were here to get our input," Airman Berggren said.

That input can lead to changes in routine maintenance, making things easier for everyone, Sergeant Christensen said.

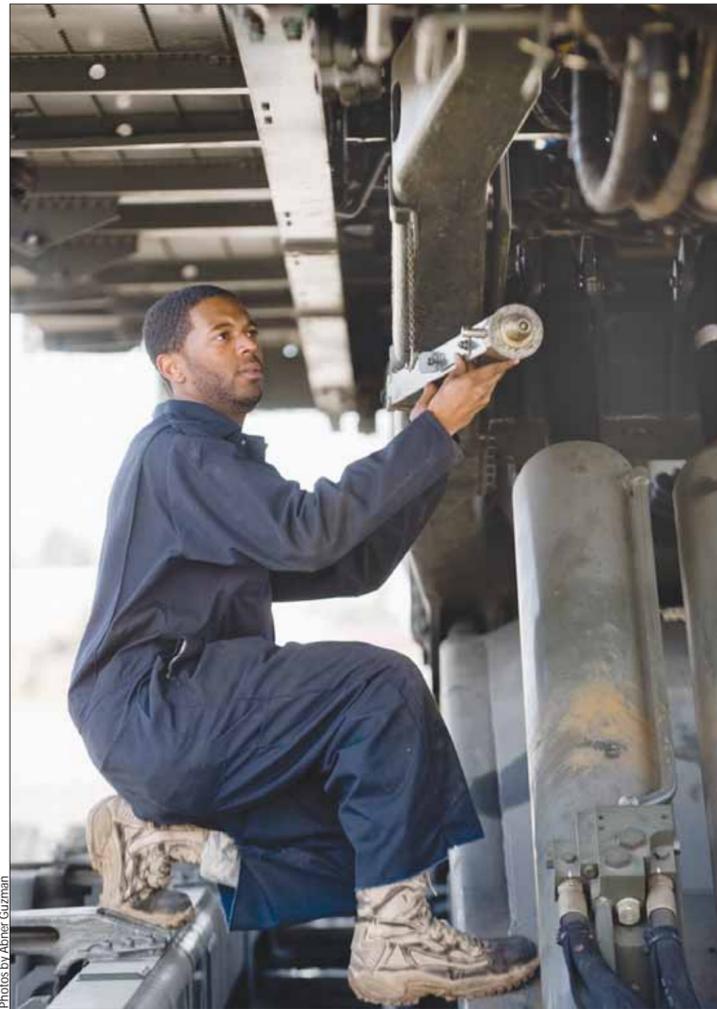
By
Tyler Hemstreet
Staff writer



Senior Airman Sergio McLaughlin and Airman 1st Class Ryan Young, 62nd Logistics Readiness Squadron, add coolant to a forklift during a mobile service call.



Airman 1st Class Ramon Wills, 62nd LRS, takes direction from Airman Young while maneuvering a Turner 60K into the mechanics bay for servicing and modifications.



Photos by Abner Gurman

Airman McLaughlin stows away the Turner 60K loader maintenance stands in preparation for lowering the deck during routine maintenance inspection.



Senior Airman Sergio McLaughlin and Airman 1st Class Ryan Young, 62nd LRS, inspect the rollers on the deck of a Turner 60K loader during routine maintenance on the flightline.



Airman Benito Enad, 62nd LRS, removes safety pins from a ladder attachment while removing a defective diesel tank from a 25,000-pound loader vehicle.

New policy refines ancillary training

WASHINGTON (AFNS) – As Air Force officials focus on giving Airmen more time to do their primary duty and reduce additional duties, senior leaders issued new policy guidance in March to streamline ancillary training and expeditionary skills training programs.

“Air Staff, the A1 (personnel) community and major command functional owners are working together to better manage ancillary and expeditionary skills training across the Total Force, ultimately giving Airmen time back to do their jobs,” said Lt. Gen. Richard Newton, Air Force Personnel and Manpower deputy chief of staff.

Two new guidance memorandums revise Air Force Instruction 36-2201, Training Development, Delivery and Evaluation, and address four new categories of ancillary training: annual Total Force awareness, selected force training, event-driven training and expeditionary skills training.

The new policy on ancillary training, signed March 26, establishes responsibilities for program management and describes the gatekeeper process for vetting ancillary training requirements.

“This ensures senior leadership has full situational awareness on training time requirements, and allows for establishment of priorities, setting limits and communicating

results,” General Newton said.

The new guidance also includes a list of ancillary training no longer required, including Constitution Day training, crime prevention, family care plan brief, local area survival training, equal opportunity for supervisors of civilians, cultural awareness and initial security orientation-uncleared version.

Working with the Air Force chief of staff-approved Air Force Expeditionary Center charter and the Vice CSAF-approved Expeditionary Skills Senior Review Group, or ESSRG, charter, the new guidance on expeditionary skills training, signed March 1, defines expeditionary skills tiered-training requirements and validation processes, and closes significant policy gaps, according to Joe McDade, Air Force personnel and manpower force development director.

“We now have an improved enterprise-wide policy, process and structure that provide training programs designed to prepare our Airmen for expeditionary missions outside the confines of the traditional airbase environment,” said Mr. McDade.

For more information, the new policy memos are available at the e-publishing Web site, <http://www.e-publishing.af.mil>, under AFI 36-2201, Volume 1, Training Development, Delivery and Evaluation.



FREE EVENT
Annual Top 3 Kid's Fishing Derby
 April 25

Carter Lake at McChord

Sign-up begins at 9 a.m.
Fish Check-in Time: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Start fishing time: 10 a.m.
Stop fishing time: 2 p.m.

Contact Master Sgt. Robert Sabarese 982-5624 for more info.

- Free refreshments for kids.
- Prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place for each age group (4-7, 8-10 and 11-14) and a grand prize for largest fish, most weight for five fish limit, most weight for less than five and smallest fish.
- Limited to one fishing pole per participant.
- Daily catch limit is five trout, any size. Fishing will be done using only one single non-barbed hook. Treble hooks are prohibited.
- Kids 12 years old or younger must be accompanied by an adult at least 21 years old.

Sponsored by McChord AFB Top Three Association

Community leaders experience Airmen and airpower

By

Master Sgt. Dean Miller
Chief, 62nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Twenty-four civic leaders experienced multiple Air Force missions during a fly-away community relations tour April 7 and 8.

As guests of the 62nd Airlift Wing commander and 446th AW vice commander, the civic leaders visited McChord, Fairchild and Malmstrom Air Force Bases in less than 36 hours seeing missions from four major Air Force commands and highlighting how the C-17 Globemaster III, KC-135 Stratotanker and Minuteman III ICBM enhance national security.

Guests arrived early April 7 at the McChord Deployment Processing Line for a mission overview from their hosts, Col. Jeffrey Stephenson, 62nd AW commander, and Col. Lisa Tank, 446th AW vice commander.

"We thank you for your interest in our Airmen and taking time out of your schedules to learn about your Air Force," said Colonel Stephenson. "The strong partnerships we share with you and other members of our community are one of many things that make McChord such a great assignment. In the next 36 hours, you will gain a unique insight into key Air Force missions and see great Airmen conducting critical air power missions."

For Reserve Airmen of the 446th AW, the civic leaders represent, in many cases, employers and supervi-

sors of wing Airmen. "Your support of our Airmen is absolutely critical," said Colonel Tank. "Without your support, they couldn't step away from their civilian jobs and conduct these critical missions for our nation."

Members of the 62nd Force Support Squadron received the visitors at a fully-manned Deployment Processing Line and explained each station's role in preparing Airmen for air expeditionary force deployments at the start of the visit. The DPL team also issued personal identification tags to each visitor and manifested them on their C-17 - the same service they perform for deploying Airmen.

At the flightline, visitors observed a 62nd Security Forces Squadron demonstration before meeting their combined C-17 aircrew of Airmen from both wings.

Just before taxi, Air Force Special Operations Command Airmen of the 24th Special Tactics Squadron boarded the aircraft for a local training jump scheduled ten minutes into the flight. With the C-17 ramp open, civic leaders had front-row seat to elite Air Force training that underscored another C-17 mission as the special tactics airmen parachuted to the Crate Drop Zone.

Time spent alongside McChord Airmen was unprecedented for Rev. James Lewis, Associated Ministries of Pierce County president. "It is absolutely fascinating to see how aircraft work and see how Airmen perform the tasks they do," said



Photo by Beau Wade

Rick Stevens, Pierce Military Business Alliance board member, monitors a Minuteman III ICBM launch control trainer console during a briefing at Malmstrom AFB, Mont., April 8. Mr. Stevens and 23 other civic leaders attended a fly-away community relations tour April 7 and 8 to develop advocates of airpower throughout the region. The group visited McChord, Fairchild and Malmstrom Air Force Bases.

Reverend Lewis. "I was surprised to see how young the Airmen were in relation to their responsibilities. This was a very important opportunity to see how our military works and the constant attention to detail from all the Airmen."

At Fairchild AFB, Wash, civic leaders were greeted by Col. Robert Thomas, 92nd Air Refueling Wing commander, staff and key leaders of the Spokane community. McChord visitors were briefed on the role of the nearly-50 year-old-tanker KC-135 aerial tanker and then viewed

a KC-135 undergoing deep maintenance and toured a mission-ready aircraft. Also at Fairchild, McChord visitors viewed a Military Working Dog security demonstration and viewed KC-135 take-offs and landings before departing for Malmstrom AFB, Great Falls, Mont, for the night.

On April 8, McChord visitors were introduced to the Air Force nuclear enterprise by Col. Michael Fortney, 341st Missile Wing commander,

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From COMMUNITY, Page 11

during a mission brief on the safe, secure operation of his wing's 13,800+ square mile Minuteman III missile field and support base.

Following the brief, visitors toured a full-size ICBM maintenance trainer as Airmen assembled a multistage Minuteman III training missile. This was followed by a visit to the launch control center trainer where launch officers are evaluated on missile field security, operations and launch procedures. Several civic leaders were given the opportunity to sit before the Rapid Execution And Combat Targeting console and conduct a training launch procedure for a Minute-

man III - actually turning keys and verifying the launch status on the training console.

"It was an interesting experience to say the least - sitting in the same seat as an Airman who may have the responsibility to launch these weapons some day," said Rick Stevens, Pierce Military Business Alliance board member. "When you know these Airmen train all the time on this system and it is a critical capability, it was a surreal experience.

"It's comforting to know that we have folks out there as competent as we have at our own installation; all of these young airmen are very intelligent and obviously in tune with the jobs they do," said

Stevens. "It is always impressive to meet with Airmen who secure our country; it provides a great sense of security for me and my family."

Key to every operation in the nation's missile field is security. The visitors were briefed on the mission of the 341st Security Forces Group and the variety of weapons and capabilities they possess. McChord visitors also toured the UH-1N helicopter squadron with a primary role to enhance missile field security by transport of the 341st SFG Tactical Response Force.

Back aboard the C-17, before returning from Malmstrom, the 446th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron performed a litter patient load demonstration and briefed the unique

in-flight medical capability they provide. In flight, guests visited the flight deck for briefings from aircrew, were briefed on crew stations, airdrop procedures and equipment throughout the C-17. The return mission included a combat take-off and combat-stop, on landing.

"This type of mission is vital," said Senior Master Sgt. Lou Orrie, 8th Airlift Squadron superintendent and mission loadmaster. "It's important for our community to know what we do. You can see it on TV, read about it in the news, or hear about it from Airmen, but for citizens to fly a mission with us and share that experience will others, it tells the Air Force story in a very powerful way."



Rape Aggression Defense classes

RAD classes for women are 1 to 4 p.m. Monday and April 27. For more information or to register, call 982-0473.

Fort Lewis-McChord Autism run/walk

The second annual Autism "fun run/walk" and resource fair, presented by the Fort Lewis-McChord Autism Support Group, is 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday 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>.

Earth Day celebration

An Earth Day celebration is 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday in front of the base commissary. For more information, call 982-3913.

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 annual dining out event is set for 6 p.m. today 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.

Quarterly awards luncheon

The 62nd Airlift Wing quarterly awards luncheon is 11 a.m. Thursday at the McChord Clubs and Community Center. For more information, call 982-0876.

'Knucklebuster 2009'

The 62nd Maintenance Group hosts "Knucklebuster 2009" 6 p.m. April 24 at Hanger 3. The Knucklebuster is an award recognizing the group's hard-working men and women who give 100 percent in the performance of C-17 Globemaster III maintenance, maintenance support and maintenance supervision. This year's guest speaker is retired Air Force Lt. Gen. Leo Marquez. For more information, contact 2nd Lt. Nathan Lucero at 982-6917 or Master Sgt. Richard Stratton at 982-7070.

Air Force Association annual awards banquet

The McChord chapter, AFA annual awards banquet is April 24 at the Northwest Connection here. Social hour begins at 6 p.m. and dinner is at 7 p.m. For more information or to RSVP, call Mary Moss at 983-7026.

Madigan Annex TBI classes

Traumatic Brain Injuries Program education series classes for educators and healthcare providers are offered Thursdays at the Madigan annex on Fort Lewis. For more information, call the TBI nurse educator, Lindy Peterson, at 968-3161.

Asian Pacific American heritage meal

An Asian Pacific American heritage meal is offered 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 30 at the Olympic Dining Facility. For more information, call 982-2711 or 982-2527.

'Bundles for Babies'

"Bundles for Babies" – a three-hour class covering topics such as the costs of raising a child, stress factors, and caring for a baby – is 9 a.m. to noon May 20 at the Airman and Family Readiness Center. For more information, call 982-2695.

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@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.

McChord Phoenix Spouse voicemail

The Phoenix Spouse program here now 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.

New hours at wing self-help store

The wing self-help store hours of operation are now 8 a.m. to noon weekdays. It closes on holidays and Air Mobility Command Family Days.

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:

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





Congratulations to the 446th Airlift Wing 2008 annual award winners, who were recognized April 4 during a banquet at the McChord Clubs and Community Center:

Airman of the year - **Senior Airman Channel Bolton-Scholl**, 446th Maintenance Squadron

NCO of the year - **Staff Sgt. Ryan Allen**, 446th Aerospace Medicine Squadron

Senior NCO of the year - **Master Sgt. Kurt Schafer**, 446th MXS

First Sergeant of the year - **Master Sgt. Todd Lamphere**, 446th AMDS

Company Grade Officer of the year - **Capt. Jessica Ditson**, 313th Airlift Squadron

Field Grade Officer of the year - **Maj. Kristina Forbes**, 446th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron

For more coverage of the 446th AW annual awards banquet, visit: <http://www.446aw.afrc.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123144005>.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Ellezer Yanzon

Master Sgt. Wendy Beauchaine, 446th Mission Support Squadron first sergeant, addresses attendees of the 446th Airlift Wing annual awards banquet April 4. In addition to naming the annual award winners, the banquet honored more than 65 Airmen who won awards in various categories for 2008.





Photo by Abner Guzman

Fitness adjustment

Senior Airman Mallory Paul, 62nd Force Support Squadron, adjusts a framed photo on the wall at the base gym as part of a fitness campaign designed to raise awareness among Airmen concerning the need to stay physically fit. Several samples from the base's "Fit For Freedom" poster series were recently posted to the Air Force Link Web site at: <http://www.af.mil/art/>. If your unit requires prints to fit unit-owned frames, visit the multimedia lab to fill out a work order request, Air Force Form 833.

