

# The NORTHWEST AIRLIFTER

Vol. 41, No. 24

McChord Air Force Base, Wash.

Connecting Team McChord with the Combat Airlift Mission

June 26, 2009

## INSIDE

**Eagle Eyes,**  
Page 3

**Team McChord civilians,**  
Pages 8-9

**Reservist saves life,**  
Page 11



Photo by Abner Guzman

## Sandstorm

Members of the 62nd Airlift Wing Staff race to fill sandbags on Heritage Hill June 18 during the Warrior Competition between squadrons after the wing run. The 62nd Force Support Squadron, 62nd Security Forces Squadron, 62nd Civil Engineer Squadron, and the 62nd AW Staff filled 120 sandbags in this competition to enhance skills required for the upcoming Operational Readiness Inspection. Additionally, the filled bags will be used to support tent stakes during Air Mobility Command Rodeo next month.

## 62nd AW changes command

**By**  
Tyler Hemstreet  
Staff writer

Col. Kevin Kilb takes command of the 62nd Airlift Wing from Col. Jeffrey Stephenson during a change of command ceremony at 10 a.m. today in Hangar 4.

Colonel Stephenson has been appointed as Chief of Staff of the Air Force Chair, National War College at Fort Lesley J. McNair, Washington, D.C.

"Team McChord extends a warm welcome to Colonel Kilb and his family," said Col. Michael Hornitschek, 62nd Airlift Wing vice commander. "Colonel Kilb is a strong leader who will take this wing through an extremely successful Joint Base transition, continuing our mission from the largest combat projection platform in the Defense Department.

"We also wish the very best to Colonel Stephenson and his family," said Colonel Hornitschek. "It's been an honor serving with him, and his leadership has been pivotal to the excellence and success this wing is noted for across our Air Force."

Colonel Kilb comes to McChord

from Headquarters Air Force Washington D.C., Chief, Global Mobility Division and Chair, Global Mobility Panel, Directorate of Programs, Deputy Chief of Staff, Plans and Programs. In this capacity, Colonel Kilb assured adequate resources were programmed or budgeted for the following forces: Strategic, Theater, Operational Support, and Special Air Mission airlift; Air Refueling; Aero-medical Evacuation; weather service and special operations forces. Prior to the assignment, Colonel Kilb was a course officer at the National War College.

During his distinguished career he has served as commander of the 374th Operations Group at Yokota AB, Japan; installation commander and commander of the 407th Air Expeditionary Group at Ali AB, Iraq; and deputy commander of the 908th Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron, Al Dhafra AB, UAE.

Colonel Kilb entered the Air Force in 1989 as a graduate of the ROTC program at the University of Arizona. He is a command pilot with more than 3,600 hours with experience in the C-17A, KC-10A Extender, C-130E/H Hercules, C-21A Learjet and UH-1N Huey helicopter.

## 10th Airlift Squadron prepares for deployment

**By**  
Tyler Hemstreet  
Staff writer

Approximately 100 Airmen from the 10th Airlift Squadron are scheduled to depart this weekend for a 120-day deployment in support of Overseas Contingency Operations.

The 10th AS Airmen deploy as the 817th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron to various locations throughout Europe, Southwest Asia and the Middle East. They replace the 7th AS, which is scheduled to return over the July 4, holiday weekend.

"We've been training and preparing for this deployment for over a year. We have honed our skills and sharpened our focus to conduct full-spectrum combat employment of our weapon system," said Lt. Col. James Shigekane, 10th AS commander. "This is a true team effort and we're proud and excited to execute our mission."

The base's four active duty flying squadrons share responsibility for the deployed squadron.

"We're stepping into the hottest months of the year and a time when some of the largest amount of cargo needs to be moved," said Capt. Jeff Banker, 10th AS detachment commander. "It's

going to be a really busy time for us but we're ready to go do our job and do it well."

This will be the first deployment for several 10th AS Airmen, who will be responsible for getting supplies to the troops on the ground who really need them, said Capt. Anthony Perone, a co-pilot with the 10th AS.

"The combat air drop missions in the AOR — that's where the rubber meets the road on the mission," Captain Perone said. "Getting supplies to the people who need it now is a great feeling. They rely on us."

The deployment also provides squadron co-pilots more opportunity to execute combat takeoffs and landings, he said.

"We're really going to get a lot of flight time on this deployment," Captain Perone said.

And while the mission will require a great deal of teamwork, Captain Banker said the squadron benefits from a great mix of new and experienced Airmen who work well together.

"What we do makes a difference every day. On any given day we save lives, sustain combat operations and capabilities, minimize the number of convoys needed, thereby keeping our troops off explosive-laden roads," Colonel Shigekane said. "Above all, we bring hope of a better future to many people in many countries."



Photo by Tyler Hemstreet

10th Airlift Squadron Airmen load deployment gear onto a truck Wednesday afternoon at One Stop. The squadron's advon team departed Wednesday for a 120-day deployment in support of Overseas Contingency Operations.

The 817th EAS, headquartered at Incirlik Air Base, Turkey, is responsible for scheduling, planning and executing all C-17 missions into the U.S. Central Command's area of responsibility including Iraq and Afghanistan.

**34 Days DUI Free**

*\*As of Thursday*

**62nd AW Down Day Goal: 62 Days**  
(Last DUI by a 62nd AMXS TSgt)

Call Airmen Against Drunk Driving  
at 722-AADD for a ride home



### Countdown to success

Rodeo.....	<b>24</b> days
Next MOBEX.....	<b>77</b> days
Operational Readiness Inspection.....	<b>122</b> days

**Don't miss it ...**

**62nd Airlift Wing  
change of command**

10 a.m. today in Hangar 4.

# Fourth of July — celebrating our freedom

By  
**Gen. Arthur J. Lichte**  
Commander, Air Mobility Command

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill. — With the 233rd birthday of our great nation's independence rapidly approaching, we prepare to celebrate our freedom with family and friends. Since the signing of the Declaration of Independence, we have been vigilant in defending our ideals of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Air Mobility Command is an integral part of that defense — both in the air and on the ground. Our tankers fuel the fight, creating unending global reach and persistence

for the warfighter. In addition, our airlifters deliver supplies and personnel to the front lines with precision and velocity. Furthermore, our aeromedical evacuation operations rapidly transport wounded warriors around the world for treatment while caring for them in flight. Your great efforts also support critical humanitarian relief to those struck by disaster where and when needed.

I am extremely proud of all of you — active duty, Guard and Reserve Airmen, civilian employees, retirees, and contractors — each of whom make a difference every day as Air Mobility Command conducts its mission. As I visit our operations

around the globe, I am continually impressed by your hard work, dedication and professionalism.

Spouses and family members — please know it's your support that helps make us great. Without your constant love, friendship, and sacrifice, Air Mobility Command's mission could not be accomplished. Thank you for all you do.

As the Critical Days of Summer progress, please continue your strong focus on safety, both at home and in the work place. You and your family are important members of the Air Force team and we cannot afford to lose you. I challenge every commander, supervisor, and wingman to ensure

all of us and our families stay safe during this long holiday weekend. Please continue to stay focused and remain aware of the hazardous effects of fatigue, lack of seat belt and helmet use, speeding, and alcohol, whether it involves driving or other activities. Unfortunately, there have already been six Air Force fatalities from motor vehicle accidents since the start of Memorial Day weekend, one of which was in Air Mobility Command.

The Lichtes wish you and your family a safe and relaxing Independence Day. It is an honor to be your commander as you continue to provide unrivaled global reach for America — always!

## Mentally, physically healthy force key to mission success

By  
**Lt. Col. Bryan Cannady**  
22nd Special Tactics Squadron  
commander

The popular slogan "Mission First ... People Always" is no longer a proper paradigm for leadership of an overstretched force. As operations continue and the global mission grows, a truer statement is "People First ... Mission Always", asserting that without a mentally and physically healthy force, the mission will fail. As time at home decreases, I would argue that a portion of our force has already tipped past a healthy balance, and juggling personal and professional needs is now more challenging than ever. This upset jeopardizes mission success.

The Air Force Times posted an article June 15

titled "Stretched and Stressed", describing the significant and growing strain on our servicemembers and their families as we near eight years of sustained combat operations. Across the Armed Forces, divorce and family-related issues are on the increase as families struggle to understand the complex dynamics of reintegration following deployments. Simply put, time away from home affects a family. Time away means both parties must readjust their lives (who they can rely on, daily schedules, friends, and activities). Both parties become more independent, and inevitably, there is friction in the reunion. For most, this reunion is not easy, nor is the friction easily recognized or discussed.

Today, several Defense Department programs reach out to help with reintegration, but most require individuals to seek assistance. Recently, our

unit directly benefited from an Army retreat program called Strong Bonds. The program provides all-inclusive retreats for units and their families while simultaneously weaving in tools and techniques to stabilize relationships in a low-threat environment. Topics such as reintegration and communication were common themes with the added benefit of a weekend at a local resort lodge. Participants concluded that such unit-focused programs are essential to making reintegration a positive and successful experience.

As the current pace of operations and the global mission continues, all Airmen must take a hard look at the newly evolved breaking point within individuals and their unit. Once defined, leaders at every level need to dedicate more resources and attention to addressing "People First ... Mission Always".

## The Sharp Airman ...

knows there is a new AFPAM 10-100, Airman's Manual, dated March 1. This manual is required to be carried by each deploying member for the

mobility exercise in September and the Operational Readiness Inspection in October.

If you have not received a new Airman's Manual, ask your supervisor or First Sergeant where to get one. The manuals are accountable items and must be signed for.

## PROFESSIONALS

of the week

### 62nd Communications Squadron

#### Staff Sgt. Arlene Reynolds

**Duty Title:**  
Client support administrator

**Duty section:**  
Customer support administration center

**Hometown:**  
Hesperia, Calif.

**Why she's super:**

Sergeant Reynolds guided the base publications and forms program Unit Compliance Inspection preparation, which proved paramount to the base information manager's professional team recognition. She also deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, maintaining a \$20 million command and control network in support of the Combined Joint Special Operations Air Component. Additionally, Sergeant Reynolds provided outstanding computer support during the Elmendorf C-17/C-130 evacuations, delivering network connectivity to 517 visiting Airmen within 72 hours.



#### Staff Sgt. William Powell

**Duty Title:**  
Voice network systems technician

**Duty section:**  
Telephone switch operations and maintenance

**Hometown:**  
Ridgeland, Miss.

**Why he's tops:**

Sergeant Powell's technical expertise proved critical to his work center's success. He supervised a \$333,000 voice network installation project, adding 960 voice channels to increase base telephone switch capacity 66 percent. He was instrumental in updating the base E911 system database, surveying 70 buildings and 8,200 phone numbers to provide first responders accurate location information for emergency calls. Sergeant Powell also deployed in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom, leading a team of three technicians and establishing 40 data circuits on three networks to support a variety of reconnaissance missions throughout the area of responsibility.



EDITORIAL STAFF

**62nd AW commander:** Col. Jeffrey Stephenson  
**Chief, Public Affairs:** Master Sgt. Dean Miller  
**NCOIC, Public Affairs:** Master Sgt. Chris Haylett  
**Chief of Internal and News Director:** Staff Sgt. Eric Burks  
**Editor:** Tyler Hemstreet  
**Photographer:** Abner Guzman  
**Graphic artist:** Lisa Lemmer  
**62nd Force Support Squadron contributor:** Patti Jeffrey

62ND AIRLIFT WING, MCCORD AFB, WASHINGTON

The Northwest Airlifter is published by Swamer Communications, a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Air Force, under exclusive written contract with McCord Air Force Base. This commercial enterprise Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services.

Contents of the Northwest Airlifter are not necessarily the official views of or endorsed by the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force.

The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of

Defense, the Department of the Air Force or Swamer Communications of the products or services advertised.

Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

Advertising copy intended for publication should be submitted to Bill White, Advertising Manager, Business mailing address: P.O. Box 98801, Lake-wood, WA, 98498. Free ads can be e-mailed to: classads@flewisranger.com or call Swamer Communications at (253) 584-1212.

CONTACT NUMBERS

Editorial content is edited, prepared, and provided by 62nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs. All photos are U.S. Air Force photos unless otherwise indicated.

**Mailing Address:** 62nd AW/PAI  
100 Col. Joe Jackson Blvd., Suite 1077  
McCord AFB, WA 98438

**Phone:** (253) 982-5637 **Fax:** (253) 982-5025  
**E-mail:** northwestairlifter@mcchord.af.mil

# Keep 'Eagle Eyes' sharp, focused

**By**  
**Special Agent Daniela Yantin**  
 Air Force Office of  
 Special Investigations

In a world where terrorism has become a household word, vigilance is the key in ensuring that it doesn't spread.

No matter how well trained or vigilant, law enforcement officials can't be everywhere all the time. After the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, the Air Force established a program that enlists the eyes and ears of military members, their families and friends, as well as the surrounding community in the fight against terrorism.

"Eagle Eyes" is an antiterrorism program managed by the Air Force Office of Special Investigations. It encourages military members and civilians to report suspicious activity. Only you know best what activities do or do not belong at McChord and in the surrounding community. If it doesn't look right or feel right, then it's not right. Don't be afraid to report it.

Many people believe that what they see may or may not be anything significant, and they don't want to report something trivial. But you'll never know until something happens and you see or hear it in the news. That trivial incident or what you witnessed could potentially be something of significance that may affect the overall safety and security of McChord, its personnel and resources — including our military neighbors, Fort Lewis and Camp Murray.

AFOSI isn't asking anyone to conduct their own investigations or surveillance when it comes to reporting suspicious activities. But if in doubt, it doesn't hurt to report it or ask whether what was witnessed is legitimate or not. Security awareness and reporting suspicious activities by military and civilian community members is important and plays a key role in mitigating and neutralizing the threat. It can complicate the planning and execu-

tion cycles in criminal and terrorist acts.

In addition, the response will be faster, and decision making more accurate, when everyone pulls together to protect each other and the base.

One of the first steps is to know what to look for. In order to do that, always keep an eagle eye out for the following suspicious activities:

**Surveillance** – Someone recording or monitoring activities, including the use of still or video cameras, note taking, drawing diagrams, writing on maps or using binoculars or any other vision-enhancing device.

**Elicitation** – Anyone or any organization attempting to gain information by mail, fax, telephone or in person about military operations or people.

**Tests of Security** – Any attempt to measure reaction times to security breaches, or to penetrate physical security barriers or procedures.

**Acquiring supplies** – Purchasing or stealing explosives, weapons, ammunition, uniforms, decals, flight manuals, passes or badges, the equipment used to manufacture them or any other controlled items.

**Suspicious persons out of place** – People who do not seem to belong in the workplace, neighborhood, business establishment or anywhere else. This also includes suspicious border crossings, stowaways aboard ships or people jumping ship in port.

**Dry run** – Putting people into position and moving them about without actually committing a terrorist act, such as kidnapping or bombing. An element of this activity could also include mapping out routes and determining the timing of traffic lights and flow.

**Deploying assets** – People and supplies getting into position to commit the act. This is the last opportunity to alert authorities before the act occurs.

Any suspicious activity, whether on or off-base, needs to be reported to the Eagle Eyes hotline/62nd Security Forces Squadron duty desk at 982-5624.



## Command change

Col. Glenn Rousseau, right, accepts command of the 62nd Operations Group from Col. Jeffrey Stephenson, 62nd Airlift Wing commander, during a change of command ceremony June 19.



# 62nd APS spouse named Key Spouse of Quarter

By  
Tyler Hemstreet  
Staff writer

Having been an Air Force spouse for 11 years, Jennifer Vargas knows what it's like to move to a new community and get situated.

So the 62nd Aerial Port Squadron's Key Spouse set out to make it a little easier for new squadron families moving into the Puget Sound area.

"I just wanted to help ... getting situated in a new community is kind of hard," she said.

With that, the Eagle Port News — the squadron's monthly newsletter — was born.

Toiling away on the product after her children go to bed each night, Ms. Vargas shares information vital to those new to the area, including what's going on at McChord and in the local community as well as announcements (such as recent births) within the 62nd APS.

The newsletter also contains useful local-area information that can only be attained by getting out and exploring the community. The June newsletter featured a tip on a local bakery that serves the needs of people with food allergies.

"The newsletter she puts together has had a major impact in our squadron," said Lt. Col. Will Phillips, 62nd APS commander. "To welcome our new inbound spouses to the squadron, we include the latest version of the newsletter in our sponsor packages to let them know the caliber of squadron their family is about to become a part of."

While putting together a newsletter was a new endeavor for Ms. Vargas, it's something she felt was needed to help welcome new families and let them know about everything that's out in the local community. She also worked hard to update and maintain a current e-mail list for the squadron spouses and maintain open lines of communication with spouses throughout deployments.

"That way they feel more connected," she said.



Courtesy photo

**Lt. Col. Will Phillips, 62nd Aerial Port Squadron commander, presents Key Spouse Jennifer Vargas with the Chalk Award during a squadron standup in April. Thomas Chalk, a retired chief master sergeant who worked as an air transportation manager and for whom the award was named, is at right. The award is given to squadron spouses who exemplify the highest dedication to the Air Force mission and selfless service to others.**

"We want to let them know that we're there for them even when their spouse is deployed."

Her other accomplishments include helping put together the squadron's "All Spouses Call" to enlighten new spouses about the services available to them when family members deploy, and volun-

teering to help the squadron put together its Key Spouse Training Event on Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

"Mrs Vargas has played a critical role in revitalizing the squadron's key spouse program," Colonel Phillips said.



# McChord pilot named Air Force Reserve Citizen Airman of the Year

By

Tech. Sgt. Nick Przybyciel  
446th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

A Reserve pilot from the 728th Airlift Squadron here was honored with the Air Force Reserve Citizen Airman of the Year Award.

Maj. Micheal Bautista received the award for placing his civilian career on hold for nine months to go on active-duty orders and fly combat missions to support Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. The Citizen Airman of the Year Award is given out in tandem with the Employer of the Year Award. For its support of Major Bautista, Southwest Airlines was recognized as this year's winner.

"Major Bautista is an excellent choice for this award," said Lt. Col. Colin Carr, commander of the 728th AS. "He truly represents what makes the Air Force Reserve special--he is an exceptional officer, always volunteering to do more. We're fortunate to have Colonel Bautista as a member of the 728th, Flying Knights."

While on active duty orders, Major Bautista flew one dozen combat and combat support missions within the United States Central Command's area of responsibility, delivering key troops and equipment to the front lines of contingency operations.

These missions were flown challenging conditions, including the

threat of enemy surface to air attack.

Additionally, Major Bautista executed six, high-priority presidential airlift missions throughout Asia, safely transporting key White House equipment and staff, according to his citation package.

"I'm very proud and humbled by this award," Major Bautista said. "However, I have done no more than the other pilots and loadmasters in my squadron have done. In fact, I pale in comparison to the accomplishments of the workhorses of this wing."

During his deployment, Southwest Airlines demonstrated exceptional support by delivering care packages to both Major Bautista and his family, along with letters from the companies CEO and president. On top of that, the airline was cited for being a leader in its industry when it comes to providing pay and benefits to deployed servicemembers.

"Not only does Southwest support the military in general, but they fully stand behind their military reservists and guardsmen. As a stated in my award submission, when I left for missions downrange or elsewhere, whenever I wore my uniform, I not only felt that I represented the U.S. Air Force and Reserve, but I felt like I represented Southwest Airlines, as well," Major Bautista said.

Southwest's support continued even after Major Bautista returned to work with them in March.



Courtesy photo

**Maj. Mike Bautista (right), a pilot from the 728th Airlift Squadron, and Herb Kelleher, founder and former president, CEO and chairman of the board of Southwest Airlines, pose for a photo at Rodeo 2007. Major Bautista was awarded the 2009 Air Force Reserve Citizen Airman of the Year Award, and his employer, Southwest Airlines, won the 2009 Employer of the Year Award.**

"The biggest adjustment upon returning to the company was the pilot/Boeing 737 retraining I had to undergo," he said. "I had a lot of catching up to do. Having flown the C-17 exclusively for nine months, I felt like I was learning the 737 all over again. The company was very supportive in my

training and tried to make it stress free. The company and management really want you to succeed and set me up for success."

Aside from receiving the Citizen Airman of the Year award, Major Bautista was also the 446th AW's Field Grade Officer of the Quarter twice in 2008.



# Military unites with Hollywood on 'Transformers'

By

**Joe Davidson**  
Special to American Forces  
Press Service

LOS ANGELES (AFNS) — "Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen" hits theaters nationwide today as the culmination of more than a year of Defense Department support, ranging from script and uniform notes to C-17 Globemaster III aerial maneuvers and jumps from the Army's Golden Knights parachute demonstration team.

The first "Transformers" film released in July 2007 used a variety of Air Force assets and the latest film, DreamWorks and Paramount studios partnered with all four services to highlight America's military members and combat power on the big screen.

Deciding how and why to work with the services was essential in making the film work, producers said.

"There are really a lot of similarities between a military operation and a movie production," said Army Lt. Col. Greg Bishop, the department's project officer for the movie. "The mobility of the operation, the logistics and planning required, and the problem-solving skills required to pull the whole thing off are very much alike."

"Transformers" Executive Producer and Director Michael Bay has worked with military leaders on other films and frequently consults with

them to make action sequences in his movies appear more authentic.

"You know the first thing we're going to look at is that if you're going to fight these 32- to 125-foot robots; who else would you fight them with?" "Transformers" Producer Lorenzo di Bonaventura said.

Like its predecessors, the latest "Transformers" movie uses hundreds of military members from all the services and from throughout the country to make the film feel more realistic.

"I enjoyed being able to walk on the set and there are a hundred real soldiers as opposed to walking on and it's a hundred actors from Orange County or LA in fatigues," said Megan Fox, the film's female lead actor. "It was just an overall pleasant experience, and I have an immense amount of respect for the Soldiers and for our troops."

That realism extends to military equipment as jet fighters roar from the deck of an aircraft carrier to the recoiling sounds of M1-A1 Abrams tanks firing 120mm rounds at their deceptive and, at times, overpowering foes.

"What [the military] bring to it is obviously a sense of reality. But for us what is most interesting about it is our interaction with them," Mr. di Bonaventura said. "Because you actually get to see these people who have made a life choice and the honesty of that choice comes through each and every time you meet these guys. So, for us, that's the really exciting thing. We get to hang out at



**Optimus Prime, a member of an alien race, returns to the big screen today in "Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen." "Transformers" Executive Producer and Director Michael Bay has worked with military leaders on other films and frequently consults with them to make action sequences in his movies appear more authentic.**

the base and see the joy they get out of being a part of us, and you also see us get affected by their level of commitment."

This latest "Transformers" film shows an extreme example of what the military does in everyday life.

"Though the enemy in this film are alien robots, we strove to make the depiction of operations as realistic and accurate as possible," said Capt. Bryon McGarry, the Air Force project officer for the movie. "As in

real-world operations, we go to war against the Decepticons in the film jointly to achieve coordinated, balanced and devastating results. If they ever came to Earth, we'd be ready for them."

DreamWorks and Paramount pictures have given permission to provide special screenings of "Transformers, Revenge of the Fallen" at bases that provided support for the film and also aboard the USS John C. Stennis.



*McChord Airmen*

# AROUND THE WORLD



Photo by Senior Airman Courtney Richardson

**SOUTHWEST ASIA** — Tech. Sgt. Nathan Schasse, 62nd Operations Support Squadron, performs a visual inspection of a pair of night vision goggles during a recent deployment.



Photo by Senior Master Sgt. James Coley

**IRAQ** — Senior Master Sgt. James Coley, 446th Civil Engineer Squadron, sits in a gunner's seat, ready to patrol the streets of downtown Baghdad during a recent deployment.





Denise Hert, 62nd Force Support Squadron, left, distributes a parenting kit at the McCord Child Development Center.



Photo by Abner Guzman

Trish LaRock-Barrett, 62nd Force Support Squadron, sets up a chess board before a chess tournament at the base community center.



Photo by Abner Guzman

From left, Matthew Kitterman, 62nd Civil Engineer Squadron project manager, and Evergreen Inn lodging manager Johnnie Bennett, 62nd Force Support Squadron, brief Rodeo staff on the progress of dorm upgrades underway in preparation for Rodeo.



Photo by Abner Guzman

Bernery Lynn, 62nd Civil Engineer Squadron, assembles a hydrant control valve during a training session in the liquid fuel systems maintenance shop.



Photo by Abner Guzman

McCord firefighters from the 62nd Civil Engineer Squadron use a stretcher to remove a passenger with simulated injuries from a bus during a major accident response exercise.

# Team McCord civilians essential to mission

**W**hile deployments, temporary duty assignments and permanent changes of station constantly change the landscape of sections throughout every McCord squadron, civilians are often the only constant, as a critical element of Team McCord.

Brian Barbee, 62nd Maintenance Squadron, embraces the role he plays in keeping the mission on task.

During his journey from an Airman to a Guardsman to his current role as an Air Force civilian, he's gained a different perspective on the mission at each level of his career.

As a young Airman, Mr. Barbee shadowed various Air Force civilians while coming up in the ranks of the maintenance career field.

"I learned the trade through them," he said.

As a metals technology journeyman today, Mr. Barbee is now the one mentoring young Airmen.

"They're like sponges ... they soak up knowledge every day," he said.

That mentoring chain is something of great value to many commanders.

"Many of our civilians have previous military experience that helps them mentor and train our active duty force," said Col. Tracy Smiedendorf, 62nd Maintenance Group commander. "We have (civilians) involved in all parts of our group and could not do our mission without them."

It often also benefits both parties, said Gaylord Higa, 62nd Civil Engineer Squadron deputy base engineer.

"It presents an opportunity for both the civilians and Airmen to get new ideas," Mr. Higa said. "The incoming enlisted and commissioned troops are very astute and savvy. It's a chance for people to learn new things. I always encourage that interaction."

Since the two parties are often coming from different Air Force

and generational perspectives on various issues, it provides a tremendous learning opportunity, Mr. Higa said.

"It's a great chance for both parties to look at all the options," he said.

"Our MXG civilian workforce is critical to maintaining technical expertise continuity on a complex aircraft like the C-17," Colonel Smiedendorf said. "They are a key part of keeping the corporate memory on sustaining this aircraft."

And corporate memory is not just critical to the maintenance group. Civilians play important roles in every squadron on base. Approximately 1,083 appropriated fund civilians and 3,233 combined non-appropriated fund, private business and contract civilians work on base.

There are a select few civilians who deploy, as well as those who help Airmen prepare to deploy.

Continuity is of great importance within the unit deployment manager career field, as there are always new items and requirements coming down from headquarters when it comes to getting Airmen ready to head for the area of responsibility, said Rudy Strand, 62nd Force Support Squadron UDM.

"The UDM position is always changing and evolving, so it's important for us to have that knowledge and maintain that continuity," said Mr. Strand, who's worked as a civil service employee here since 2006.

While some military members take on additional duties and work as UDMs for their units, by the time they get fully trained on the nuances of the job, it's time for them to move on, Mr. Strand said.

While military coworkers of McCord civilians may cycle in and out, the one thing that continues to unite everyone is never in question:

"We're all here to ensure the mission succeeds," Mr. Higa said.

**By**  
Tyler Hemstreet  
Staff writer



Photo by Abner Guzman

Michael Madayag, 62nd Maintenance Squadron, drains fluid from nose landing gear steering actuators while preparing to pressure test the parts.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Eric Burks

Linda Dawson, 62nd Operations Group, ensures administrative work flies as smoothly as a C-17 Globemaster III while serving as the group secretary.



Photo by Admarie Lewis-Page

Heather Van Mill, McCord's Sexual Assault Response Coordinator, center, leads this year's "Walk to End Sexual Violence"



Photo by Abner Guzman

Sylvia Maine, 62nd Force Support Squadron, addresses McCord Airmen during this year's Women's History Month celebration.



Photo by Abner Guzman

Charles Thornton, left, and Senior Airman Michael Wampler, both 62nd Security Forces Squadron, monitor traffic along Lincoln Blvd near Carter Lake Elementary School.



Photo by Senior Airman Kirsten Wicker

## Be our guest

Team McChord senior leaders and spouses socialize with community leaders June 17 during the Evergreen Fleet Cruise. McChord leaders cruised Puget Sound as guests of the Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Committee and Tacoma Yacht Club. The annual community relations event included a picnic and was sponsored by the Joint Base Financial Alliance.



# Reservist's quick decisions, actions save neighbor's life

By

Sandra Pishner  
446th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

About four minutes is all it takes to go from car pooling dad to hero.

Driving home from a meeting at his children's school with a neighboring parent, Lt. Col. Kevin Sampson, 313th Airlift Squadron, saw out of the corner of his eye the first signs of distress. His passenger, Claire Christian, appeared to be having a seizure.

With her body clinching tight and guttural sounds emitting from her throat, the thought that she was simply experiencing chills quickly left Colonel Sampson's mind. With no response from his questions, the colonel knew the situation was serious.

About this time, the car had reached a critical intersection. Colonel Sampson could turn right to their homes, or left toward the hospital. As Claire's situation manifested into a serious matter, he chose left.

"She leaned over on me and her lips were blue. I reached into my mind for my limited CPR knowledge. All I could do at that point, while driving, was protect her airway by holding her head up," said the seasoned C-17 pilot.

After turning left, Colonel Sampson started honking the car's horn, while simultaneously dialing Claire's husband, and holding her head up to keep her airway open.

Reaching Claire's husband on the phone, Colonel Sampson tried to establish if she had a history of seizures or allergies she might be reacting too. None, according to her husband.

Arriving at the emergency room of Tacoma General, Colonel Sampson bypassed the valets, despite their attempts to get him to stop, and pulled right up to two Emergency Medical Technicians just outside the emergency room doors.

"I could see some EMTs, who happened to be there outside. Their patient was sitting up and apparently not urgent, so when they saw me honking and pointing to Claire, they voted that guy off the island and immediately came over to the car. They pulled her out of the car so fast her shoe came off," said Colonel Sampson.

After taking the car back to the valet's Colonel Sampson went into the hospital and soon learned that Claire had suffered sudden cardiac arrest.

"I could see over the curtain of the treatment area the doctor's hands with paddles in them, and could hear them yell 'clear,'" he said.

"I was shocked that it was a heart attack. Her symptoms were not what you would expect. When I think of heart attack, I think about chest pains, or pain running down the left arm, shortness of breath. I was really surprised to learn later that it's very common for heart attack symptoms to manifest in women differently than men," said Colonel

Sampson.

Putting it all together, the time that passed from the first sign of Claire's distress to the doctors getting a normal pulse was about four minutes.

About two minutes after arriving at the ER, Claire's husband and kids arrived; very upset naturally. At a loss as to what to tell them, Colonel Sampson was relieved when a nurse arrive to update the family on Claire's status. They had a pulse, had her stabilized and were moving her to intensive care.

"I've known Claire and her family for about five years. Her kids are 9 and 5 and play with my kids. I waited about two and a half hours with them at the hospital, then my wife and I took their kids home with us and tried to maintain a sense of normalcy for them," explained Colonel Sampson.

Colonel Sampson's actions did not go unnoticed. Claire's family wrote a letter to the squadron and the wing describing Colonel Sampson's actions and imploring them to put him in for medal.

John Nagle, Claire's father, and Dawn Lucien, a family friend who works in the Tacoma office of Congressman Norm Dicks, notified the Congressman of one of America's finest Airmen and his actions. When Colonel Sampson attended a Reserve Congressional Orientation in May, Mr. Nagle arranged for a staff member from Congressman Dick's office to contact Colonel Sampson and take him to meet with the Con-

gressman from Washington state.

"He expressed his appreciation for my service and my actions in this situation," said Colonel Sampson.

His actions, according to the colonel, sprang from 22 years of training in how to assess a situation quickly and react.

"As a pilot, I try to see out situations to the nth degree. I could have easily just pulled over and called 911. But seconds count. I work in an environment where I have to make timely decisions all the time. I've flown into Iraq and Afghanistan and have been training for 22 years on how to quickly assess a situation. That training has paid off. Basically I've been raised to make quick decisions," Colonel Sampson explained.

He's also learned over the years how to learn from every crisis.

"I learned later that with this type of situation, there is a 1 in 100 chance of survival, and a 1 in 100 chance of surviving without any long term effects.

"When they say heart attacks are silent killers in women, I now know that to be true. It was a real eye-opener for me. She didn't have the typical heart attack symptoms. Women experience heart attacks differently," said Colonel Sampson.

Claire has since received a defibrillator and is still recovering.

"The fact that I survived is a miracle and I have Colonel Sampson to thank," said Claire. "His quick thinking saved my life and I am so truly grateful."



**62nd Airlift Wing change of command**

The 62nd Airlift Wing change of command ceremony is 10 a.m. today at Hangar 4. The incoming commander is Col. Kevin Kilb and the outgoing commander is Col. Jeffrey Stephenson.

**McChord blood drive**

In cooperation with the Armed Services Blood Program, McChord hosts a blood drive from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. today at the 446th Aerospace Medicine Squadron Auditorium.

**62nd Communications Squadron change of command**

The 62nd Communications Squadron change of command ceremony is 10 a.m. Monday in front of Bldg. 851. The incoming commander is Maj. Robert Povlich and the outgoing commander is Maj. George Kinney.

**Road closure notice**

There will be a one lane closure at Lincoln Blvd Monday through Wednesday due to digging and installing utility lines at the entrance of Westcott Hills. The sidewalk on the south side of Lincoln Blvd. will be closed and there will be a pedestrian detour to sidewalk on the north side. An electronic reader board to notify vehicles and a flagger will be present.

**Wing all calls**

Wing all calls are Wednesday and Thursday at the base theater:

- 62nd Maintenance Group – 7:30 a.m. Wednesday
- 62nd Mission Support Group – 3:30 p.m. Wednesday
- 62nd Operations Group, 62nd Medical Squadron, 62nd Airlift Wing Director of Staff – 10 a.m. Thursday

• 62nd MXG – 3:30 p.m. Thursday

**July 4 Commissary hours**

The base Commissary holiday hours July 4 are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**New Barnes and housing gate hours**

The Barnes gate is now 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.

**Military Spouse Career Advancement Accounts**

The Defense Department Military Spouse Career Advancement Accounts for military spouses of active duty and activated Guard and Reserve Service members worldwide offer eligible military spouses 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 Instruction 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.citidirect.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



# Officials work to lessen impact of deployments

By

Samantha L. Quigley  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFNS) — Defense Department officials here are working aggressively to reduce the impact of multiple deployments on the children of military families.

"The department recognizes that these multiple, long-term deployments are really tough on families," said Barbara Thompson, director of the Pentagon's Office of Family Policy/Children and Youth.

Deployments since fighting began in Iraq and Afghanistan have affected nearly 2 million military children, and about 234,000 of those children currently have at least one parent deployed, according to a 2007 Defense Manpower Data Center report.

Surveys of active-duty and Reserve-component spouses in 2008 included questions regarding military children. The responses of the more than 13,000 active-duty

spouses and more than 16,000 Reserve-component spouses reinforced the officials' anecdotal knowledge of the effect of deployments, Ms. Thompson said.

"It indicated that children were showing fear and anxiety," she said. "Some were having behavioral issues in school, and some were coping well with the deployments."

And in testimony before a Senate Armed Services Committee subcommittee, Ms. Thompson added, "it was very clear that spouses were concerned about the cumulative effects of deployments on their children."

Sixty percent of active-duty spouses and 67 percent of Reserve-component spouses reported an increase in the levels of their children's fear or anxiety in the spouse surveys.

Children of active-duty servicemembers showed a 36 percent decline in academic performance, a number that was matched in increased behavioral issues at school, according to the survey. Children of

reserve-component servicemembers saw a 38 percent decline in academic performance, and a 34 percent increase in behavioral issues at school, the surveys revealed.

A deployment can affect children of varying ages differently, Ms. Thompson said. Typically, she said, the youngest children, up to 5 years old, may become clingier or regress in some "milestone" areas, such as toilet training. While these children may not be old enough to comprehend the situation, they are reacting to the stress of the parent who is at home.

School-age children may act out in school or throw tantrums, or their school performance may suffer or they'll lose interest in favorite activities, Thompson said. "Tweens" and teens already may be struggling through their own developmental milestones, she added, and the deployment of a parent can exacerbate the situation.

"Teens can get involved with risky behavior, or the other challenge with teens is that they take on more

and more adult responsibility," Ms. Thompson said. "That's important, but at the same time, we want them to be kids."

Ms. Thompson said it's important for parents to realize that they still need to be involved.

"You still want both the deployed parent as well as the stay-at-home parent to be asking about their [children's] friends," she added. "Where [are they] going? With whom are they hanging out?"

To help parents manage their stress about the deployment, as well as their child's, the Defense Department offers numerous resources, Thompson said.

Through the Military Family Live Consultant program, Defense Department officials have placed behavioral health specialists at family centers on installations. Family members of reserve-component servicemembers can access these resources through "On Demand," a feature of the Joint Family Support Assistance Program, a Military Homefront program.





Photo by Rob Lalicker

## Dinner's served

Family members of deployed McChord Airmen enjoy a barbeque dinner in their honor Monday at the Chapel Support Center. More than 150 family members of deployed Airmen attended the event, which also featured a treasure hunt for the Pink Panther with prizes.



### — NAMES TO NOTE —

Award Winners:

- **Jim Dicus**, 62nd Force Support Squadron – Exemplary Civilian Service Award

Promotion selections:

- **Capt. Maria Gomez-Herbert**, 62nd Medical Squadron – selected for promotion to major
- **Maj. Christine Stabile**, 62nd MDS – selected for promotion to lieutenant colonel
- **Lt. Col. James Clavenna**, 62nd Maintenance Group – selected for promotion to colonel.

