

# The NORTHWEST AIRLIFTER

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McChord Air Force Base, Wash.

Connecting Team McChord with the Combat Airlift Mission

May 29, 2009

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Photo by Abner Guzman

## Sobering humor

**Bernie McGrenahan performs his "Happy Hour - Comedy With a Message" show Wednesday at the base theater. Mr. McGrenahan entertained Team McChord members with four shows Wednesday and Thursday, touching on topics such as 'high-risk' drinking, DUIs and penalties, making responsible choices, and other issue-related subjects. Before each performance, Airmen distributed key chains and "wingman cards" highlighting the base's Airmen Against Drunk Driving program.**

## McChord set to kick off Special Olympics games

**By**  
**Tyler Hemstreet**  
Staff writer

More than 2,000 athletes from across the state gather here tonight in Hangar 2 to kick off the 2009 Washington Special Olympics Summer Games.

For the 19th consecutive year, McChord hosts the opening ceremony, as well as Saturday night's family barbecue, Victory Dance and other entertainment events.

McChord also hosts the weekend cycling event for the second consecutive year.

Other athletic events including gymnastics, power lifting, soccer, team handball and track and field take place on Fort Lewis, while the Weyerhaeuser King County Aquatic Center in Federal Way hosts the swimming events.

The volunteer response of Team McChord members has been very positive, said volunteer coordinator Master Sgt. Jerry Walker, 62nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

After putting out an initial call for volunteers, Sergeant Walker said nearly 300 people have signed up to help.

"The desire to volunteer is evident by how fast people signed up," he said.

Volunteers will help with hangar set-up, directing traffic, helping cook food at the barbecue and providing roaming medical coverage and first aid response for the event.

Volunteers are still needed for the Victory Dance, other entertainment events and the weekend's cycling events, Sergeant Walker said.

With nearly 200 volunteers from local communities also volunteering, the event is a prime opportunity to showcase Team McChord, said wing project officer Capt. Tracy Maestas, 62nd Aerial Port Squadron.

"It allows our volunteers to show a lot of folks what we have to offer here within the gates and show off all the hard work we put into supporting the athletes," Captain Maestas said.

Hosting the events allows McChord and Fort Lewis a great chance to give something back to the local community, she said.

Volunteers started setting up for the event Thursday afternoon, placing fencing and seating at event locations throughout the base and in hangars. Those interested in volunteering can call Sergeant Walker at 982-7701.

## Firefighters honored for 'special delivery'

**By**  
**Tyler Hemstreet**  
Staff writer

Three 62nd Civil Engineer Squadron firefighters were honored May 21 at a squadron all-call for their role in delivering a baby girl in base housing in March.

Firefighters Troy Madill, Sean Harding and Toby Bennett responded to a call at the home of Staff Sgt. Shad Simms, 62nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, and his wife Rayna at 5:30 a.m. March 27.

"We go on these kinds of calls all the time and they usually end up being nothing," Mr. Madill said.

But that wasn't the case this time.

Having already made plans to go to Madigan Army Medical Center to give birth later that morning, while Mrs. Simms was getting ready to go, her water broke.

"I told (Shad) to call 911 because we weren't going to make it," she said.

Mrs. Simms was able to move from the bedroom

down to the kitchen to give the firefighters more room to work.

When the firefighters arrived, Mr. Harding and Mr. Bennett let Mr. Madill — who'd never experienced an on-the-job birth before — handle the birth.

"I was in charge of getting everything out of the bags and giving Troy everything he needed," said Mr. Bennett, who'd been part of a delivery during his training at a Tacoma hospital.

Eden Star Simms was born within five minutes of the firefighters' arrival at the home.

"It was an excellent delivery," said Mr. Madill, who even arranged for Sergeant Simms to cut the umbilical cord. "It was one of the most satisfying calls I've ever been on."

And while the conditions were less than ideal for delivering her third child, Mrs. Simms said the entire episode went off without a hitch.

"It was the scariest thing I've ever done, but it was worth it, of course," she said.

"We're very grateful for the firefighters," Sergeant Simms said. "They're true professionals and turned what could have been a very stressful situation into something that we'll look back on with great joy."



Photo by Tyler Hemstreet

**62nd Civil Engineer Squadron firefighters Troy Madill, left, and Toby Bennett enjoy a moment with Eden Star Simms and her mother, Rayna, May 21 after a squadron all-call. The two firefighters — along with coworker Sean Harding (not pictured) — helped deliver baby Eden March 27 after responding to a call at the Simms' house.**

### Weekend Weather

FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Hi: 82 Low: 48	Hi: 76 Low: 46	Hi: 74 Low: 47

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

### Countdown to success

Rodeo.....	52 days
Next MOBEX .....	105 days
Operational Readiness Inspection.....	150 days

Don't miss it ...

## Special Olympics

Opening ceremonies are 7:30 p.m. today in Hangar 2.



# Airman's Roll Call: Critical Days of Summer

Historically, the period between Memorial Day and Labor Day is a period of high risk since people are heavily engaged in outdoor activities. Sunny days, vacations and barbecues with family and friends significantly increase our exposure to risk. That's why in the early 1970's, Air Force leaders introduced the safety campaign called "101 Critical Days of Summer" as a way to raise safety consciousness and reduce the large number of Air Force off-duty fatalities during the summer.

Why is summertime safety so important in our efforts to save lives? From 1997 - 2008, we lost an average

of 24 Airmen each summer. Last year, 17 Airmen were fatally injured; five to motorcycle mishaps, four to automobile accidents, four to sports and recreational activities, three were pedestrians and one accident occurred while performing vehicle maintenance.

Now that warmer weather is here, we should keep the following themes in mind when planning activities:

- Make safety a habit. Always wear your seatbelts and make sure your passengers wear theirs as well. So far this year, 4 fatalities were passengers in automobiles and one passenger was killed on a motorcycle. When riding motorcycles, scooters, ATVs or bicycles, and in other activities where

there is a potential to impact immovable objects, wear all of your protective gear. Plan road trips well, take frequent rest breaks, and don't be in a hurry to reach your destination - it is better to arrive late than to not arrive at all.

- Be a good wingman. Don't drink and drive, offer to be the designated driver, and have the courage to intervene when you see behaviors or activities that might jeopardize the safety of your wingman. This means providing "top cover" to prevent injury or loss of life. A good wingman has situational awareness and the courage to speak up!

- Manage your risks. Prior to each activity or endeavor this summer,

simply ask yourself: What am I doing? What can go wrong? Could I hurt myself or others? What actions can I take to reduce or eliminate the risk? Personal risk management is all about personal leadership.

Although last year was our one of our safest summers ever, we still lost too many Airmen to preventable mishaps. Throughout the summer, expect to be reminded of key safety tips through commander's calls, base newspapers, publications and supervisors. Use these tips to save lives.

For more information regarding Summer Safety, visit the Air Force Safety Center portal page and the local safety office.

## Three C's of mentoring ... the key to significance

By

Lt. Col. James Shigekane  
10th Airlift Squadron commander

Mentoring is the most valuable and effective form of leadership. Mentoring provides the opportunity to elevate a relationship from a level of supervision to a level of significance. Skilled mentoring is developed through training, practice, and experience. A person's mentoring ability improves by incorporating lessons learned from mentoring they've received during the course of their life ... which is precisely why mentoring is so powerful.

Mentoring isn't restricted to a supervisor-subordinate relationship, nor is it restricted to a formal setting or established format. All that is required for effective mentoring is commitment, compassion, and communication.

**Commitment:** Both the mentor and mentee must be committed to establishing an effective and mutually respectful relationship. Both individuals must clearly understand the objectives, and commit themselves to fulfilling those objectives. Finally, both individuals must be committed to each other, and must put forth their best effort.

**Compassion:** Mentors must genuinely care about those in their charge. They must not only focus on professional development, but also on personal, spiritual, and physical development as well. Mentors will bridge the gap between what is required, and what is essential for success. Mentoring is the key difference between supervising and leading. Without effective mentoring a person's potential may remain just that ... potential. Effective mentoring can transform that potential into achievement.

**Communication:** Mentoring lessons will only be as effective as the delivery, reception, and applica-

tion of each lesson. Communication must effectively convey not only the lesson, but express the level of commitment and compassion of the mentor. This is the key to success. The ability of a mentor to capture and involve his/her protégé will determine the efficacy of the lesson, and the preservation of its effect. Effective communication, combined with commitment and compassion will help seed a relationship with the essential elements for success.

We are all mentors and protégés. We all have lessons to teach, and lessons to learn. We owe it to each other to commit to this essential element in our professional, personal, physical, and spiritual development.

Through effective mentoring we can help each other to realize our full potential. Through effective mentoring we can transform our professional relationships from ones measured by degrees of success into ones characterized by acts of significance.

## The Sharp Airman ...

Is familiar with the Rules of Engagement prior to deployment or exercises.

- Command authorities issue ROE that describe the circumstances and

limitations under which we can start or continue military operations.

- In armed conflict, the Law of Armed Conflict and ROE specifically tailored for each mission or area of responsibility provide guidance on the use of force.
- ROE questions and concerns should be properly elevated up the chain of command for resolution. Failure to comply with ROE may be punishable under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

## PROFESSIONALS

of the week

### 62nd Force Support Squadron

#### Senior Airman Nile Pollock

**Duty Title:**  
Career development journeyman

**Duty section:**  
Career development

**Hometown:**  
San Diego, Calif.

**Why he's tops:**

Airman Pollock flawlessly performs his demanding duties in an outstanding and highly professional manner. He's made vast improvements to the reenlistment process and was able to cut workload by 30 percent. Airman Pollock also created new reenlistment business cards to hand out to our deploying Airmen to ease their minds when reenlisting downrange. He has constructed easy-to-follow templates for his peers on how to properly complete a reenlistment contract and is exceptionally knowledgeable for only being in the personnel field for two years.



#### Airman 1st Class Mallory Paul

**Duty Title:**  
Fitness specialist

**Duty section:**  
Fitness center

**Hometown:**  
Amarillo, Texas

**Why she's super:**

Airman Paul's top-notch customer service and job knowledge greatly contributed to the fitness center's continued success, leading to its selection as 2008 Air Mobility Command's "Fitness & Sports Program" and "Air Force 5-Star" awards. Her continuous display of dedication and care has made significant impact to more than 3,000 daily customers utilizing the facility. She produces the fitness center journal, an in-house newspaper that provides health/wellness and safety tips to patrons. She also took the lead in coordinating production of 30 motivational fitness posters capturing the military lifestyle.



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# 'Back to Basics' during Critical Days of Summer

By

**Laura McAndrews**  
Air Mobility Command  
Public Affairs

In a sincere effort to save lives and prevent accidents, Air Mobility Command's commander urges Airmen to get "Back to Basics at Home and Work" – the theme of this year's AMC Critical Days of Summer campaign.

"We must ensure that everything we do, on and off duty, is completely thought through – especially during the summer months," said Gen. Arthur Lichte, AMC commander.

AMC's 2009 CDS season began May 22 and runs through Sept. 8. According to AMC ground safety officials, a seasonal increase in fatalities among Airmen normally occurs between the Memorial Day and Labor Day holidays.

Air Force wide, 16 fatalities oc-

curred during the 2008 season. AMC, however, reached its goal of zero fatalities for the first time in the command's history.

This year's goal goes beyond achieving zero fatalities.

"We also are trying to reduce reportable mishaps by 25 percent," said General Lichte.

A reportable mishap ranges in definition from any injury or occupational illness affecting job performance to fatalities, as well as any incident resulting in significant costs.

General Lichte said that during the summer months "an increase in vehicle use and water-sport activities poses an even greater threat to our Airmen and their families."

Historically, alcohol use and fatigue have been contributing factors in accidents associated with these activities.

"Either one of these factors on their own poses increased risk", said

General Lichte, "but when they are mixed, the results can be even more disastrous."

Last year AMC experienced 101 mishaps. Of these, 16 were private motor vehicle mishaps and 32 were from sports and recreation.

To help counter the risks associated with the CDS, AMC is hosting a variety of activities throughout the season to promote safety awareness and accident prevention.

The "Save a Life" tour uses drinking and driving simulators to give Airmen a sober and realistic perspective of driving under the influence.

AMC also will be offering "Alive at 25," a defensive driving course, and will continue educating with the AMC Sport Bike Course in efforts to keep Airmen alive.

"Last year, our sport bike course provided outstanding training to over 550 riders," General Lichte said.

Drowning is the second leading cause of fatalities among Airmen during the summer months.

"So I ask you to always have a wingman when you swim," said General Lichte, "and if you are going to drink, don't swim!"

While most summer tragedies happen during recreation away from the work environment, AMC safety officials also emphasize the importance of safety in the workplace.

Last year 31 percent of AMC mishaps were industrial or on-duty.

To combat work related accidents, officials and supervisors plan to share safety ideas, inspect work areas and increase employee involvement in safety programs.

General Lichte said prevention, awareness and involvement are key to the success of this year's safety campaign.

"Every Airman is vital to the success of our Air Force, and we cannot afford to lose you," he said.

## 0-0-1-3

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

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

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

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



**DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE**



# Command post Airman named best in Air Force

**By**  
**Tyler Hemstreet**  
 Staff writer

Senior Airman Andrew Menard is well aware of the great amount of responsibility that comes with his job as a command post journeyman.

Working in the communications hub of the base, Airman Menard's position requires constant attention to detail, an ability to quickly access and notify various units, agencies and commanders of situations and the ability to effectively communicate with incoming aircraft.

"It's a unique situation," said Maj. David Reiss, 62nd Airlift Wing command post chief. "You don't always have an Airman this junior in rank with this much responsibility."

But the responsibility is something he embraces on a daily basis.

"We're the eyes and the ears of the base," said Airman Menard. "It's our job to get the decision makers the

information they need so they can be aware of situations and determine how to handle it."

And Airman Menard's dedication to his job was recognized recently when he was honored as the Air Force's Command Post Airman of the year.

"He's an all-around solid performer who always goes above and beyond," said Capt. Brian Wood, 62nd Airlift Wing command post deputy chief.

Airman Menard's many accomplishments include helping the command post garner an "outstanding" individual unit rating during the Air Mobility Command Inspector General Unit Compliance Inspection, wrote Master Sgt. Bryan Barnett, 62nd AW command post superintendent, in Airman Menard's award citation.

His "relentless drive and meticulous attention to detail during the activation of the alternate command post ensured seamless command

and control coverage during McChord Air Expo 2008," Sergeant Barnett wrote.

Airman Menard also ensured the rapid response of recovery assets during 28 search and rescue missions and skillfully directed command and control resources during 12 ground emergencies, saving lives and protecting critical resources, according to the citation.

After being notified that he won the award at the AMC level, Airman Menard said he was caught by surprise.

"I was kind of blown away by it," said the young Airman, who also completed a six-month deployment to Iraq, where he served as a command post controller with the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing.

Taking home Air Force level honor ratcheted up the excitement even more, he said.

"It helps when you have supervisors that really look out for you," Airman Menard said.



Photo by 62nd Airlift Wing Multimedia Center

**Senior Airman Andrew Menard is the Air Force's Command Post Airman of the year.**



## 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.



# Wing all-calls address joint basing progress

By

**2nd Lt. Joseph Wingard**  
62nd Airlift Wing  
Public Affairs

Colonel Jeffrey Stephenson, 62nd Airlift Wing commander, provided an update on the status of Joint Base Lewis-McChord during wing all-calls at the base theater May 19 and 20.

As the designated lead, the Army will be responsible for providing installation support, allowing the Air Force to concentrate on mission execution and capabilities, Colonel Stephenson said.

“The Army will be responsible for providing installation support for the joint base, but that doesn’t mean the

Air Force isn’t involved,” said Colonel Stephenson.

In January, a phased transition to Army responsibility for day-to-day installation support tasks begins. Air Force assets associated with these functions, including equipment and funds, will transfer to the Army to provide installation support. In some cases, Airmen associated with installation support functions will have Army supervisors and raters.

Though the Army may have tactical control of some Airmen, the Air Force maintains administrative responsibility for all Airmen; processing performance reports, decorations, awards, and maintaining Uniform Code of Military Justice authority, said Colonel Stephenson. The

Air Force also remains responsible for training and equipping Airmen to meet deployment taskings.

The impact of joint basing on civilian employees and base services was also addressed in the all-call. After the joint base is established, some civilian employees will receive an Army paycheck as they move into the Army personnel system.

These employees potentially benefit from the transition, as an expansion of Soldiers on the joint base is anticipated to provide more opportunities in the Army system, Colonel Stephenson said.

The commander also noted that most customer service organizations will continue to provide service on what is now McChord. “Most of you

will be doing the same jobs, in the same locations, with the same people,” said Colonel Stephenson.

Colonel Stephenson acknowledged that there will be challenges associated with creating new organizations, which will require hard work and patience. “We need motivated, smart people to develop solutions and overcome obstacles. This must be done without negative mission impact,” he said.

Once established, JBLM will be a premier global combat power projection platform hosting over 30 major units from the Army, Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps. The installation matches the global reach of the C-17 Globemaster III with Strykers, Special Forces, Rangers and more.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Stephanie Rubi

## Airlift exercise

A McChord C-17 Globemaster III, right, taxis on the Tonopah runway May 20 near Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., while participating in the Mobility Air Forces Exercise. Approximately 12 U.S. Air Force bases participate in the exercise twice a year, testing C-17 Globemaster III and C-130 aircrews to join together in formation at a specific time and location to drop a brigade-size force anywhere in the world.



# 1st ASOG Airmen excel as PACAF's newest combat team

By

Tech. Sgt. Kerry Jackson  
13th Air Force Public Affairs

HICKAM AIR FORCE BASE, Hawaii — Just eight months into being re-assigned to Pacific Air Forces, 1st Air Support Operations Group Airmen continue to demonstrate why they are one of the most requested combat support units in the Air Force.

The 1st ASOG, headquartered at Fort Lewis, Wash., directs five squadrons and four detachments located in Washington, Alaska, Hawaii and Japan. The group provides tactical air control parties, and battlefield and staff weather teams, to support U.S. Army combat units in the Pacific theater, including I Corps and seven Stryker brigade combat teams of the 2nd and 25th Infantry Divisions.

The 1st ASOG includes the 3rd Air Support Operations Squadron at Fort Wainwright, Alaska; the 25th ASOS at Wheeler Army Air Field, Hawaii; the 16th ASOS at Fort Richardson, Alaska; and the 5th ASOS and 1st Weather Squadron, both at Fort Lewis.

The group's air liaison officers and joint terminal attack controllers advise Army commanders on all aspects of airpower employment, integrating and synchronizing close air support, air mobility, and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities into

strategy, plans and operations.

Staff Sgt. Greg Iverson, a 3rd ASOS joint terminal attack controller from Oakland, Calif., was recognized for his contributions during a recent deployment when his actions led to the capture of a top "high-valued individual" in Baghdad, Iraq.

Sergeant Iverson provided critical advice to the U.S. Army commander he supported in Iraq, who changed planned air strike locations to those recommended by Sergeant Iverson, contributing to the capture of the HVI.

"Capturing Baghdad's number one HVI was a major accomplishment for my unit, and I'm just honored to have played some small role alongside such a skilled team of professionals," said Sergeant Iverson, who has been in the Air Force for more than eight years. "It is definitely a mission I'll look back on as a memorable accomplishment."

The weather arm of the 1st ASOG is also making notable contributions to the U.S. joint warfighting team. Staff Sgt. Robert Casperson, a 1st WS weather technician who has served for seven years, was deployed to Camp Victory in Baghdad, Iraq, in 2008. There he advised Army planners on expected adverse weather conditions.

In one operation, Sergeant Casperson had a rare opportunity as a weather Airman to go off the military base with a team of Sol-

diers to repair weather equipment critical to the success of a number of combat operations.

"Living, training and working with the Army has given me the opportunity to do things that I wouldn't normally do as a weather technician," said Sergeant Casperson. "I was excited to be a part of the team when we repaired the weather equipment off the installation. It was a new experience, but I'm glad I had enough courage to meet the challenge and be a part of such a worthwhile mission."

The group was reassigned from Air Combat Command to PACAF's 13th Air Force here in October 2008. The move aligned the 1st ASOG with the Pacific-based Army units it supports and brought critical elements of the PACAF Theater Air Control System, enabling the commander to present tailored command and control capabilities to support the full spectrum of joint operations, according to 1st ASOG Commander Col. Rob Evans.

Additionally, the ASOG's deployable Air Support Operations Center provides the 13th Air Force commander with a highly capable extension of the 613th Air and Space Operations Center here, enabling the integration of airpower's capabilities from major combat to humanitarian relief, Colonel Evans said.

The transition to PACAF has had its rewards and its challenges, and is continuing to move

in the right direction, according to Lt. Col. Shaun Copelin, 1st ASOG deputy commander.

"As with any big change, there have been challenges and bumps in the road, but 13th Air Force and PACAF have gone out of their way to make 1st ASOG a part of the U.S. Pacific Command family," said Colonel Copelin. "The staff at all levels has been engaged and professional during the transition, and we are happy with the support and integration at every level."

The addition of the 1st ASOG to the PACAF team helps the major command meet a number of challenges in the Pacific AOR, the lieutenant colonel said.

"1st ASOG Airmen provide the PACAF commander with a range of skill sets that can be used to support anything from humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations at one end of the spectrum, all the way to major theater of war operations," said Colonel Copelin. "We are prepared to meet the challenges ahead and proud to serve with the Jungle Air Force."

For the third time in four years, the 1st ASOG has produced an Outstanding Airmen of the Year winner and received a number of Air Force- and Army-level decorations and awards. They include two Silver Stars, 29 Bronze Stars (six with Valor), the Air Force Meritorious Unit Award, and the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Valor.



McChord Airmen

# AROUND THE WORLD



Courtesy photo

**SOUTHWEST ASIA** — Senior Airman Clifford Jones, 62nd Communications Squadron, runs jumpers for data lines that will provide free wireless internet in dormitories during a recent deployment.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Elizabeth Weinberg

**KYRGYZSTAN** — Staff Sgt. Harvey Freeman, 62nd Aerial Port Squadron, builds pallets for troops passing through Manas Air Base on their way to Afghanistan during a recent deployment.



# 'Small details'

## important for 62nd APS packing and crating

BY  
Tyler Hemstreet  
Staff Writer

In the 62nd Aerial Port Squadron's packing and crating section, small details are at the heart of every job.

Those details can mean the difference between a small but pricey aircraft part going to an address that may not exist or a package of hazardous material being labeled incorrectly and being mishandled.

"The paperwork behind the cargo means everything," said Staff Sgt. David Ellingwood, 62nd APS section NCOIC. "We check to make sure everything is labeled correctly, research that it is going to the right address and check if someone is going to be at the address if the package needs to be signed for."

The section ships everything from munitions and aircraft tires to C-17 Globemaster III engines, serving Team McChord and Air Force units at Fort Lewis.

In April alone, the section shipped 682 items weighing more than 28 tons, said Jose Moralez, 62nd APS shop foreman.

When items arrive at the section to be shipped, the staff decides - depending on the destination, size, weight and time frame - to send them either commercially or by military aircraft, Mr. Moralez said.

Once that decision is made, the section formulates a plan for packing the item.

"We can build any type of container for pretty much anything," Mr. Moralez said.

That can mean selecting a cardboard box from warehouse stacks or even making a custom box from scratch. Large rolls of bubble wrap surround the work stations, and there is even a machine on hand that produces the packing material.

For much larger fare, there is a full service woodshop where Airmen build pallets or crates to ship the item in. There is a technical order for every packing job and even special instructions for building blocking and bracing wood stops for transporting munitions on trucks.

"The technical orders are very specific," Sergeant Ellingwood said.

Again, it all comes back to the small details.

"The items that have high value may require special types of shipping containers and special packaging instructions," Mr. Moralez said. "We do all the research to make sure it's done right."

Photos by Abner Guzman



Airman First Class Jason Lurf, 62nd Aerial Port Squadron, seals up a package for delivery.



Airman 1st Class Angela Duff, 62nd Aerial Port Squadron floor supervisor, looks on as Airman 1st Class Franklin Reid, 62nd APS, uses the shop's radial arm saw to cut wood planks to size for a project.



Airman Jungmin Han, 62nd APS, reviews destination information while labeling packages for pick-up by a local express carrier.



Airman Duff stabilizes a frame as Airman Reid uses a pneumatic nailer to secure side panels to the base of a tire crate designed to safely transport C-17 Globemaster III tires to deployed locations.



Airman Duff relocates cargo from the APS warehouse to a staging area for transport.



Photo by Randy White

## Breath of 'fresh air'

Team McChord members participate in Wednesday's "Fresh Air" 5-kilometer run/walk, hosted by the 62nd Force Support Squadron. The event started and finished at Morey Pond, and a 1-mile run/walk was also available. Airmen, retirees, Defense Department civilians, family members and pets were all welcome to participate.



# MTI recruiting team visits McChord June 11

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**By****Air Force Personnel Center  
Public Affairs**

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Have you ever been interested in becoming a Military Training Instructor? If so, the MTI recruiting team is offering the opportunity you have been seeking and hosts an MTI duty briefing 8:30 a.m. June 11 at the Airman Leadership Auditorium in Bldg. 851.

There are few jobs in the Air Force more challenging, satisfy-

ing, and rewarding than that of the MTI. If you're an Airman 1st class with at least 24 months time in service, through technical sergeant with less than 16 years Total Active Federal Military Service, the MTI Recruiters invite you to attend the briefing and learn more about this challenging career.

Enlisted personnel from all Air Force Specialty Codes that meet the previously identified criteria are eligible to apply for these positions and are encouraged to at-

tend the briefing. Spouses of potential applicants are also invited.

"Everyone remembers their M-T-I," said Tech. Sgt. Danica Eusay, MTI Recruiting Team NCOIC. "The M-T-I sets the stage for each individual's success in the Air Force and mentors hundreds of new Airmen.

The job is filled with substantial rewards for those who want to have a hand in molding our future enlisted leaders.

Along with these intangible benefits, MTIs also are entitled to

Special Duty Pay, Annual Supplemental Clothing Allowance, and more."

The team can expedite the processing of an applicant's special duty application if they bring the completed application with them to the briefing. To obtain a copy of the Air Education and Training Command special duty application, contact the wing career advisor.

For more information, visit: <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123132269>.



# Medical professionals earn recognition for great work

By

Master Sgt. Ken Bielas  
446th Aeromedical  
Staging Squadron

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan — Lt. Gen. Charles Stenner, Air Force Reserve Command commander, recently recognized deployed Reserve Airmen from the 446th Airlift Wing, along with the rest of their medical team, by handing out commander coins in a ceremony here.

General Stenner recognized the medical professionals for providing medical care during the repatriation of a government official.

Lieutenant Colonels Eric Johnson

and Dan Berg, and Master Sgt. Ken Bielas, Critical Care Transport Team from the 446th Aeromedical Staging Squadron, along with Tech. Sgt. Selina Barone, a senior aeromedical evacuation technician from the 446th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, were recognized during a Commander's Call held by General Stenner.

The combined medical team and its leadership were comprised completely of Reservists. General Stenner recognized the experience Reservists bring to the war effort, allowing short-notice missions such as this one to be accomplished without incident.

Initially, the medical condition of the government official was unknown

and thought to be dire. The combined Aeromedical/Critical Care Air Transport Team was dispatched to provide any medical treatment needed during the initial portions of his return home.

Brig. Gen. Mike Holmes, 455th Air Expeditionary Wing commander, also recognized the combined aeromedical team, along with the aircrew involved (comprised completely of National Guard members) in a separate ceremony. General Holmes also stated that without the Airmen's speed and flexibility, the mission might have been a failure.

"It was the unknown nature of the mission that made it exciting and challenging at the same time," said

Sergeant Barone. "I felt honored to be a part of the repatriation of an American and to work with all the [government agencies] that made the mission go off flawlessly."

Members credited their many training missions working together at home station for the flawless nature of the mission.

"The work our two units do together at McChord is critical to being able to accomplish these missions without a hitch," Colonel Berg said.

While this has by far been their highest profile tasking, the members involved take great and equal pride in all their missions, caring for the wounded heroes of America and coalition forces.

**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**



**Special Olympics volunteers needed**

The 2009 Washington Special Olympics kick off with opening ceremonies 7:30 p.m. today in Hangar 2. The base also hosts a variety of other Special Olympics events through Sunday, and volunteers are needed. Volunteers can be military, family members or civilians. Airmen can volunteer through their squadron points of contact, and all wishing to volunteer can contact Master Sgt. Jerry Walker at 982-7701.

**Spouse Employment Training Scholarship**

The Air Force Aid Society offers the Spouse Employment Training Scholarship to spouses of active-duty Airmen through a partnership with Clover Park Technical College. The scholarship is for the Certified Nursing Assistant program, and the next academic term begins June 29.

Applications for the Spouse Employment Training Scholarship are available at the Airman and Family Readiness Center (Bldg. 551/552) and the applications must be turned into the center no later than 4:30 p.m. today. For more information, call the AFRC at 982-2695.

**New Barnes and housing gate hours**

Effective Monday, the Barnes gate is open 5:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. daily. The Woodbrook housing gate is open 6 to 9 a.m. and 3 to 6 p.m. weekdays. For more information, call the 62nd Security Forces Squadron at 982-5100.

**MTI special duty briefing**

A briefing from the Military Training Instructor recruiting team is 8:45 a.m. June 11 in the Airman Leadership auditorium on the fourth floor of

Bldg. 851. The briefing will cover all aspects of MTI special duty opportunities. Airmen first class with at least 24 months Time in Service through technical sergeants with less than 16 years Total Active Federal Military Service are eligible to apply for this special duty assignment and are invited to attend. Master sergeants are hired on a case-by-case basis. Spouses of interested Airmen are highly encouraged to attend.

**Military Spouse Career Advancement Accounts**

The Defense Department is expanding the Military Spouse Career Advancement Accounts – MyCAA – for military spouses of active duty and activated Guard and Reserve Service members worldwide beginning in mid May. MyCAA will officially open its doors to eligible military spouses worldwide to receive up to \$6,000 of financial assistance to help pay for licenses, certifications and education in high growth, high demand portable career fields. For more information, visit <http://www.militaryonesource.com/skins/MOS/home.aspx> and click on the link “Military Spouse Career Advancement Accounts” at the bottom of the Web page under “Military Programs.”

**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.

**Enlisted force structure**

The latest version of Air Force In-

struction 26-2618, the enlisted force structure, is available online at: <http://www.e-publishing.af.mil/shared/media/epubs/AFI36-2618.pdf>.

**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.

**Online GTC registration**

Online registration for the new CITI Bank government travel card is at available at: <https://home.cards.citi->

[direct.com/CommercialCard/Cards.html](https://direct.com/CommercialCard/Cards.html).

Online statements for cardholders will not be available before the client receives their first paper statement. The cardholder must enter their card number, account name and address information in the exact format as it appears on the paper statement. For example, words like court, street, or road must be input exactly as they appear on the paper statement, either abbreviated or spelled out. Cardholders will also need their complete zip code, as displayed on the paper statement.

**FTAC in-processing now online**

All first-term Airmen arriving from technical training must register via the Team McChord Professional Development Community of Practice at <https://afkm.wpafb.af.mil/ASPs/CoP/OpenCoP.asp?Filter=AM-DP-00-16>. For more information, call 982-6682.

 <b>McChord Chaplain Corps Faith &amp; Worship Programs</b>		<b>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.</b>
<b>CATHOLIC SERVICES and RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:</b> All Catholic services are in chapel two. <b>Saturday:</b> 4 p.m. Confession: Chapel 2, Bldg. 181 5 p.m. Mass: Chapel 2, Bldg. 181 <b>Sunday:</b> 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 <b>Monday:</b> Noon. Why Catholic? Small Group Study: Chapel Support Center, Bldg. 746	<b>Wednesday:</b> 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 <b>PROTESTANT SERVICES and RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:</b> <b>Sunday:</b> 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	<b>JEWISH SERVICES:</b> <b>Friday:</b> 6 p.m. Every 1st, 3rd & 5th Friday of the month: Ft. Lewis, Chapel 5, Bldg. T-2270 <b>OTHER PROGRAMS:</b> The following Chapel programs take place at the Chapel Support Center, Bldg. 746. <b>Tuesday:</b> 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 <b>Wednesday:</b> 11 a.m. Adult Bible Study



# New online application added to voluntary assignments

By

Richard Salomon

Air Force Personnel Center Public Affairs

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas – Air Force officials recently introduced a new Web-based application that allows Airmen to withdraw or cancel a voluntary assignment from their desks at their convenience.

Voluntary assignments are assignments that are self-initiated and that Airmen can apply for on their own. They differ from normal assignments because they apply only to those that Airmen volunteer for through the virtual Military Personnel Flight.

The Air Force's voluntary assignment applications and programs are:

- Home-basing and Follow-on Assignment Program
  - Voluntary Stabilized Base Assignment Program
  - Humanitarian and the Exceptional Family Member Program
  - Continental U.S. assignment exchange
  - CONUS isolated assignment application
  - Dependents remaining overseas application
  - Designated location move application
  - Early return of dependents application
  - Expanded permissive PCS assignment application
- To request a withdrawal, Airmen

must have a voluntary assignment application pending approval. To request a cancellation, Airmen must have an approved assignment in one of the voluntary assignment programs available on the vMPF.

For example, if an Airman submits a Home-basing/Follow-on application through the vMPF and later decides to not participate in the program, that Airman can log onto the vMPF and select "Withdraw/Cancel Voluntary Assignment Application."

In the past, Airmen had to request withdrawals or cancellations of online applications by visiting their military personnel sections. This application, however, allows them to do it online.

"This new online module gives Airmen greater control," said Tech. Sgt. Yolanda Cole, NCO in charge of assignment programs and procedures at the Air Force Personnel Center here. "They can now perform these personnel actions on their schedule without having to wait in line at the local military personnel section."

These voluntary assignments are for active-duty enlisted Airmen and officers in the grades of lieutenant colonel and below. Colonels and colonel selects can withdraw or request to cancel a Humanitarian or an EFMP assignment.

For details, visit the Air Force Personnel Center's "Ask" Web site and enter "voluntary assignments" in the search function.

For more information, call the Total Force Service Center at (800) 525-0102.



Photo by Master Sgt. Chris Almeria

## 'Iron Chefs'

Airman 1st Class Nathaly Guardado-Diaz, 62nd Force Support Squadron, chops fruit during the "Iron Chef" portion of the Kitsap Hospitality Executive Apartments Military Culinary Arts competition May 16 in the Bremer Student Center at Olympic College campus. While the 62nd FSS iron chef teams were edged out by teams from Naval Base Kitsap, FSS teams did take first place in the chili competition and third place in cake decorating.

