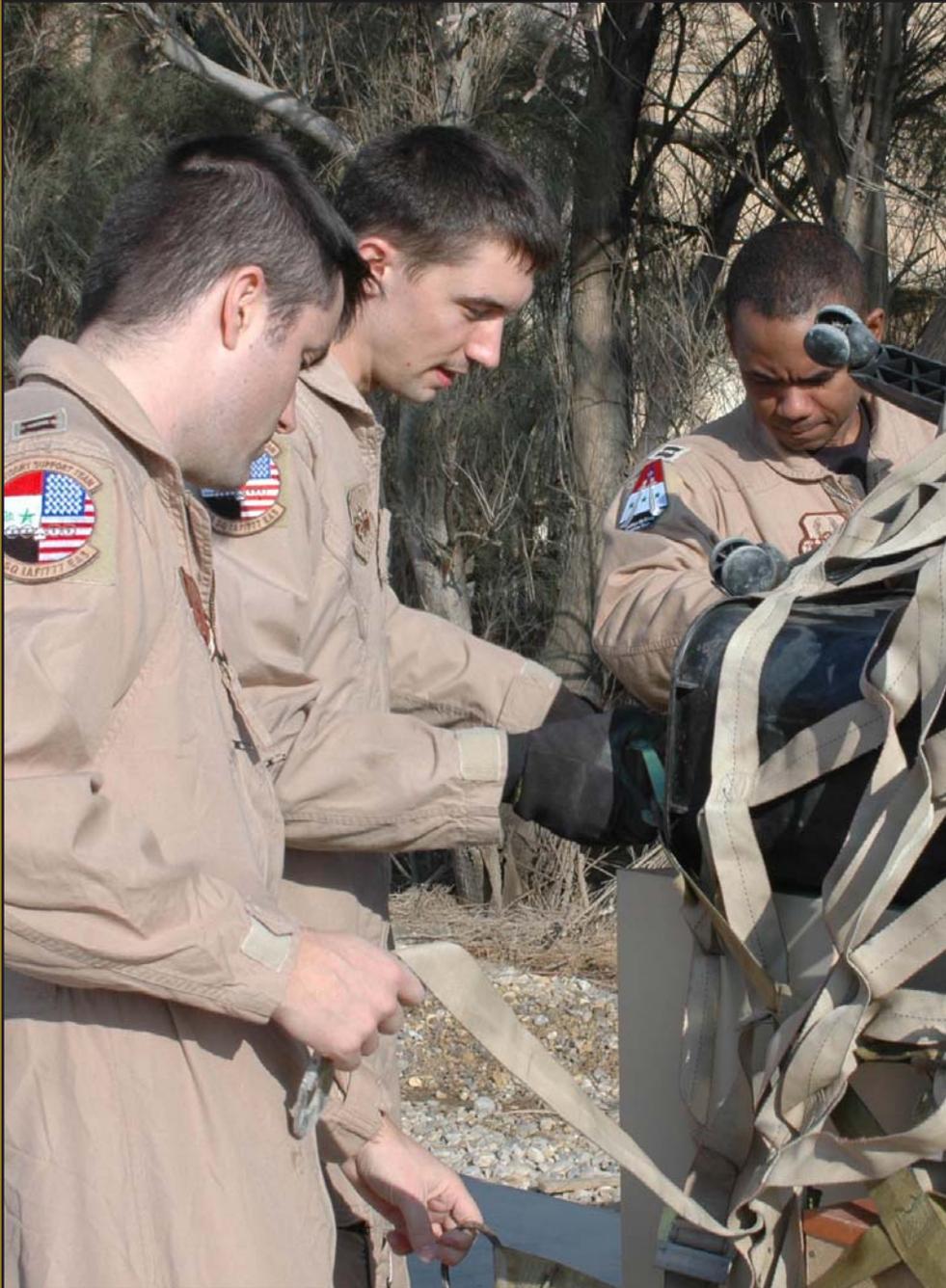




ALITIMES

February 3, 2006

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ALI TIMES

Vol. 4, Issue 5
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Front Page photo

Capt. Brian Dockter, Staff Sgt. Dominic Pecoraro and Capt. Charles Churchill, all of the 777th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron and trainers of the Iraqi Air Force Squadron 23, pack pallets for their move to New Ali Muthana Base, Iraq.

Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Jessica D'Aurizio

Team Ali...Proud to be on it!

By Colonel Kevin Kilb

407th Air Expeditionary Group Commander

Welcome to Ali Base and Team Ali...the jewel of Iraq! I am honored to be your commander and "coach" of the pick up team that is Air and Space Expeditionary Forces 9/10.

Every four months we rotate new Airmen in, while saying "Thank You" and "Well Done" to the previous AEF team. Only the United States Air Force can do what we do every four months...almost completely replace all our personnel...without missing a play.

I have been here since the start of the AEF 9/10 rotation and we are off to an excellent start. All the new commanders are in place and we are already accelerating.

Your successes so far have been nothing short of magnificent. From our Civil Engineering Squadron dealing with the effects of two inches of rain, power outages, and pulling an aircraft out of the mud on their fourth day...to the 777th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron "Dragons" completing the successful transfer of the Iraqi Air Force's 23d Squadron's move to their new home...we've already moved from a pick up team to a playoff team!

Although AEF 9/10 had little to do with the Iraqi training mission to date...we are Team Ali now...and are very proud of all they have done. We wish our new Iraqi friends good luck and safe travels.

Since hitting the ground we've revamped Right Start, re-energized the Foreign Object Damage program, and had our first exercise. Each and every one of you has jumped into your duty sections with enthusiasm and determination to make Ali a little better than we found it.

Our Civil Engineers Squadron is already working the drainage in Bedrock, the Operational Support Squadron is adjusting our airfield boundaries and Security Forces Squadron is improving the entry control complex to improve security.

Services has rolled out dodge ball and new fitness equipment at Muscle Beach,



Photo by Staff Sgt. Valerie Smith

Colonel Kevin Kilb

our Communicators are protecting our information and connecting us to everywhere, and the Logistics Readiness Squadron is moving 25+ missions a day while keeping every vehicle fueled and in the fight...wow! From PERSCO to Finance, Contracting, Safety, Public Affairs, Protocol, Command Post, Office of Special Investigations and the Chapel...we're just getting started. And as you have seen so far, we all have a role in defending the base.

There I said it...and as you heard me say a couple times at Right Start...we're going to Defend the Base, Sustain the Force and Take the Fight to Them! Each and every one of us has a vital role to play in all three...and we need each and every one to bring their "A-game" every day...it's that simple. If we take care of each other, stay flexible, work smart and safely...we will grow professionally and personally during our turn on Team Ali...and we will finish as world champions... I guarantee it!

The convoy must go off without a hitch

By Senior Master Sgt. Jessica D'Aurizio

407th Air Expeditionary Group Public Affairs

There was a solemn feeling during the roll call of the convoy members. Weapon serial numbers, blood types and combat life saver personnel numbers were confirmed. This was routine for most of the guys, but not for me. The last words from the Sergeant were, "Come back safe."

There were five vehicles in the convoy: two gun trucks, one in the lead and one in the rear, a couple of hummers and a fueling truck. The mission, get to the Euphrates River to perform some maintenance and refuel the water pumps that supply water to Ali Base, Iraq.

"The consumption of water for Ali Base is approximately 400,000 gallons per day," said Chief Master Sgt. Mike Bosse, the Noncommissioned Officer in Charge of the Department of Public Works at the base, who was working alongside the Army to keep the base supplied with the water.

This seemed like a safe enough venture outside of the wire; the travel time was only 30 minutes to the site at a speed of no more than 25-30 miles per hours. The slow speed was not unusual, because a lot of the



Photos by Senior Master Sgt. Jessica D'Aurizio

Specialist Gorman Martinez, 588th Maintenance Company electrician, sits in his hummer awaiting the "Rally Up" call for the departure of the convoy from Ali Base, Iraq, to the Euphrates River.

roads are so bad that it was painful to go much faster.

Everyone was required to wear their seatbelts, but this seemed trivial to me. Especially after we had been briefed that 13 convicts had escaped the day prior from An Nasiriyah and five were still on the loose.

We charged our weapons before departing the base and set out on a direct route to our destination. The convoy vehicles kept a few car lengths apart for safety reasons. Stop signs were invisible to the convoy; stopping was more unsafe. As we were trucking down the dirt roads there were goat and sheep herders tending their flocks, and children playing on the desolate landscape.

One child that I couldn't get out of my mind was a boy who as he spotted the convoy, quickly threw rocks at his dog. It had been resting in the middle of the road before the boy shooed him to safety. Maybe this stuck in my mind, because I'm called the "dog lady" back home, owning anywhere from four to six strays at a time. I really miss my dogs and wonder if they'll remember me when I return home.

The scenery was filled with these animals which makes one wonder what they consume to stay alive when all you could see was sand, rocks and dead looking shrubs.

"You'll see the land start to turn green as we



Chief Master Sgt. Mike Bosse, Department of Public Works noncommissioned officer in charge, show an Iraqi how to perform maintenance on the generator powering the water pumps. These pumps provide water from the Euphrates River, to Ali Base, Iraq.

Continued on page 6:

Convoy

There flys our friends, the brave ones



Photo by Staff Sgt. Bradley Church

Two Iraqi aircrew members in the cockpit of a C-130 after landing at Ali Base, Iraq, for the last time. The Iraqi Air Force Squadron 23 relocated to New Al Muthana Air Base, Iraq, the end of January.

By Senior Master Sgt. Jessica D'Aurizio

407th Air Expeditionary Group Public Affairs

Editors note: Iraqi Airmen photos do not include their faces and their names are not complete for the security of themselves and their families.

Wanted for the New Iraqi Air Force - The best and most honest pilots and maintainers that are not like Saddam Hussein. This was the criteria for anyone that wanted to be a part of the new Iraqi military and Squadron 23.

After the United States liberated Iraq in 2003, there was no Iraqi government and no Ministry of Defense. The United States gifted three C-130s to the Iraqi Air Force in January 2005. The aircraft and approximately 100 people, now make up the Iraqi Air Force, Squadron 23. These men are trained by the United States Air Force 777th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron at Ali Base, Iraq, to fly and maintain the C-130 on their own.

Their training has now moved to a higher level and the Squadron must relocate to a base closer to where their missions originate. New location, a small base

connected to Baghdad International Airport called New Al Muthana Air Base, Iraq.

According to Maj. Roger Redwood, 777 EAS Advisory Support Team Operation Flight commander, Ali Base, Iraq has supplied Squadron 23 with a good base structure, support from a sister USAF C-130 squadron, plenty of room, and a relatively safe environment to train. The first 100 percent Iraqi C-130 mission was flown from Ali Base in December 2005 to New Al Muthana Air Base.

"They have come a long way and now grasp the concept of teamwork," said Tech. Sgt. Charles Francks, a 777 EAS engine specialist and trainer of the Iraqi maintainers. "They now know the importance of using their skills to train their new people." Some of the Iraqi maintainers have almost reached the 7-skill level, which is a technician in the USAF. All the new Airmen have not been in the training program for the entire year; some came a little later in the program.

"I have lived and worked side-by-side with Squadron

Continued on page 8:

Friends

Slip sliding away...into the mud

By Chief Master Sgt. Bill LaPointe

407th Expeditionary Civil Engineers Squadron

Just a few minutes after the warning came from the big voice, the skies opened up and huge rain drops beat the tents with incredible volume.

The day started early for our new rotation (Air and Space Expeditionary Forces 9/10) of engineers with an announcement that lightening was in the area about 5 a.m., January 25.

It didn't take long for the mud to appear, the power to go out, and the engineers to get to work. By 6:30 a.m. the calls were pouring into work control and the problems quickly overran the manpower.

By noon most of the immediate issues had been resolved and we were catching up to the drainage problems. It was quite a launch to AEF 9/10 that blended those leaving shortly (AEF 7/8) with those just getting here.

Just as we thought things were calming down, the fire department was called to the airfield for a Romanian airliner that overran the end of the runway. It passed the runway by about 500 feet and with a 30 degree skew before it came to rest in about a foot of mud!

Senior Master Sgt. Randy Eppley, 407th Expeditionary Civil Engineers Squadron Fire Chief, called for assistance from Master Sgt. Pat Obrien, 407 ECES horizontal shop. They responded with about 20 pieces of matting to try and de-plane the passengers.

At that point, the crews pitched in to lay the mats from the end of the pavement to the passenger door. They were followed by a grateful group of passengers de-planing across the mats to a waiting bus.

"We were lucky there were no injuries," said Maj. Tom Emmolo, 407th Air Expeditionary Group Chief of Safety. "Everyone got out safely,



Photo by Maj. Tom Emmolo

Members of the 407th Air Expeditionary Group help to deplane Romanians from an aircraft that slid off the end of the runway at Ali Base, Iraq.

but the question was how do you get such a large jet out of the mud?"

We decided to move the mud and try to expose the dry hard surface underneath. Technical Sgt. Darcy Spence and Staff Sgt. Luke Boudereau, both from the 407 ECES, arrived on the scene with a huge front-end loader and a grader. They started diagonally pushing the mud to the side and then leveling it low enough for the wings to clear as it was towed back to the pavement.

The heavy equipment moved the bulk of the mud, but the equipment could not reach directly under the plane. Teams from all over the base jumped in, grabbed shovels, and moved the remaining mud by hand.

Engineers from the carpenter shop and entomology, the airfield management office, aircraft

maintenance, even the flight crew, shoveled together. They would fall in the deep mud, get up and shovel some more until there was a hard path back to the pavement.

The Army showed up with a tank recovery vehicle, but the decision was made to first try getting it out with a wrecker from the Logistics Readiness Squadron. The Aerospace Ground Equipment shop brought out light carts and the electricians disconnected the runway lights to allow the plane to be towed back without damaging the airfield lighting.

Finally the nose wheel straightened as the slings tightened and the huge wrecker managed to slowly pull the plane back to the pavement. A quick bath by the fire

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Mud

Convoy

from page 3.....



Specialists Gorman Martinez and Vernon Reynolds, 588th Maintenance Company electricians, perform an oil change and electrical maintenance on the generator powering the water pumps that provide water from the Euphrates River, to Ali Base, Iraq, while a local Iraqi shows interest in learning all he can about the system.

get closer to the river,” said Chief Bosse. It was true. A mile or so before reaching the Euphrates, there were irrigation systems where farmers were once again working the land for food.

The Chief informed me that this area was once a very prosperous area before Saddam Hussein rerouted the river and dried up the wetland to create a military installation in the area, which is now known as Ali Base.

Approaching the river, the pumps could not be missed; there were locals busy tending them. It seemed like a family affair, children were playing everywhere. What looked like the leaders of the community were standing around talking, as a few performed small duties on the pumps. They didn’t have the technical knowledge, but they did know how to prime the pump, get them running, and other small details.

They were a friendly group of people. Some even came over from the mud huts, across the river, by boats. The local pump keepers were curious and

wanted to help so they could learn as much as they could about the system. That seemed only natural since they would be here long after we departed Iraq.

“The water that leaves the river goes through canals before it actually reaches the lift stations that bring it onto the base,” said Chief Bosse. “These are the canals that the farmers actually get water from and use to grow their crops.” The pumping stations were already in place before the U. S. military arrived at Ali Base, being used for this specific reason.

“The pumps are old and some don’t even work,” said Specialists Vernon Reynolds and Gorman Martinez, the two specialists that perform electrical and generator repairs on the pump systems. They both do maintenance every week or so on the systems to keep the base supplied with water.

“Even though this is a small part of our mission, it is probably the most important part,” said Chief Bosse.

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Convoy

Between you and the enemy...Alpha Flight

By 2Lt. Brad Woehrlen & Master Sgt. Colleen Ingram

407th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, Alpha Flight



Photos by Staff Sgt. Bradley Church

Senior Airman Celia Storts, 407 ESFS, Alpha Flight, stands guard at an entry control point to the flightline at Ali Base, Iraq.

The security mission of Ali Base/ Camp Adder is unique. It encompasses many elements and requires unparalleled cooperation with different joint units. All security forces rely on each other to secure the base and the more than 8,000 soldiers, sailors, airmen and coalition forces that reside here.

Defense in depth is the premise which the 407th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron operates, and each flight, squad, and member plays an important role in defending the base. Alpha sector is responsible for security operations inside the wire. The Alpha Sector security forces are set up to detect,

delay, and destroy all enemy threats prior to reaching Air Force and coalition assets.

Security of all the aircraft on the flight line is half of the mission of Alpha flight. Our forces are posted on both of the aircraft parking ramps. On the transient ramp our job is to ensure the security and safety of the transient aircraft, and coalition forces that fly into and out of Ali Base. Additionally, we provide security for sister service aircraft that call Ali Base home.

During our deployment, we have had the opportunity to provide security for the historic Iraqi parliamentary tally sheets, the Vice President of Iraq, the Romanian President, our own Secretary of the Air Force and numerous other high ranking officials. Recently, we were one of the first on scene when the Romanian aircraft slid off the runway. Our job was to establish a cordon and assist other agencies until the passengers could be safely offloaded.

The aircraft ramp is home to U.S. C-130 aircraft and up until earlier this week the home of the first Air Force Iraqi C-130 Squadron 23. To ensure the best possible protection is afforded to those aircraft, we implement a number of

random anti-terrorism measures everyday. However, aircraft security is only part of how Alpha flight contributes to base defense.

Another responsibility which falls on Alpha sector is perimeter defense. The perimeter of the base stretches for miles and requires the utmost vigilance. Therefore, on the perimeter itself there are a number of patrols which stay mobile around the base, watching and listening to everything that happens outside the wire. These patrols are the first line of defense if anyone tries to come through the perimeter.

One of the most unique factors about this security is that the U.S. Air Force works hand-in-hand with the U.S. Army to coordinate this defense. Alpha sector is supplemented with Army troops who work along side Air Force security forces members.

When asked about working together with the Air Force, Private First Class Antonio Reed from Ft. Lewis, Wash., one of the soldiers assigned to my night shift, said "this is the first time I've ever worked with the Air Force. It's interesting to learn about people who are in

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Enemy



Airman First Class Gherjuaen Robinson with the 407th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, Alpha flight, guards an entry control point on Ali Air Base, Iraq.

Friends

from page 4.....



Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Jessica D'Aurizio

An Iraqi Airman and Maj. Gerald McCray, 777 EAS Maintenance officer removes the welcome sign that was placed upon the arrival of Iraqi Air Force Squadron 23, in January 2005.

23 Iraqi Airmen for the past year,” said Lt. Col. Mike Bauer, 777 EAS commander. “I call many my friend, or brother to use their term. I listen as they talk about family, their home towns, and Iraq.” They are similar to every flyer he has ever met: they love to fly, want to be the best, like to joke with each other, and try to get out of any work that does not involve flying.

“All the crews had flown before in the previous Iraqi Air Force,” said Colonel Samir, Squadron 23 commander. His experience was with Russian, European, French and American aircraft. He says that the Americans have made us good on the C-130 and it is now easy to fly. The 777 EAS is made up of established U.S. C-130 operations and maintenance instructors and technicians with all the required specialties.

According to Colonel Bauer, their (the Iraqis) abilities came from years of experience in Russian or distinguished visitor transport aircraft and their flight

times vary from 1,000 to 3,500 hours.

“Despite a language barrier...they are very capable and on the verge of becoming an independent C-130 squadron after only one year of training in a combat zone,” said Colonel Bauer. “During this time, I have gained a profound respect for their abilities, sacrifices, patriotism and determination.” These Iraqi Airmen have faced many battles to be a part of their country’s new Air Force. Some have had to relocate their families to other cities and even other countries to keep them safe. Some have remained in service even after receiving death threats.

“From the first, our people are heroes because we are not stable as a proper country or Air Force,” said Colonel Samir. “Before, the terrorists were strong because we did not have security. One of our men even had his house machine-gunned. They want to be a part of the Iraqi Air Force, and they are not afraid. This is why I call them heroes.”

“What sets the Iraqi Airmen apart, and amazes me today, is their ability to remain dedicated despite the risks to their families,” said Colonel Bauer. “They have trained at Ali Base for weeks at a time, learning how to fly or maintain their new C-130 weapon system in a foreign language, while their families are left at home in cities across Iraq.” There is no base housing for the Iraqi Air Force like the United States provides its’ families.

“They (their families) are simply left to the chaos and dangers that is everyday life in Iraq without a father

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Friends

Convoy

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“But if something were to happen to this water supply, we do have a backup plan.” Once the water reaches the base it is stored in two large lakes and made potable for usage.

When the maintenance was complete, the pumps had to be

primed. A local man jumped into where the pipes drained into the canal and started throwing buckets of water down the pipes to prime the pumps. It was only moments until both pumps were gushing water and quickly filling the canals.

A few of the convoy personnel

were talking to the children. One was even playing marbles with one of the boys as best he could while wearing his heavy body armor. After the fuel tanks that ran the pumps had been filled, the call “Rally Up” was made and it was time to head back to base.



Mud

from page 5.....

department and a reconnection of the runway lights put the situation under control about 9:30 p.m.

“This was a great test of the 407 AEG mishap response plan,” said Major Emmolo. “We basically did a major accident response exercise without the exercise; in less than 11

hours we had the airfield open for business.”

It’s been said, “The worst of times can be the best of times.” In this case, what could have been a real disaster turned into a remarkable team effort.

A large cross section of

professionals launched this AEF rotation off with confidence to do anything...Together!

Editor’s Note: The Romanian Airliner safely departed Ali Base, Iraq, after two days of cleaning and post maintenance inspections.

Friends

from page 8.....

or in many cases a grandfather to take care of family business, said Colonel Bauer. “During the past year, several Iraqi Airmen have lost family members as the result of direct targeting by insurgents or...being at the wrong place at the wrong time.”

“Their wives and children are risking death by simply going to the market, a mosque or gathering with friends for a festival. For me, it is sometimes difficult to concentrate when my kids are sick or have problems. These incredible men continue to train, stand-up their squadron, and accept the risk to themselves and their families for a better future.”

He continues that they are immediately labeled the enemy for working with coalition forces. Still, they came back believing they can make a difference in building a better Iraq, a better Iraqi Air Force, and provide greater opportunities for their families.

“They are true patriots and I relate to their sense of duty and understand what it means to risk your life for something you believe in,” said Colonel Bauer. The Iraqi Air Force now flies its own missions, maintains its own aircraft and continues to learn a new airframe unlike any they have had in the past. The training phase is scheduled to go through May of this year.

“We have new challenges ahead with the new aircraft, but I embrace the challenge,” said Major Laith, a Squadron 23 Maintenance officer who has been in the Iraqi Air Force since 1988. “There are new maintenance procedures. It is new, but very exciting to have the new aircraft...we want to build a new Iraqi Air Force to protect our country.” These Airmen stress that they understand the instability of Baghdad, but also realize the move will place them closer to their families. They know they took a risk when returning to the Iraqi Air Force, not only for themselves but also their families. Even with the risks recruitment numbers continue to grow.

“The process (approval of new recruits) is slow because of the paperwork that has to be filed with the Ministry of Defense, but there are many people interested,” said Major Laith. This process must not

only insure the abilities of the new personnel, but also the integrity of the person.

Colonel Bauer adds that their commander, Colonel Samir, has overcome incredible challenges to build the jewel of the Iraqi Air Force. He has kept his squadron intact, his Airmen focused and built a capable force. His squadron has flown the highest dignitaries in Iraq and the U.S., to include the Iraq Prime Minister and the U.S. Ambassador. They have flown across the Middle East and Europe— each time proudly displaying the Iraqi Flag on the tail of their C-130.

They were a part of history, moving election workers and observers for the Constitutional Referendum and first free Iraqi elections in 30 years. As a military force, they delivered Iraqi Commandos into Northern Iraq to conduct a ground offensive against insurgent forces.

As a humanitarian force, they transported a child and his mother on the first leg of their journey to the United States to receive heart surgery. They have provided Iraq with an independent capability to transport and sustain their military forces, and become an important sign of progress in post-war Iraq, according to Colonel Bauer.

New Al Muthana is the first post-Saddam Iraqi Air Force Base and the Iraqis are in the process of training their own air traffic controllers, medical personnel and security forces to support the base. They have safety personnel that have transitioned over from the previous Iraqi Air Force and will have their own base support contractors. All of the other bases are currently supported by coalition forces.

According to Major Redwood, we (the 777 EAS) are trying to push some of the training requirements over to the Iraqi Squadron so they become more self-sufficient...do their own air traffic control duties, safety, security, etc., to complete the flying mission 100 percent on their own at the new location.

The Americans are our friends; they help us to rebuild our Air Force and make our squadron look like an American squadron. We are like brothers, because we work together, says Colonel Samir.

Enemy

from page 7.....

similar situations from different branches of service.” The Army personnel who come to support the base defense mission are not Military Police, they come from different career fields in the Army, such as truck drivers and refueling operations.

When the Army shows up, they think they are just going to be conducting guard duty, and most are surprised to learn that there is a lot that goes into security. They are required to go through a supplemental training course to become knowledgeable on security forces operations. “Every day I learn something new about the Air Force Security Forces job, and something new from what I normally do in the Army” explained PFC Miguel Veloz, also from Ft. Lewis. The training is fairly substantial and requires attention to many different details at once.

Additionally, Alpha Sector stands ready to respond whenever unexploded ordnances or suspicious packages are found. We work side-by-side with our Law and Order counterparts to establish cordon security and conduct necessary evacuations until the Explosive Ordnance Disposal team can respond and take care of business.

Alpha sector also has a number of responsibilities in the Combined Defense Operations Center. One of the main jobs is for controllers to monitor and dispatch patrols to a number of different assessments and incidents on base. The Tactical Automated Sensor System operators monitor the alarms around the base and the radio-telephone operators paint a picture of the battlefield to help commanders make effective decisions.

Base security is a big job, and takes some of the best troops in key positions, to make sure the mission gets accomplished. When asked about working in Alpha Sector, Staff Sgt. Steven Risinger, Dyess AFB, Texas said, “There is a lot of diversity in the job, you



Photos by Staff Sgt. Bradley Church

Specialist Brandon Vaughan a part of the Quick Reaction Force, working with the 407th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, Fox Unit, scans over the interior perimeter of Ali Air Base.

could be working flight line security one day, and with an Army partner the next”. Their efforts make it possible for the entire base to operate without incidents occurring which would damage or delay their mission. It is those Soldiers and Airmen who are the eyes, ears, and overall protection of the base, standing between us and the enemy. All of their individual efforts come together as a team when any incident occurs.

Alpha Sector is one layer in the defense of the base. Bravo sector, which operates outside the wire, and Echo Sector, which operates the main gate, are other integral aspects of base defense. All sectors play a key role in defending the base and all sectors work together to ensure safe mission accomplishment. When asked about the job, Staff Sgt. Jimmy Tran, Nellis AFB, Nev. said, “you could have all the Security Forces here that you wanted, but when it comes to base defense, we are all in this together”.



Private First Class Chris Odom a part of the Quick Reaction Force, working with the 407th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, Fox Unit, patrols the interior perimeter of Ali Air Base, Iraq.

Maintaining a healthy lifestyle



Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Jessica D'Aurizio

Introducing the new Chaplain staff: Protestant Chaplain (Capt.) Carl Phillips, Protestant Chaplain, Chaplains Assistant, Technical Sgt. Nicole Nixon, and Catholic Chaplain (Maj.) Larry Bailey.

By Chaplain (Maj.) James Bailey

407th Air Expeditionary Group Chaplain

How well did you perform on your last physical training test? Everyone in the Air Force has a quick answer to the question. Getting in good physical condition and maintaining good physical condition is vital to sustaining the force. Being in good physical condition is only one attribute of maintaining a healthy life style; there are others.

One of the other attributes of maintaining a healthy life style is spiritual fitness. There is no test for determining if one is spiritually fit. There is no requirement in the Air Force for a person to be spiritually fit. Spiritual fitness is something a person freely chooses to attain and maintain.

Spiritual fitness is an attribute that some believe is just as vital to sustaining the force as physical fitness. The ancient Greek civilization produced many philosophers whose teachings focused on the relationship and inter-relationship of both the physical and spiritual aspects of the human person.

Philosophers of ancient Rome also wrote of the emotional and physical stability of those who maintained equilibrium between the physical and the spiritual.

If the ancient philosophers of both civilizations were to walk through Ali Base today what would they think as they glimpsed the likes of Muscle Beach and the Oasis of Peace Chapel located side by side?

Editors Note: The Oasis of Peace Chapel services have changed. Please look at the updated services and time on page 19 of this issue of the Ali Times for the most current information.

Do you know who your 1st Sergeant is?



Photo by Staff Sgt. Bradley Church

Air Expeditionary Group First Sergeants Left to Right: Senior Master Sgt. Troy Hammond, Expeditionary Operational Support Squadron, Master Sgt. Pamela Wilkins-Smith, Air Expeditionary Group, Master Sgt. Greg McCabe, Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, Master Sgt. Daryl Burley, 727th Expeditionary Air Control Squadron, Master Sgt. Benjamin Goss, 777th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron, Master Sgt. Michael Jennings, Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron, Master Sgt. Brian White, Expeditionary Communication Squadron, Master Sgt. Vernice Belin, Expeditionary Services Squadron, and Master Sgt. David Bartley, Expeditionary Civil Engineers Squadron.

Do you know what your 1st Sergeant can do for you?

By Master Sgt. Benjamin Goss

777th Expeditionary Air Squadron first sergeant

Here are a few of the things that your first sergeant can do for you during your stay at Ali Base.

- If you have an emergency notification through the Red Cross, he is the one to get the call. Upon that notification, he contacts you and ensures that you get out of here on emergency leave, if necessary.
- Any issues that you may have good, or bad, he is your point of contact to help with the resolutions. This includes tent problems.
- He/She also works closely with all agencies on base to ensure they are taking care of all troops in a timely and efficient manner.
- A first sergeant ensures the health, moral, and welfare of the squadron they are assigned stays

high.

-The first sergeant is on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to handle all of the above.

"The first sergeants are the glue that holds things together," said Chief Master Sgt. Chuck Crisler, 407th Air Expeditionary Group, Command Chief. "They are the unsung heroes."

As the vital link between the commander, enlisted personnel, and support agencies, the first sergeant must ensure the enlisted force understands the commander's policies, goals, and objectives, and that support agencies are responsive to the needs of unit personnel.

Third Country National Escort - eyes wide open

Senior Airman Chris Sembroski, 407th Air Expeditionary Group Force Protection, is on the job at a TCN escort. He has the opportunity to get acquainted with a variety of individuals. Airman Sembroski has even learned a little bit of Turkish and Arabic since he arrived a little over two weeks ago. He says that he likes his job best when it is boring because when it is not that means there are problems. On this occasion he is with contractors that are installing barriers around the Group headquarters building on January 30.



Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Jessica D'Aurizio

CSAs can be your best friends

Client Support Administrators, formerly known as Workgroup Managers or WGMs, are your link to the 407th Expeditionary Communications Squadron.

CSAs work in functional activities around the base and are considered the first line of defense if you're having network/computer trouble.

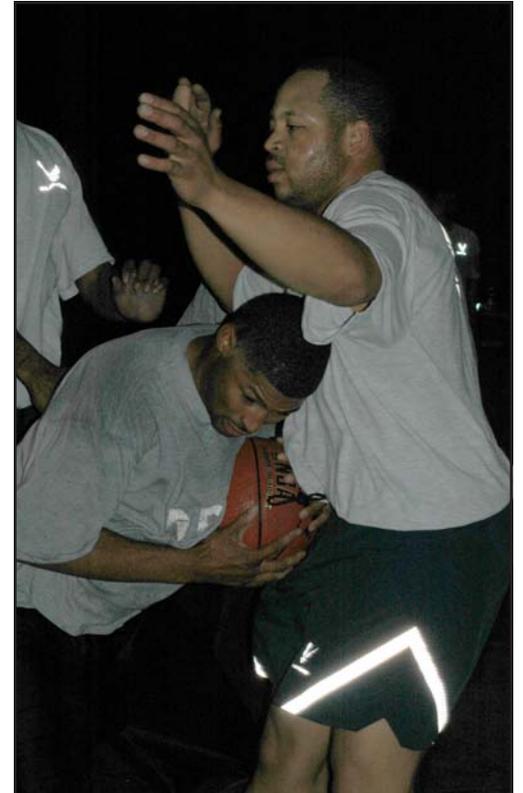
CSAs are the liaison between the units they're assigned to and the local communications activity to resolve most communication related issues. The following is a list of CSAs on Ali Base and where they are assigned.

SFS	Technical Sgt. Tracie Daniel	CCS	445-2070
OSS	Staff Sgt. Kenisea Wiley	CCA	445-2452
		OSW	445-2064
		IN	445-2710
		Det 2	445-2695/2153
CEC	Staff Sgt. Kirk Rider	CSA	445-2116
	Staff Sgt. Brannon Soter	CEF	445-2259
	Staff Sgt. Carlos Gupton	CEF	445-2259
	Senior Airman Joshua Ignash	CEX	445-2603
	Technical Sgt. Krisah Herron	CED	445-2212
	Senior Airman Daniel Solon	CED	445-2116
HC	Technical Sgt. Nicole Nixon	HC	445-2006
AFOSI	Master Sgt. Raymond Henry	AFOSI	445-2148
	Senior Airman Kristian Gripp	AFOSI	445-2457
777	Staff Sgt. Jeanette Wackens	OPS/ASP	445-2501
	Staff Sgt. Shane Christe	MX	445-2127
		EAS	445-2161/2549
		EAMXS	445-2130
Army	Sgt. Rodrigo Gonzalez	528 QM FARP	445-8100
	Sgt. Dominic Williams	528 QM FARP	445-8100
	Staff Sgt. Darrell Ross	MNFI/Tallil/CCO	495-0673
	2 Lt Vincent Fusca	C/3-126 (Air Ambulance)	445-2546
	Spc. Benjamin Whitten	C/3-126 (Air Ambulance)	445-2720
Navy	IS2 Clora Kwo	VP-47	445-2295
	IT1 James Terry	FMP MOCC	445-2374
192	Master Sgt. Shari Kinsley	CSA	445-2584

407th Expeditionary Communications Squadron wins 3 on 3 basketball competition



Top: Johnathan Williams, Benjamin Puryear, Lavarr Walker and Alexander Ridenoure, all of the 407 ECS, as they get their winning shirts for taking First Place in the Ali Base 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament, Jan. 26. Second Place went to the 588th Army Maintenance Squad. Bottom left: Johnathan Williams after he made one of the shots that made his team No. 1. Bottom right: Neville Simpson, 588 Army Maintenance Squad pushed to the basket as he is guarded by Johnathan Williams. (Photos by Senior Master Sgt. Jessica D'Aurizio)



Camp Adder presents the Dodge Ball Champs



Courtesy Photo

A Dodge Ball Tournament was held on Jan. 29. The winners were the 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team/Lightning. Players are (left to right) Aaron Titus, Jean-Paul Laurenceau, Bryan Chavers, Marshall Rich, Joe Hoffman, Skip Groth, and in front, Coach David Hunter.



Pumping Iron

A Bench Press competition was held at Muscle Beach, Jan.3, resulting in two winners at Ali Base, Iraq. Left to Right: Second Place went to Ian Campbell, 407th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, and First Place went to Levi Johnson, Headquarters Detachment, 485th Corps Support Battalion. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Adrienne Mimms)

Working out is hard to do



Top left: Senior Master Sgt. Brad Paslay, 407th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, works out on the Elliptical machine at Muscle Beach gym. Top right: Staff Sgt. Zach Terry, 407th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron, does leg presses at Muscle Beach gym. Bottom: Senior Airman Amanda Pardini adjusts the setup machine for Technical Sgt. Jake Bolton, both of 407 SFS, at Muscle Beach gym. (Photos by Senior Master Sgt. Jessica D'Aurizio)



February Awards and Promotions

Airman of the Month

Airman First Class **Michael Gers**, 407 EOSS

NCO of the Month

Tech. Sgt. **Jayson Vincent**, 407 EOSS

Senior NCO of the Month

Master Sgt. **Colleen Ingram**, 407 ESFS

Company Grade Officer of the Month

1st Lt **John Rose**, 407 ESFS

Sharp Saber Team Award

**777th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron
Maintenance Team**

90 percent or higher in the completion of
Career Development end of course:

Senior Airman **Brian Mittelback**, 777 EAS
(92%)

Airman 1st Class **Roger Iversen**, 777 EAS
(92%)



Photo by Staff Sgt. Valerie Smith

Senior Airman James Cole

Promotions

To Airman 1st Class:

Matthew Roherty, 407 ESFS
Stephano Picchiatti, 407 ESFS
Justin Betts, 407 ECS

To Senior Airman:

James Cole, 407 ECS
Melissa Curry, 407 ECS
Joshua Elliott, 407 ESFS
Michael Haas, 407 ESFS
Brian Kasper, 407 ESFS

To Staff Sergeant:

Bradley Ponto, 407 ELRS
Brian Reed, 407 ELRS
Runnymoky Kilafwasru, 407 ELRS
Justin Click, 777 EAS

Jesus Samaniego, 777 EAS
Lee Doolen, 407 ECS

Brendan McDonald, 407 ESFS
Martin Tyler, 407 ESFS

To Technical Sergeant:

Benjamin Heim, 407 ECS
Richard Orwig, 407 ESFS
Cheri Reyes, 407 AEG

To Master Sergeant:

Vernice Belin, 407 ESVS



Airman 1st Class Justin Betts

Identify This

Do you know what this is?



If you can identify the object, e-mail the paper at Ali.Times@tlab.centaf.af.mil with "Identify This" in the subject block by 3 p.m. Thursday Feb. 9. All correct entries will be placed in a box and three winners will be randomly selected at Combat Bingo (at the Big Top) at 7:30 p.m., Friday Feb 10. Participants do not have to attend bingo to win. Winners will receive a complimentary T-shirt or coin from the 407th Expeditionary Services Squadron. There were only three correct responses identifying the butt can lid for the Jan. 20 *Ali Times*: [Master Sgts. Rufus Love](#), 777th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron and [James Lachapelle](#), 777 EAS and [Staff Sgt. Arthur Mathews](#), 407th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron.

Body Mass Index Surveys are now available at Muscle Beach

BMI Surveys are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, at Muscle Beach Fitness Center.

If you make your BMI during your physical fitness testing, each year, you now receive the full 30 points toward your overall score.

Muscle Beach personnel will measure you, give you the results, and help you set up a program to reach your goal.

407th AEG

Warrior of the Week



Staff Sgt. Nathan E. Faltisco

Unit: 407th Air Expeditionary Group/Personnel Support for Contingency Operations

Duty title: Personnelist

Home station: 88th Communications Group, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio

Why other warriors say he's a warrior: "Sergeant Faltisco is my star systems operator. He manually processed 282 departures, 187 arrivals, 20 unfilled requirements requests, and six date required in-place extensions requests. He reports daily accountability and duty status change statistics to the Group, Wing and CENTAF. He constructed table and shelving self-help projects and is the Focus 5/6 interim treasurer."

- Capt. Merrell D. Mobley, PERSCO Team Chief, 407AEG

Most memorable Air Force experience: "So far it has been my deployment to Kirkuk last rotation. I feel all the experience I gained during that deployment is paying off now."

Hobbies: Firebirds and guitars

Notes about my family: "My wife and son have been very supportive throughout my deployments, and I can't wait to be with them again."

Serenity in the sand

faith-based services schedule

Worship is at the 407th Air Expeditionary Group **Oasis of Peace** chapel, and at the Army Post Chapel. The *Oasis* is open 24 hours a day for prayer and reflection.

For details on worship opportunities, or directions to worship locations, please call 445-2006.

- Oasis = Air Force Chapel/Bedrock
- OA = Oasis Annex
- ARAC = Army Religious Activity Center
- APC = Army Post Chapel
- TCN = Third Country Nationalist living area by DFAC
- CC = Camp Cedar

FRIDAY

- 1 p.m., Muslim prayer/ service: (TCN)
- 6 p.m., Roman Catholic Mass: Oasis
- 6:30 p.m., Jewish Service: ARAC
- 7:30 p.m., Gospel choir rehearsal: APC
- 8:30 p.m., Ladies Fellowship: Oasis

SATURDAY

- 6 p.m., Catholic Vigil Mass: Oasis

SUNDAY

- 7:30 a.m., Traditional Protestant Service: APC
- 8 a.m., Roman Catholic Mass: Oasis
- 9:30 a.m., Traditional Protestant Service: Oasis
- 10 a.m., Latter Day Saints Service: ARAC
- 10:30 a.m., Roman Catholic Mass: CC
- 10:30 a.m. Church of Christ: ARAC
- 1 p.m., Gospel Service: APC
- 7 p.m., Contemporary Worship Service: Oasis

MONDAY

- 6 p.m., Roman Catholic Mass: Oasis
- 7:30 p.m., Discipleship Bible study: Oasis
- 7:30 p.m., Gospel choir Rehearsal: APC

TUESDAY

- 6 p.m., Roman Catholic Mass: Oasis
- 7:30 p.m., Work of Faith Bible Study: APC
- 8 p.m., Catholic RCIA: Oasis Annex
- 8 p.m., Contemporary Worship Rehearsal: Oasis

WEDNESDAY

- 6 p.m., Roman Catholic Mass: Oasis
- 7 p.m., Catholic choir Practice: Oasis
- 7 p.m., Spanish Bible Study: ARAC;
- 7 p.m., Women's Bible Study: Army Hospital
- 7:30 p.m., Protestant Worship Service: APC

THURSDAY

- 6 p.m., Roman Catholic Mass: Oasis
- 6:30 p.m., Ladies Bible Study: ARAC
- 7:30 p.m., Relationship Study: Oasis Annex
- 7:30 p.m., Mens Bible Study: APC

CRICKET MOVIE THEATER

at the Hot Spot

Today's times and movie descriptions for the week

Constantine (2005), 1 a.m., Keanu Reeves, action/drama/fantasy/horror/ thriller; **Be Cool** (2005), 3 a.m., John Travolta, Uma Thurman, comedy/crim/music; **Batman Returns** (1992), 5 a.m., Michael Keaton, action/crime/fantasy/romance/thriller; **A Cinderella Story** (2004), 7 a.m., Hilary Duff, Jennifer Coolidge, comedy/family/romance; **Elektra** (2005), 9 a.m., Jennifer Garner, Goran Visnjic, action/adventure/crime/fantasy/thriller; **Pearl Harbor** (2001), noon, Ben Affleck, Josh Hartnett, action/drama/history/romance/war; **The Tuxedo** (2002), 3 p.m. Jacki Chan, Jennifer Love Hewitt, action/sci-fi/comedy; **The Boogeyman** (1980), 5 p.m. Suzanna Love, Ron James, horror/more; **Man on Fire** (2004), 7 p.m. Denzel Washington, Dakota Fanning, action/drama/thriller/crime; **The Sixth Sense** (1999), 9 p.m. Bruce Willis, Haley Joel Osment, drama/thriller; **The Bourne Supremacy** (2004), 11 p.m. Matt Damon, Franka Potente, adventure/mystery/thriller/action

Following Bingo in the Big Top: **Friday Night Lights** (2004), Billy Bob Thornton, Lucas Black, action/drama/sports/more

Saturday

- Man on Fire 1 a.m.
- The Tuxedo 3:30 a.m.
- Pearl Harbor 5:30 a.m.
- The Sixth Sense ... 8:30 a.m.
- Oceans Eleven ... 10:30 a.m.
- Bourne Suprema 12:30 9.m.
- Be Cool 2:30 p.m.
- The Boogeyman ... 4:30 p.m.
- Cinderella Story 6:30 p.m.
- Batman Returns 8:30 p.m.
- Constantine 10:30 p.m.

Sunday

- Bourne Suprema 12:30 a.m.
- Be Cool 2:30 a.m.
- Pearl Harbor 4:30 a.m.
- The Sixth Sense ... 7:30 a.m.
- Cinderella Story 9:30 a.m.
- Constantine 11:30 a.m.
- Batman Returns 1:30 p.m.
- The Tuxedo 3:30 p.m.
- Man on Fire 5:30 p.m.
- The Boogeyman 8 p.m.
- Elektra 10:30 p.m.

Monday

- The Tuxedo 12:30 a.m.
- Batman Returns 2:30 a.m.
- Cinderella Story 4:30 a.m.
- Be Cool 6:30 a.m.
- The Sixth Sense ... 8:30 a.m.
- The Boogeyman . 10:30 a.m.
- Bourne Suprema 12:30 p.m.
- Elektra 2:30 p.m.
- Man on Fire 4:30 p.m.
- Oceans Eleven 7 p.m.
- Pearl Harbor 9 p.m.

Tuesday

- Be Cool 12 a.m.
- The Sixth Sense 2 a.m.
- Bourne Suprema 4 a.m.
- Batman Returns 6 a.m.
- Constantine 8 a.m.
- The Tuxedo 10 a.m.
- Elektra noon
- The Boogeyman 2 p.m.
- Cinderella Story 4 p.m.
- Pearl Harbor 6 p.m.
- Oceans Eleven 9 p.m.
- Man on Fire 11 p.m.

Wednesday

- The Sixth Sense ... 1:30 a.m.
- Cinderella Story 3:30 a.m.
- The Tuxedo 5:30 a.m.
- Elektra 7:30 a.m.
- Be Cool 9:30 a.m.
- Bourne Suprema 11:30 a.m.
- The Boogeyman ... 1:30 p.m.
- Oceans Eleven 3:30 p.m.
- Constantine 5:30 p.m.
- Man on Fire 7:30 p.m.
- Pearl Harbor 10 p.m.

Thursday

- The Boogeyman 1 a.m.
- Elektra 3 a.m.
- Man on Fire 5 a.m.
- Oceans Eleven 7:30 a.m.
- The Tuxedo 9:30 a.m.
- Constantine 11:30 a.m.
- The Sixth Sense ... 1:30 p.m.
- Batman Returns 3:30 p.m.
- Pearl Harbor 5:30 p.m.
- Cinderella Story 8:30 p.m.
- Be Cool 10:30 p.m.



Bedrock and beyond...

activities to keep you fit, happy and hungry for more

Today

- 5 p.m., **4 on 4 Volleyball Tournament:** VB Court
- 6:30 p.m., **Spin:** Muscle Beach (DVD)
- 7 p.m., **Dominoes:** ACC
- 7:30 p.m., **Step Aerobics:** Muscle Beach (I)
- 7:30 p.m., **Bingo:** Big Top
- 8 p.m., **Step Aerobics:** HOP
- 9 p.m., **Karate:** Muscle Beach (I)

Saturday

- 2:30 p.m., **Yoga:** Muscle Beach (DVD)
- 7 p.m., **Chess:** Big Top
- 8:30 p.m. **Absolute Abs:** Muscle Beach (I)
- 9 p.m., **Variety Night:** Big Top

Sunday

- Noon., **Superbowl Frenzy:** Big Top
- 9:30 a.m., **Karate:** Muscle Beach (I)
- 2:30 p.m., **Pilates:** Muscle Beach (DVD)
- 5 p.m., **Tae Kwon Do:** HOP
- 7 p.m., **Darts:** ACC
- 8 p.m., **Self Defense:** Muscle Beach (I)

Monday

- 6 a.m., **Circuit Train:** Basketball Courts (I)
- 7 p.m., **Ping Pong:** ACC
- 7:30 p.m., **Step Aerobics:** Muscle Beach (I)
- 8 p.m., **Foosball:** Big Top
- 8 p.m., **Step Aerobics:** HOP

Tuesday

- 5 a.m., **Step Aerobics:** Muscle Beach (I)
- 6 a.m., **Spin:** Muscle Beach (DVD)
- 7 p.m., **Scrabble:** ACC
- 7:30 p.m., **Tae Kwon Do:** HOP
- 8 p.m., **8-Ball:** Big Top
- 8:30 p.m. **Absolute Abs:** Muscle Beach (I)

Wednesday

- 10 a.m., **Top 3:** Chapel Annex
- 2:30 p.m., **Yoga:** Muscle Beach (DVD)
- 5 p.m., **Pull Up Contest:** Muscle Beach
- 5:30 p.m., **5-6 Council:** Chapel Annex
- 6:30 p.m., **Focus Four:** Chapel Annex
- 7 p.m., **Family Feud** Big Top
- 7 p.m., **Spades TNY:** ACC
- 7:30 p.m., **Step Aerobics:** Muscle Beach (I)
- 8:15 p.m., **Step Aerobics:** HOP

Thursday

- 5 a.m., **Step Aerobics:** Muscle Beach (I)
- 6 p.m., **Circuit Train:** Basketball Courts (1)
- 6 p.m., **Cardio mix:** HOP
- 7 p.m., **8/9-Ball:** ACC
- 7:30 p.m., **Tae Kwon Do:** HOP
- 8 p.m., **Texas Hold'em:** Big Top
- 8:30 p.m. **Absolute Abs:** Muscle Beach (I)
- 8:30 p.m., **Salsa:** HOP

It's your base, so...

Call the 407th Services Squadron with ideas for activities: 445-2696; For information about the House of Pain, Army fitness center: 833-1709; For information about Army morale, welfare and recreation activities: 833-1745.

- (I)—Instructor
- TNY—Tournament
- HOP—House of Pain, Army Fitness Center
- ACC—Army Community Center

AEF 9/10 Help Wanted: fitness and recreation instructors

Many of the classes offered at Muscle Beach are lead by volunteers from within the ranks of deployed Airmen. The 407th Expeditionary Services Squadron is looking for volunteers from AEF 9/10 to fill vacancies created when those from AEF 7/8 leave. Opportunities also exist to add activities to the events calendar if you are able to instruct or lead an activity not currently offered.

Please call Tech. Sgt. Adrienne Mimms, 407th expeditionary services fitness director, at 445-2136, to talk about how you can make this a better deployment for everybody.