



The Sather Pathfinder

Volume 1, Issue 3

Dec. 31, 2005

Baghdad International Airport, Iraq

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COMMENTARY

The Christmas stranger

By Angela Moeller

Military Spouse

GRAND FORKS AIR FORCE BASE, N.D. (AFPN) — It was starting to snow as we headed downstairs to pull out some Christmas décor.

While helping me sort through the boxes, my daughter stumbled across a stuffed animal — a plush, multi-colored donkey.

“Mom, this isn’t a Christmas decoration,” she said.

As I turned away from the tedious job of untangling lights, I saw the little donkey and remembered a night that will forever be in my heart.

We were headed home for a family celebration from Grand Forks Air Force Base, N.D., to upstate New York on the Amtrak with our 2-year-old and 4-month-old children. In the early morning hours of the last leg of our trip, I saw a young man trying not to disturb me as he took a seat close by.

He sat down quietly, not noticing the bundle sitting in her car seat by my legs. I looked at him and he apologized for the disturbance.

“There is no need for you to apologize, Soldier,” I said.

Surprised, he asked how I knew.

I told him I knew he was a Soldier from the respect and pride in his stride. Then, I gestured across the aisle and said, “My husband has that same presence. It’s just a military thing.”

We began to talk and he told me how

nervous he was to head home. It had been nearly two years since he had been there.

He had been fighting in the war when he learned that he was a father. Tragically, his girlfriend had passed away giving birth to his daughter. He had returned home to set up guardianship for his daughter, but had to immediately return to Iraq. He had not seen his baby girl since.

Nervous, but happy, he pulled out a well-worn picture. He told me his sister was taking care of her until he could return home.



After a moment’s pause gazing at his daughter, he said, “She looks just like her mom.”

We sat in silence for a little while before the train came to a stop.

My oldest daughter woke up and

immediately started playing peek-a-boo with him. After a few moments, he said that he was not so nervous about meeting his daughter anymore.

“I hope she is just as happy with me as your daughter is,” he said.

Playing awhile longer, he asked if he could give my daughter a gift. I agreed and he reached into a bag full of presents. Pulling out a plush, multi-colored donkey, he handed it to her. She took it and named it Fred.

Soon after, my daughter drifted back off to sleep. The Soldier settled in and said that he was going to try to do the same.

I must have had a strange look on my face. He sighed and softly told me that he had nightmares of the things he had been through while in Iraq.

“I enlisted at the same time as my best friend and we were over there together,” he said. “I get to come home and see my family, and he never will.”

A short time later, we reached our stop. The train was a little late and people were ranting and raving about how their vacation was ruined and how plans had to be changed.

I sat back and thought, I am just glad that he was able to come home.

I told my husband about the conversation I had with the young man. And I asked him what I could have done to help him.

“You just did,” he said referring to my sympathetic ear.

With smiles on our faces, we turned, waved goodbye to the Soldier and went on our way.

As I told this story to my daughter, she hugged the little donkey tightly.

“I will always keep Fred safe, just like the Soldier keeps us safe,” she said.

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Formerly known as the BLAP Sentinel

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Editorial Staff

Col. Joel E. Malone
Commander, 447th AEG

Lt. Col. Stephen D. Graf
Deputy Commander, 447th AEG

MSgt. Randy L. Mitchell
Editor/Chief, Public Affairs

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Front Page photo

Master Sgt. David McGilvray, SFS, stands guard before an Iraqi C-130 on New AI Muthana ramp awaiting arrival of the Iraqi president. See Page 10 for rest of story.

Photo by Master Sgt. Randy L. Mitchell

AIR FORCE PERSONNEL NEWS

Air Force leadership foresees personnel cuts

By Master Sgt. Mitch Gettle

Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — Secretary of the Air Force Michael W. Wynne said a proposal aimed at reducing the number of Air Force total-force personnel has been discussed.

During a press conference Dec. 13, Secretary Wynne said the reduction would take affect across the total force — active duty, Reserve, Guard and civilian positions. About 40,000 people would be trimmed starting in fiscal 2006 through 2011, he said.

Drawing down personnel is nothing new for the Air Force as it has reduced active-duty manpower through force shaping initiatives in the past two years to meet congressionally mandated end strength.

However, before any reductions take place, initiatives focused on balancing and reshaping the force would be the first step, said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley.

“Thirteen percent of the officer career fields are stressed ... 20 percent of the enlisted career fields are stressed,” he said. “We have opportunities to move people into those stressed career fields and balance those across that entire spectrum.”

Once the force is balanced then there will be opportunities to move to the Reserve component, the Guard, and Air Force civilian positions, General Moseley said.

“Our overall goal remains to have an effective and efficient Air Force on behalf of the taxpayer,” Secretary Wynne said.

“As the Air Force looks at these personnel changes, it needs to determine the optimum size of organizations and number of Airmen needed across the broad spectrum of the force,” said Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Gerald R. Murray.

“Congress mandates the number of generals, colonels, chief and senior master sergeants based on the size of the force. For example, chief master sergeants make up 1 percent and senior master sergeants make up 2 percent of the force; if the reduction of the active-duty enlisted force was 30,000, the results would be 300 less chief master sergeants to lead our organizations and Air

Force specialties,” Chief Murray said.

“We’re not just going to cut out the workers of the force,” Chief Murray said. “We will shape the force throughout all the ranks, by organizations and (specialties) in order to maintain a strong force.”

Any organization forced with cutting personnel faces hard decisions and the Air Force leadership is no exception.

“I will tell you that every one of the people (who) are in the Air Force or in the civilian workforce for the Air Force, have opted into the Air Force to provide value to us,” Secretary Wynne said. “We want to make sure that we do everything in our power to manage this problem on a level by making them proud to have been a part of the United States Air Force throughout their career.”

DOD releases sexual assault, harassment reports

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — The Defense Department today released the results of two reports on sexual harassment and sexual assault in the military: the 2004 survey of the reserve components and the Academic Program Year 2005 assessment at the three military service academies.

Reserve components:

The survey of about 76,000 selected Reserve members found that sexual assault rates are lower than in previous studies of reserve component veterans, and they parallel the sexual assault rates from the 2002 DOD survey of active-duty women (3 percent) and men (1 percent). Survey results indicated that 19 percent of reserve women reported experiencing sexual harassment, about 10 percent of women reported experiencing sex discrimination and 2 percent reported that they had been sexually assaulted. Men reported experiencing comparable behaviors at far lower rates than women: 3 percent reported experiencing sexual harassment, 2 percent reported experiencing sex discrimination and 1 percent reported that they had been sexually assaulted.

Reserve members gave good marks to DOD on the training and leadership provided on sexual misconduct issues. Nearly three-fourths of reserve component

members indicated they received training in the previous year on how to prevent and respond to sexual harassment. More than 90 percent thought the training was effective. More than 85 percent reported that DOD’s sexual harassment policies and complaint procedures were well publicized at their installations and aboard ships. A majority of reserve members said their leaders were making honest and reasonable efforts to stop sexual harassment.

Sixty percent of men and 46 percent of women said sexual harassment had become less frequent and less of a problem in the past few years. Fifty-three percent of men and 33 percent of women said sexual harassment was less frequent in military workplaces than at civilian jobs. Many women (44 percent) also saw no difference in the rates of sexual harassment at military and civilian workplaces.

Military service academies:

The Military Academy, the Naval Academy and the Air Force Academy Academic Program Year 2005 assessments provide Congress an annual overview of sexual harassment and assault incidences at the three academies. In addition, the assessments highlight policies, procedures and processes implemented from June 2004 through May 2005, as well as program changes planned for the following years.

Throughout APY 2005, the three military service academies expanded and enhanced programs to prevent sexual harassment and assault and improve care for victims and increase system accountability.

As part of the assessment, the department surveyed cadets and midshipmen. The survey showed that most cadets and midshipmen believe that sexual assault and sexual harassment training has contributed to the reduction of sexual misconduct at the military service academies.

“This is the Department’s first survey of reservists that focuses on sexual harassment and assault and provides a baseline against which we can measure future progress,” said David S. C. Chu, under secretary of defense for personnel and readiness.

“We are reviewing the findings carefully and examining our policies, programs and leadership efforts to determine how such incidents can be prevented and to ensure we respond effectively if they do occur,” he said.

AIR FORCE NEWS

CAOC memorializes Airman's sacrifice

By Staff Sgt. Alicia Prakash

CENTAF (Forward) Public Affairs

SOUTHWEST ASIA — A New York Airman, who was killed when responding to the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks at the World Trade Center, was honored recently when the Combined Air Operations Center entry control point was rededicated in his honor.

After the closing of the old CAOC entry point Dec. 9, the rededication of the new entry point remembered the heroic Airman — Staff Sgt. Andrew “Andy” Brunn.

“Now that the CAOC gate has relocated, we didn’t want to forget our fellow Airmen,” said Col. Gregory Touhill, the CAOC’s command, control, communications and computer systems director.

Sergeant Brunn served as a New York Air National Guardsman with the 213th Engineering Installation Squadron and was a firefighter with Manhattan’s Ladder Company 5, one of the first units to respond to the airliner attacks on the trade center.

“He made his way to the 35th floor, when the call came for him and his team to evacuate,” Colonel Touhill said.

Sergeant Brunn and his team were helping two injured civilians down the stairwell when the tower caved in.

“When the building collapsed, they were on the fifth floor,” Colonel Touhill said.

According to his co-workers, Sergeant Brunn died doing something he enjoyed — helping others.

Sergeant Brunn spent most of his adult life serving others, first in the military during Operation Southern Watch, as a police officer, and then as a firefighter. He had been firefighter with Manhattan’s Ladder Company for two months at the time of the attacks.

Maj. Gen. Allen Peck, Deputy Combined Forces Air Component commander talked about Sergeant Brunn’s life and how he should be remembered.

“We face great challenges and tests every day. We can and should be thankful, happy and as proud to serve as Andy was,” General Peck said.

The sign with Brunn’s name on it “will remind us each time we enter this gate to remain true, remain strong and remain on target,” said 1st Lt. Steven Cavin, Communications Focal Point chief, deployed from Eglin AFB, Fla.

“I want everyone to remember Staff Sgt. Brunn as a man who gave his life while serving others,” Colonel Touhill said. “His devotion to duty is an example that each of us on the coalition team should focus on as we perform our mission.”



Staff Sgt. Andrew “Andy” Brunn

New medical staging facility opened

By Staff Sgt. Tammie Moore

332nd Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

BALAD AIR BASE, Iraq (AFPN) — The new 332nd Contingency Aeromedical Staging Facility opened Dec. 19 and will serve as a transition point for medical evacuations from Iraq.

Construction on the \$85,000 building began in September.

“With the move into this new semi-hardened facility, we are continuing to improve the care we provide our wounded warriors,” said Col. Elisha Powell, 332nd Expeditionary Medical Group commander.

The new facility, which is designed to hold up to 100 patients, enables the staging facility to serve two critical roles in theater.

“First, the primary mission of the CASF is to hold and stage patients for aeromedical evacuation,” Colonel Powell said. “It is staffed by nurses, aerospace medicine technicians, physicians, life skills, dietary and pharmaceutical technicians. Together, these dedicated professionals ensure patients are prepared clinically and administratively for flight, care for them during their stay and then carefully load them onto aircraft for their journey to definitive care or home base.

“The second vital function of the CASF is to serve as a through-put valve for the Air Force theatre hospital,” Colonel Powell said. “If these patients had to stay here at Balad until fully recovered, the footprint of the hospital would be forced to grow astronomically. If not for the CASF, the hospital’s capabilities would be overrun in only a few hours’ time due to the steady influx of war casualties.”

To improve patients support at Balad, the new building features indoor latrines and showers. In addition, there is a patient breakroom with phones, computers and a television.

“The biggest improvement is the cleanliness of the facility,” said Lt. Col. Teresa Millwater, a chief nurse. “Patients who are injured are at a higher risk for infection. Preventing infections will be easier, because there will be less dust and we have indoor hand-washing capabilities.”

Moving from the old CASF to the new one took a large team effort.

“It took every bit of energy and sweat we had to get this place to come together,” said Staff Sgt. Wilsondo Alteus, a medical technician. “We did the move in two days and it was worth it because this will improve patient care.”

Colonel Powell praised the Airmen who conducted the move.

“They persevered through rain and mud, carrying weapons and wearing body armor as they moved their entire operation and still managed to care for patients and launch two missions without missing a step,” he said.

AIR FORCE NEWS

More integrated operations in Air Force's future

By 1st Lt. Elizabeth Culbertson

U.S. Air Forces in Europe Public Affairs

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany — The secretary of the Air Force said the service is headed toward more integrated operations.

Secretary of the Air Force Michael W. Wynne stopped at this airlift base Dec. 23 after trips to bases in Southwest Asia and Germany. He said the importance of force integration, new weapons platforms and Air Force people.

“We used to talk about the future total force. I think we need to stop that. The total force is now,” he said.

Secretary Wynne said he noticed during his trip that units of active duty, Guard and Reserve Airmen were fully integrated to complete the mission — whether at Balad Air Base in Iraq or at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, Germany.

“It is an amalgamated force that we’re fighting with today,” he said. “It was hard to tell who was a reservist, who was an active and who was a National Guardsman.”

The total force concept aims to tap into the inherent strength and experience of all three Air Force components to increase overall combat capability.

“(The Air Force) has developed incredibly capable, innovative

and, I would say, inquisitive Airmen,” he said.

Secretary Wynne described Air Force maintainers in Iraq recruited to up-armor vehicles. Now, he said, the manufacturer sends these Airmen prototypes to evaluate.

“The innovations that the Airmen bring are our single greatest accomplishment,” he said.

Airmen are also functioning in an increasingly joint environment, he said. They operate with the Navy, Army and Marine Corps in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

“This war is about a joint fight, more than anything else we have seen. It is a remarkable synergy. What Airmen bring to a joint fight is the unique capability and capacity to innovate and understand airpower,” he said.

Secretary Wynne said in the coming year he hopes to see Airmen embrace the new Air Force mission statement and become more proficient at delivering sovereign options for America through air, space and cyberspace.

“What I want is to make sure that the Airmen are very knowledgeable and that they are accountable at the end of the day to do what they say and say what they do,” he said. “Master that— become knowledgeable, provide your great innovative and creative ideas on behalf of the joint force and joint fight, and America will be better off for it, and I think the world will be better off for it.”

Former Falcon helps enlisted Airmen fly high

By Master Sgt. Randy L. Mitchell

Chief, Public Affairs

Have you ever dreamed about playing college athletics while earning a college degree? If so, there may be a way for you to fulfill that dream.

A former enlisted Airman, who lived that dream himself, has created an online Web site, *EnlistedAthletes.com*, to offer motivational and informational resources for current enlisted athletes who aspire to become college athletes.

First Lt. Dan Probert, an environmental engineer with the 15th Civil Engineer Squadron at Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii, created the site to meet the needs of Airmen who may be missing an opportunity.

“In high school I was plagued by football injuries, which prevented me from being recruited to a college football program,” he said. “So I enlisted in the Air Force and served as a B-1 crew chief.

“Shortly after enlisting, I learned about the Air Force Academy football team and decided to apply to the Air Force Academy Preparatory School,” he added. “I made the prep school football team as a walk-on and continued on at the Air Force Academy, eventually starting at defensive tackle for the Falcons.”

The site offers stories about former enlisted members, such as Lieutenant Probert, who successfully transitioned to college athletics.

“Military academies recruit enlisted members and may even provide an opportunity to attend a one-year preparatory school for personnel who need a little academic boost to meet academy entrance requirements,” Lieutenant Probert said. “Military academies and (Reserve Officer Training Corps) may allow participation in varsity athletics as long as academic and military standards are met.”

EnlistedAthletes.com highlights opportunities for qualified enlisted personnel to attend a military academy or participate in a ROTC program. It also has useful links to learn more about available opportunities for dependent children that may be high school athletes looking to get a scholarship.

Lieutenant Probert is concerned many Airmen may miss out on the opportunity he had, and found the Web site a good way to help athletic enlisted members looking to further their education and, maybe, provide them some memorable experiences such as his.

“My most memorable experiences were playing in Notre Dame Stadium and shaking President Bush’s hand at the White House my senior year,” he said, “when Air Force was presented the Commander-in-Chief’s Trophy for beating both Army and Navy.”



SATHER NEWS

Do you know what to do after an attack?

Following an attack, Airmen should be looking for these items when sweeping their immediate area:

Unexploded ordnance



Fragmentation



UXO Reporting Procedures

When UXO is identified, mark off area appropriately, safely and ensure no one enters the cordon.

- Place marking tape 25 feet away from UXO in all directions
- Do not transmit information within 25 feet of a UXO with a handheld radio or 100 feet with a vehicle mounted radio
- Evacuate all personnel within 300 feet in all directions

Call your UCC or the Command Post (446-2443) with the following information:

- Name or call sign
- Unit
- Phone #/radio net
- Date/Time
- Your location
- Location of UXO (Bldg. #, grid coordinate, distance from the landmark)
- Type of UXO (use Sather AB UXO ID Chart or AFVA 32-4022, USAF UXO Recognition and Reporting Chart, or AFMAN 10-100, Airman's Manual pages 3-7 of *Critical Information Checklist*)
- Identifiable features of UXO (size, length, markings, etc.)
- Condition of UXO (intact, leaking, broken, etc.)

Large and/or abnormal craters



Note: Full Spectrum Threat Response (FSTR) is now called Emergency Management (EM)

You can get additional information about the threat and actions to take by contacting the readiness flight at 446-2227. You can also look on the Readiness/NBC link on the Sather AB homepage.



NEWS BRIEFS

Right Start Briefings

All new personnel are required to attend a Right Start briefing within one week of arrival.

The briefings are held every Tuesday and Friday at 9 a.m. in the Glass House conference room.

Airmen are required to bring their gas mask and a new (unopened) filter cannister to the briefing.

New Year's Eve Service

The chapel staff is hosting a New Year's Eve service at Victory Chapel.

The service will begin at 8:30 p.m.

Flightline Photography

Flightline photography is prohibited without prior approval from Public Affairs. Individuals caught taking photos or videotaping on or around the flightline without PA approval run the risk of being apprehended by Security Forces and having their camera or camcorder confiscated.

When taking photos around base, please use the same principles learned at weapons training: only aim at what you intend to shoot, and know what is behind the subject being photographed.

Sending photos and videos home to loved ones is okay, but they should never be sent directly to media.

For more information, contact PA at 446-2408 or stop by the Glass House.

Legal Services

Legal services here are limited to notary public service only. All other legal services are provided by the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing Legal Office at Balad Air Base. If you need an attorney or legal advice, please call them at DSN 318-458-2636.

Area Defense Council services are offered through the ADC office at Ramstein Air Base, Germany. You can contact them at DSN 314-480-2182.

Hometown News

The Army and Air Force Hometown News Service reports on the individual accomplishments of active-duty, Guard and Reserve Airmen, as well as DoD civilians.

The news service sends news releases to media serving your hometown. Some suitable subjects for a news release include arrival here, promotions, awards and decorations, reenlistments and individual achievements. If you're interested in completing a news release, contact Public Affairs by calling 446-2408 or stop by the Glass House.

Sick Call

The 447th Expeditionary Medical Squadron provides an around-the-clock walk-in sick call service.

There are many risks associated with life at Sather such as sprained ankles, upset stomachs, cuts, scrapes, bruises, etc. These and other ailments should be treated by a doctor since conditions can worsen here if left untreated.

Personal Hygiene

The biggest medical threat here is poor sanitation. Your mother was right when she used to say, "Wash your hands..."

The routine is simple to remember, wash your hands after using the latrine, wash your hands before eating, and wash your hands just to wash your hands!

Remove trash from your tent regularly and place in a sealed garbage bag in the dumpster. Leaving trash and food around invites critters such as insects, rodents, snakes, scorpions and feral cats, to move in with you!

No Pets Allowed

Sorry, but you'll have to wait until you return home to play with your own pets.

Do not feed any stray animals in camp, it is a violation of General Order No. 1.

Stray animals may carry fleas, ticks, rabies, and are hosts to sand flies, which can cause leishmaniasis. During warmer weather many bats will begin appearing at night again, which is beneficial since they eat their weight in insects that would otherwise be biting you!

However, they can carry rabies. If you see a sick bat on the ground do not touch or attempt to pick it up. More to come on other critters when the weather starts heating up again.

Bottled Water Safety

The 447th EMEDS Bioenvironmental Flight tests a percentage of each lot of bottled water delivered to Sather to ensure bottles are free of bacteria.

In addition, bottles are randomly tested for agents of interest. These measures are taken to ensure your safety. You can help too by taking a few simple steps:

- Before opening the bottle, check for any puncture marks, leaks or discoloration;
- Invert the bottle and inspect for any pinholes; and
- When opening, listen and check to ensure the seal breaks.

If you notice anything unusual about a bottle of water, such as described above, **do not drink the water.** Contact the environmental flight at 446-2608 to have the water tested.

Air Force PTU Wear

Here are a few reminders for wear of the PT uniform:

- Shirt: tucked in
- Shoes: tied
- Socks: white
- Hats: floppy, 8-point or AF-issued watch cap
- Watch cap: outdoors only; with layered shirts or jacket
- Shirt: only gray AF PTU t-shirt

Special note: may wear black long-sleeved shirt, turtleneck or issued thermal shirt under AF gray t-shirt.

LRS provides mission support at its finest

By Capt. Jerry L. Ottinger

447th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron

Twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, the men and women of the 447th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron play a pivotal role in the success of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

From the moment Airmen disembark from an aircraft to join the Sather Air Base community, until they return to their home stations, the entire Baghdad International Airport community – Soldiers, Airmen, Marines, Sailors and Civilians – depend on the capabilities the 447th ELRS brings to the fight.

The 447th ELRS supports OIF operations via seven distinct functional areas: supply, fuels, vehicles operations, vehicle maintenance, logistics readiness, transportation management and aerial port operations.

“These functions provide the backbone capability for the 447th Air Expeditionary Group’s mission to move people, cargo and materials in, out and within the theater of operations,” said Lt Col John Foden, 447th ELRS commander.

Since AEF 7/8 began, the aerial port has handled an average of 900 passengers, 110 tons of cargo, and 35 aircraft per day.

“Our mission here is key to a successful war effort,” said Capt. Robert Farkas, 447th ELRS Aerial Port Flight commander. “We re-supply the front lines with ammunition, cargo and troops, support dignitaries from all over the world, and move troops home for emergencies and rest and relaxation...it’s all in a day’s work.”

The Aerial Port, in conjunction with a U.S. Marine Corps contingent, handled and moved 1,320 poll workers during Iraq’s Constitutional Referendum in October and moved another 800 poll workers during December’s parliamentary elections. The Aerial Port has moved a rotation record 30,000 passengers in December alone, due to the personnel moved during the poll worker missions and the start of the Army’s rotation of 40,000 Soldiers.

The 447th ELRS boasts responsive fuels and vehicle capabilities. “If it has wheels or requires fuel, it isn’t going anywhere without us,” said Maj. Michael Bennes, 447th ELRS operations officer.



Photo by Master Sgt. Randy L. Mitchell

The 447th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron AEF 7/8 rotation.

The Vehicle Maintenance Flight has supported Sather’s demanding missions with in-commission rates that kept the \$38.8 million, 300-vehicle “blue fleet” rolling despite lengthy re-supply lines and austere driving conditions. They also control Sather’s 165-vehicle leased fleet worth \$2.5 million.

“We’ve completed more than 3,500 repairs to keep the vehicles running...and we’re not done yet!” said Master Sgt. Paul Scovill, 447th ELRS vehicle management flight chief

The Vehicle Operations Flight ensured Sather’s fleet of 36 U-drive vehicles was ready for a wide array of Air Force and Army missions. They also provided ground transportation for more than 5,700 customers throughout the BIAP complex, including several DV contingents.

The Fuels Flight has maintained a refueling response time of only 4.8 minutes, while issuing nearly 940,000 gallons of fuel to awaiting aircraft and maintaining the fuel re-supply for Tent City’s demanding power/generator requirements.

The Supply Flight provides the tools warfighters need to get the job done via its \$36.5 million in stock, weapons, body armor, aircraft parts and equipment.

“Uniforms, tools, and personal protective equipment are the most obvious items that customers want from us,” said Staff Sgt. Kyle Tretter, Equipment Liaison Office noncommissioned officer-in-charge. “We also provide ground mission capable

requests and equipment assistance that directly support the flightline mission.”

The global war on terror cannot be fought here without our Readiness Flight and Traffic Management Office, according to Master Sgt. Ander Rogers, Readiness Flight superintendent.

“Every Airman who deployed here and will re-deploy in the next few weeks has us in common,” Sergeant Rogers said.

“Readiness works with the United States Central Command Air Forces to book in- and outbound passengers and validate incoming personnel fills against deployment guidance released by CENTAF and the AEF Center,” he said. “TMO then gets the airline travel booked and routed, in addition to scheduling 1,378 shipments to and from BIAP for our customers.”

The TMO flight’s freight section moved 129 vehicles, approximately 250 EOD robots, tons of communications equipment, Defense and State Department assets, and Iraqi election materials.

With the vastness of its mission, the 447th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron is challenged to keep pace with a dynamic, demanding mission, but its Airmen are proud professionals who focus on making OIF victory a reality, according to Colonel Foden.

“Whether the Army needs to rotate its soldiers for Operation Iraqi Freedom or an Airman needs a ticket back to home station,” he said, “the 447th ELRS is here to make it happen.”

Iraqi infant gets second chance

By Master Sgt. Randy L. Mitchell

Chief, Public Affairs

An Iraqi infant girl born with spina bifida has a new chance at life thanks to an Army National Guard unit from Georgia.

Baby Noor, as the 3-month-old has become known, was found by American soldiers during a search of a Baghdad home in early December. Now she is heading to Atlanta for possible life-saving surgery.

Accompanied by her father, grandmother, soldiers and a host of media, the young infant arrived here awaiting transportation. She quickly won the hearts and assistance of Airmen in getting her family to the United States for surgery.

“We were approached by the Army the week of Christmas to see how they could get the baby and her family flown to the United States,” said Capt. Robert Farkas, 447th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron Aerial Port Flight commander. “My guys provided the documentation needed and, thanks to the tenacity of the soldiers involved, they were able to make it happen.”

Senior Airman Stephen Boynton, who had helped with the process, checked the family in once they arrived and ensured all their documentation was in order.



Baby Noor’s grandmother comforts her prior to their flight from here.



Photos by Master Sgt. Randy L. Mitchell

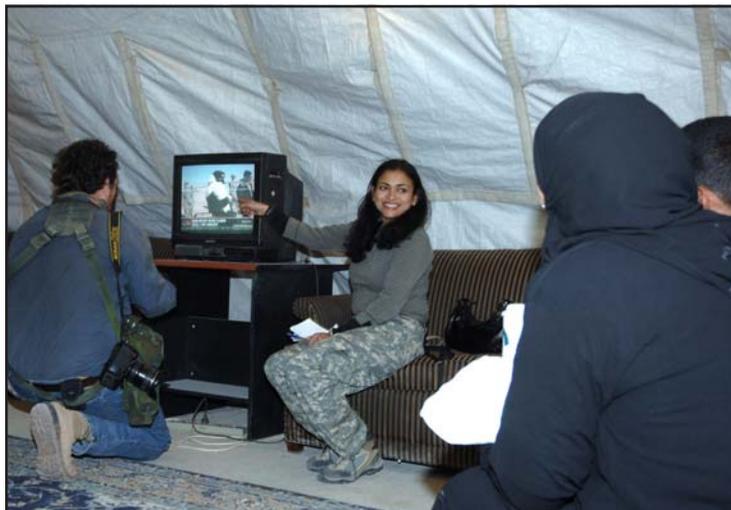
Capt. Robert Farkas, 447th ELRS Aerial Port Flight commander, trims an earplug to fit Baby Noor’s ears prior to her boarding a flight from here

“Our Passenger Services personnel immediately moved the family to the distinguished visitors lounge to provide privacy and comfort prior to loading,” said Captain Farkas. “The Aerial Port Flight is happy we could make a difference for this family and we all hope the surgery will have a positive outcome.”

According to published reports, Iraqi doctors had only given the baby 45 days to live when she was born, so when the soldiers arrived young Noor’s grandmother showed them the sick baby.

Because the soldiers took action to help, many of whom are parents themselves, Baby Noor is now bound for Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta, where the surgery will be performed at no cost to the family by Dr. Roger Hudgins, their chief of neurosurgery.

The grandmother, speaking through an interpreter, said she and the father were nervous about the flight to the United States, but were extremely grateful to the United States military for the opportunity this provides for her granddaughter.



Baby Noor’s father and grandmother watch a news report on themselves, with the media, while awaiting their flight. The grandmother said she was both excited and grateful for the opportunity her granddaughter has been given by the American media and military.

Feature

Security Force patrols are often tasked to secure the flightline during movement of distinguished visitors. They also keep an eye out for unauthorized activity on the flightline such as videotaping, photography and local or third country nationals unescorted.



Photos by Master Sgt. Randy L. Mitchell

Security Forces keep base, people safe and secure

By Master Sgt. Randy L. Mitchell

Chief, Public Affairs

They are the described as a command and control facility established by the base commander to serve as the focal point for base security and defense. But to most Airmen here, they are the reason we can sleep safely at night.

Technically, the Base Defense Operations Center plans, directs, integrates, coordinates, and controls all base defense efforts.

In layman's terms, the BDOC is responsible for monitoring alarms generated on the base perimeter and key facilities.

"We monitor the Tactical Automated Security Sensor system and dispatch patrols as needed," said Staff Sgt. Matthew J. Higgins, a TASS system operator with the 447th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron. "In most cases, we can monitor the area where the alarm was activated over the TASS system without dispatching a patrol."

The TASS system is a key component of BDOC's mission, according to Tech. Sgt. Trenton Chambers, a Security Forces radio-telephone operator and dispatcher in the BDOC.

"Our mission is similar to what a security forces controller would do at their home station," Sergeant Chambers said. "We act as the central security control and law enforcement desk for the base."

The system is fairly new and installation was recently completed by a team of contractors. The TASS system is so sensitive it recently alerted to a rocket attack and was able to trail the rocket

until impact – an event that occurred in less than a few seconds.

But the most visible part of BDOC is the patrols seen around base, particularly on the flightline.

"Flightline security is our most visible mission," said Sergeant Higgins. "Patrols often respond to secure the flightline during distinguished visitor missions, check out alarm activations and respond to secure the area during mortar or rocket attacks."

Most recently, the patrols have been kept busy with the many visiting dignitaries that have been transiting the base such as the vice president, secretary of defense and Iraqi president.

Providing assistance to Iraq's New Al Muthana Air Base has been both challenging and rewarding according to Sergeant Chambers.

"It is an awesome opportunity to be here watching the first post-war Iraqi air base take shape," he said. "But it brings unique challenges such as communication and jurisdiction. However, seeing the growth of democracy here first-hand has been a once-in-a-lifetime experience."



Staff Sgt. Christopher Akin and his partner "Laika" search a vehicle in support of Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld's recent visit. Security Forces patrols and dog handlers are often tasked by outside agencies, such as Secret Service and the Army's Criminal Investigative Division, to secure the flightline during movement of distinguished visitors.

Airman receives unexpected call Christmas Eve

By Master Sgt. Randy L. Mitchell

Chief, Public Affairs

An Airman here received an unexpected early Christmas surprise when she received a call from the commander-in-chief Christmas Eve.

Staff Sgt. Melina Russell, a security forces fire team leader, received that call at 3 p.m., when the White House switchboard put the president through to her.

She had learned Dec. 21 the commander-in-chief would be calling Christmas Eve to thank her for her service in Iraq.

"I thought it was a joke at first," Sergeant Russell said. "I didn't know my name had been submitted by my home unit."

As the day arrived and she was about to speak to President George W. Bush, Sergeant Russell fought past the nervousness as she picked up the phone.

"I was really nervous at first, but after hearing his voice I relaxed," Sergeant Russell said. "It was like talking to an old friend I hadn't heard from in a while."

The call lasted only about two minutes, but Sergeant Russell said it was a memory she would always cherish; especially since she was able to share it with her husband, Frank, also deployed here



Photo by Master Sgt. Randy L. Mitchell

Staff Sgt. Melina Russell talks with President George Bush Christmas Eve, as her husband, Frank, looks on.

from the 96th Security Forces Squadron at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla.

"I will never forget him asking about my daughter, Natalie; who is staying with my mother in El Paso, Texas, and sending my husband Staff Sgt. Frank Russell a hug," she said.

Mother, son reunite for Christmas

By Master Sgt. Randy L. Mitchell

Chief, Public Affairs

Some families go through a great deal to spend time with loved ones on Christmas, but rarely do they deploy to the desert to do so. One family did, however, and were able to spend this special holiday together in Baghdad.

Staff Sgt. Salvador Russo, a secure communications craftsman with the 447th Expeditionary Communications Squadron, received a special Christmas gift this year when his mother traveled from Tallil, Iraq to spend the holiday weekend with him here.

Sgt. First Class Ana Russo, who deployed to Tallil from Hanau, Germany, in November, had sought permission from her commander to spend Christmas with her son.

"I will be in Tallil for a year," she said. "So this is the best gift I could receive, to spend time with my son during his first deployment. It is also a special time of the year when most families share time together."

The two were hoping to share this Christmas with another family member, Ana's other son Robert, a senior airman assigned to the 55th Communications Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

"My other son, Robert, volunteered to come to Iraq," Ana said, "but his chain of command did not allow it because his brother and I would be deployed here at the same time too."

Ana is thankful for the opportunities she's had to spend the

holidays with her boys. Last Christmas, both sons visited her in Hanau for Christmas.

Sal said the time spent together last year was great, but nothing compared to this year.

"To me, to spend Christmas with my mother while deployed in Iraq is nothing short of an act of God," he said. "I am still amazed at the opportunity, and feel completely grateful to those who helped make it possible."

"The memories we make will last a lifetime. I wish all deployed members could have this wonderful luxury, and I hope that our unique story brings some sort of warmth and happiness to those around us," he said. "My girlfriend, Julia, and friends back in Germany have been a real source of strength to me during this deployment, but nothing tops having your mother with you at Christmas."



Courtesy photo



Striker Dining Facility Menu

Daily Breakfast Menu

Baked bacon/sausage patties
Creamed beef
Canadian bacon or ham slices
Onion&mushroom quiche
breakfast burrito
Assorted omeletes/eggs to order
Scrambled eggs/hard boiled eggs
Hash browns
Grits/Oatmeal
Waffles/French toast

Short Order Lunch/Dinner

Hamburger/Cheeseburger
Frankfurters
Grilled cheese
Egg rolls
Chicken tenders/Buffalo wings
Pizza/Tacos
Potato/Pasta bar
Baked beans
French fries/onion rings
Philly cheesesteaks

SATURDAY, Dec. 31

Lunch

Vegetarian vegetable soup
Caribbean chicken
Meatloaf
Spaghetti w/meat sauce
BBQ ribs

Dinner

Chicken cordon bleu
Beef & noodles
Fried fish
Baked ham

SUNDAY, Jan. 1

“Happy New Year”

Lunch

New England clam chowder
Roast beef
Baked fish
Veal Parmesan
Cornish game hens

Dinner

Smothered pork chops
Grilled sausage w/onions & peppers
Fried chicken
Baked fish
Ham hocks
BBQ Ribs
Savory bread dressing

Monday, Jan. 2

Lunch

Cream of mushroom soup
Rotisserie chicken
Italian-style veal steak
Salisbury steak

Dinner

Texas-style beef brisket
Turkey cutlet
Braised beef & Noodles
Fried chicken

Tuesday, Jan. 3

Lunch

Cream of broccoli soup
Yakisoba
Pulledpork BBQ
Caribbean chicken
Swiss steak w/mushrooms&onions

Dinner

Roast pork loin
Veal parmesan
Meatloaf
Parmesan Pollock fish

Wednesday, Jan. 4

Lunch

Chicken w/rice soup
Swedish meatballs
BBQ chicken
Corned beef
Honey-glazed ham
Buttered noodles

Dinner

Baked chicken
Grilled pork chops
Fish fillet
Roast beef

Thursday, Jan. 5

Lunch

Vegetarian vegetable soup
Roast turkey
Chicken pot pie
Braised beef
Roast pork ham

Dinner

Lasagna w/eggplant
Spaghetti w/meat sauce
Veal parmesan
Cheese manacotti
Fried chicken

Friday, Jan. 6

Lunch

New England clam chowder
T-bone steak
Lobster tails
Crab legs
Baked fish
Fried fish
Fried shrimp
Seafood gumbo
Fried chicken
Baked macaroni & cheese

Dinner

Salisbury steak
Bakedchicken
Glazed-baked ham
Italian veal
Steamed pasta (tri-color rotini)

Saturday, Jan. 7

Lunch

Bean w/bacon soup
Fried chicken
Pot roast
Lemon-baked fish
Roasted turkey

Dinner

Vealsteak
Salmon w/garlic sauce
Chicken Vega
Sweet & sour pork chops

Sunday, Jan. 8

Lunch

New England clam chowder
Glazed baked ham
Chili Mac
Meatloaf
Cornish game hens

Dinner

Smothered pork chops
Grilled sausage w/onions & peppers
Fried chicken
Baked fish
Ham hocks
BBQ Ribs
Savory bread dressing

Monday, Jan. 9

Lunch

Cream of mushroom soup
Pepper steak
Fried fish
Glazed pineapple-baked ham
Veal parmesan

Dinner

Fried chicken
Roast beef
BBQ pork
Spaghetti w/meat sauce

Tuesday, Jan. 10

Lunch

Cream of broccoli soup
Cantonese ribs
Baked chicken

Chili mac w/cheese
Pot roast

Dinner

Cajun catfish
Braised beef w/noodles
Breaded pork chops
Italian veal

Wednesday, Jan. 11

Lunch

Chicken w/rice soup
Lasagna w/eggplant parmesan
Veal parmesan
Spaghetti w/meat sauce
Cheese manacotti
Salmon w/garlic sauce

Dinner

Chicken curry
Roasted turkey
Salisbury steak
Honey glazed ham

Thursday, Jan. 12

Lunch

Bean w/bacon soup
Meatloaf
Fried chicken
Turkey pot pie
Herb-baked chicken

Dinner

Grilled chicken breast
Roast fresh ham
Veal parmesan
Swedish meatballs
Buttered linguini

Friday, Jan. 13

Lunch

New England clam chowder
T-bone steak
Lobster tails
Crab legs
Baked fish
Fried fish
Fried shrimp
Seafood gumbo
Fried chicken
Baked macaroni & cheese

Dinner

Baked chicken
El Rancho stew
Roast pork loin
Tuna Tetrazinni

Note: Rice and/or potatoes and a variety of vegetables are served with every meal.

Menu is subject to change without notice!

Chapel Activities

Song of Solomon Video Series

9-10 a.m., Saturdays, Victory Chapel

This is one of the hottest deployment video series of the past decade, and we now have new and improved the 10th Anniversary Edition.

Tommy Nelson, pastor of *Denton Bible Church* and teacher of the *Metro Bible Study* in Dallas, speaks frankly and humorously about one of the most neglected books in the Bible, the *Song of Solomon*, as well as some of the most ignored topics in the church today -- intimacy, sexuality and romance.

You will find this series refreshing and energizing. It is excellent for married people who want to strengthen their relationship with their spouse. It is also a great preparatory tool for people thinking about marriage or just dating.

Bottom line, don't miss out on this series. The material is designed for both individual and group study. Whether for singles, married couples, young or old, this study will be of great benefit.

"Romantic relationships affect everyone. Do we think that God has given us desire and passion without any instruction? Has God given us romance and tossed it like a grenade? Did He just say, 'play around with it until you figure it out?' No, He has given us an entire book that deals with all of this and more. It's called the Song of Solomon." -- Tommy Nelson

That the World May Know - Faith Lessons

7:30-9 p.m., Saturdays, Glass House Conference Room

Filmed on location in Israel, Faith Lessons is an in-depth video tour of the buried, distant or otherwise forgotten places where the stories of the Bible actually happened.

Creation vs. Evolution

4-5 p.m., Sundays, Victory Chapel

The chances are good that many people have already conceded to one view or the other, or maybe found themselves comfortable on the middle ground, saying something like, "the Creator used evolution."

The chances are also good they have not heard the science behind creationism. **This is one of the hot-button topics of our time**, and we have someone here extremely well-qualified to present the Creation view from a scientific perspective.

Lt. Col. (Dr.) Randy Guliuza, 447th Expeditionary Medical Squadron's chief of Aerospace Medicine, began his military career as a Navy engineer straight out of the South Dakota School of Mines, then received his M.S. in Public Health from Harvard as his interests began to change. When he asked Dr. Gish (of the Institution for Creation Research) how he could help in creation ministry, he was sent back to school for a doctorate, which he received from the University of Minnesota. His typical debate lecture follows Dr. Gish's big-issue format, stressing the lack of transitional forms in the fossil record, the laws of thermodynamics, and the impossibility of a naturalistic origin of life (as stated at www.icr.org). Dr. Guliuza will continue his lecture series over the next three weeks. A question and answer period is provided after each lecture.

Victory Chapel Worship Services

SATURDAY

4 p.m., Catholic Confession

4:30 p.m., Catholic Mass

8 p.m., **New Year's Eve Service**

SUNDAY

8 a.m., Traditional Protestant Service

10 a.m., Gospel Worship Service

2 p.m., LDS Service

3 p.m., Catholic Mass: Striker Chapel

7:30 a.m., Contemporary Protestant Service

MONDAY

8 p.m., Protestant Worship Service

Note: All worship services held at the Victory Chapel unless otherwise noted

Bible Discussion Fellowship

5-6 p.m., Mondays, Victory Chapel

This is an informal gathering for anyone wanting to attend and discuss various 'real life' issues and how the Bible provides guidance. It is an open forum where each person is encouraged to express their thoughts. Come out and enjoy some fellowship and lively discussion.

Wild at Heart - Men's Study

8-9 p.m., Tuesdays, Victory Chapel

In *Wild at Heart: Discovering a Life of Passion, Freedom, and Adventure*, John Eldredge throws down the gauntlet on why men are bored; they fear risk, they refuse to pay attention to their deepest desires.

He challenges Christian men to return to authentic masculinity without resorting to a "macho man" mentality.

Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World

Women's study opportunity

Have you ever felt that no matter how hard you try, it's never enough? Maybe it's time to follow Mary's example: leave the dishes in the sink and sit at Jesus' feet!

Through practical strategies and devotional illustrations, Joanna Weaver explains how "living room intimacy" with Christ is the key to successful "kitchen service" in the world. Updated with a new 12-week companion Bible study, Weaver's popular book shows women how to blend intimacy with Jesus with service for Him.

Ladies interested who would like more information, please contact SA Lauren Almond at 446-2465.

A time and location will be determined by response and interest.

If you have any questions or other religious or spiritual needs, please contact the chapel staff in the chapel office or call 446-2452.



Sizzlin' Hot Expeditionary Services

UPCOMING SERVICES EVENTS

Saturday, Dec. 31 - Services will host a **New Year's Eve Bash** beginning at 8 p.m. in the Glass House (see Page 14 for more details)

Saturday, Dec. 31 - All singers report to the Rec Tent for the **New Year's Eve Karaoke Contest** beginning at 8 p.m. A \$50 gift certificate will be given to 1st place winner and a \$25 gift certificate for 2nd place

Saturday, Jan. 14 - The next **5K Fun Run** will be held at 7:30 a.m. for all runners

Linen exchange has relocated behind the new Luis Laundry site, next to the Post Office. All linen must be dropped off prior to redeploying.



Unit tree decorating contest

Congratulations to the 447th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron for taking one for the team by downing enough near beer to get a field mouse drunk and taking home the \$50 gift certificate for most original tree -- the near beer tree!

Karaoke Contest New Year's Day at 2000

→ Sign up in the Rec Tent! ←



You can doo eet!



STAGE PRESENCE (10 POINTS)

- How comfortable did you seem on stage?
- Were you looking up at the ceiling or down at the floor the whole time?
- Did you sing to the entire audience?
- Did you know the songs you were singing?
- Did you have to look at the words?

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (10 POINTS)

- Did the audience like you?
- Did you put on a good show?
- Did they get into it and clap when you were done?
- Were they paying attention to you?

VOCAL PERFORMANCE (10 POINTS)

- How well did you sound?
- Did you sound like the person whose song you were doing?
- Did you make the song yours?



New Year's Eve Bash!



Food Served at 1930



Casino Games Starting at 2000

Karaoke Starting at 2230

Will it be your lucky night?

Happy New Year!

Roulette

Black Jack

Poker

Music

Food

Craps

Games of Chance!



\$2,000+ in Prizes!

