

Krab KRONICLE



Volume 4 Issue 4

506th Air Expeditionary Group, Kirkuk Air Base, Iraq

February 13, 2006

News Briefs

Individual First Aid Kits

Airmen at Kirkuk should have been issued an individual first aid kit from their home station or at the Expeditionary Theater Distribution Center at Al Udeid.

These kits are not expendable and should not be thrown away. For those who brought the kit from home station, take it back when rotating out. If issued to them at Al Udeid, return it there. This applies to active duty, guard and reserve members.

With the new requirement to stage war readiness supplies in theater, it is important that Airmen turn in the IFAK when rotating out, regardless of whether or not they have used items inside. The contents in the kit will be replenished and reissued to future rotations. This helps ensure vital medical supplies remain in stock.

Call Senior Master Sgt. Lori Pulkinen at 444-2021 for more information.

Air show hometown greeting

Airmen who are deployed to the AOR during their hometown's air show have the opportunity to film a video message. Spots will be played during air shows featuring the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds.

This opportunity is open to any Air Force member deployed from or consider one of the following locations their hometown or home base:

Thunderbird air show schedule:

Creech AFB, NV
 Ft Smith, AR
 Punta Gorda, FL
 Maxwell AFB, AL
 Tyndall AFB, FL
 March ARB, CA
 Langley AFB, VA
 Robins AFB, GA
 Cannon AFB, NM

Filming will occur Saturday, Feb. 18 in the cantonment area in front of the BX. You must make a reservation by calling Public Affairs at 444-2075 or e-mailing 506aegpa@krab.centaf.af.mil.

Those interested in filming a message will receive a time slot.

If unable to make a reservation, please call Public Affairs to coordinate a time. For information, call 444-2075.



Photo by Airman 1st Class JoAnn White

Col. Pete Hronek accepts the guide on from Brig. Gen. Frank Gorenc during the 506th Air Expeditionary Group change of command ceremony Feb. 5. Chief Master Sgt. Larry Seibel, the group's command chief, served as the guide on bearer.

506th AEG changes command

By Staff Sgt. Kristina Barrett
 506th AEG Public Affairs

The 506th Air Expeditionary Group changed command Feb. 4 when Col. Pete Hronek accepted command from Col. James "Ed" Daniel.

Col. Daniel commanded the 506th EAG during Air Expeditionary Force rotation 7/8. He returns to Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., as Vice Commander, First Air Force.

Colonel Hronek takes command of the 506th AEG for AEF rotation 9/10 after serv-

ing almost two years as the 120th Fighter Wing Operations Group commander, Montana Air National Guard.

"I look forward to the opportunity to lead these fine men and women as we continue to build on the great contributions made by the AEF 7/8 Team," Colonel Hronek said. "It is obvious to me that Colonel Daniel and his team have worked incredibly hard to improve the security and facilities here at the Krab as they went about accomplishing the mission at hand."

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What's Inside

News



12 hopefuls compete in KRAB Idol - who made the cut?

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ECES keeps base running smoothly

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Commitment to mission, taking care of each other top priorities for 9/10 team

By Col. Pete Hronek
506th AEG Commander

I want to welcome all of the AEF 9/10 team to Kirkuk.

We are almost 100 percent transitioned and already picking up the mission from the AEF 7/8 team. We will build on the fine work of our predecessors and set challenging goals for our cycle to meet the demanding mission tasking while at the KRAB.

I am very pleased to see in just the past week that I have been here at Kirkuk, the strong core value of service before self the 506th Team has shown.

To me this value goes to the heart of accomplishing the mission when

we know that our fellow Airmen are putting their jobs ahead of self interest. This boosts the confidence of our fellow airmen who are working side by side, knowing their priorities are the same, which synergizes us in accomplishing our mission.

Whenever we may be in doubt of the importance of service before self, think of what our families are doing for us every day. This will give us resolve every day while we are deployed.

Members of the 506th, please pass on to

your loved ones back home how thankful I am for their service before self in supporting you and our country and how proud I am of the work you have done and your commitment to accomplishing our mission in making Iraq a free and democratic nation.

You are vitally important to us and I very much appreciate the sacrifices your families are making in order for you to be with us now.



I ask you to watch out for each other over the coming months and make sure we are taking care of one another.

As you all know, our work here brings dangers we are not normally accustomed to. We must continuously remind ourselves and our wingmen not to allow complacency to sneak up on us once we get familiar with our duties.

Getting the job done is important, but doing so safely and returning home to our families is equally important. I ask you to watch out for each other over the coming months and make sure we are taking care of one another.

I take to heart my job in seeing that you are able to accomplish the mission for which you have been trained, ensure your tour is rewarding and your safe return home to your family. I look forward to seeing you around the KRAB, Take care!

Get 're-blued,' trust your people

By Maj. Dave Story
36th Logistics Readiness Squadron
Commander

ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE, Guam (AFPN) — I recently had the privilege and honor of presiding over the retirement ceremony.

When it was time for the new retiree to speak he reminded us of how the Air Force has progressed over the years. I discovered I was suddenly "re-blued."

As I listened to his words, I thought in particular about the level of trust we place in our people, be they Airmen, noncommissioned officers, senior NCOs or officers.

One of the many things that make our Air Force the best in the world is our ability to trust one another. When we lose this ability, we dissolve the very glue that binds us together as a force. Destroying the trust we place in our Airmen unknowingly questions their integrity and ultimately stifles any notions of innovation or excellence. We should remember our supervisors must be trusted and entrusted to do their jobs.

When we reach the point of questioning their decision-making capabilities, we're sending a strong message. We don't trust you or need you.

I was inspired to renew the trust I place in the Airmen I work with daily, and we should take pride in our accomplishments. Please trust your people. We'll reach greater heights and achieve bigger goals if we do.



Col.
Pete Hronek
Commander
506th AEG

Lt. Col.
Dave Carrell
Deputy Commander
506th AEG

Staff Sgt. **Kristina Barrett**
Editor/Chief, Public Affairs
Airman 1st Class **JoAnn White**
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Krab KRONICLE

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For more information, call 444-2075, or e-mail the editor/chief.



Photo by Airman 1st Class JoAnn White/Photo illustration by Staff Sgt. Kristina Barrett

KRAB Idol

Staff Sgt. Dixie Brennan shows surprise as she is selected as one of the six finalists on the first round of KRAB idol. Other finalists include (left to right) Army Spec. Ben Mandeville, Tech. Sgt. Ken Brown and Army Sgt. Dinard Edwards. Contestant not pictured who made the finals are Tech. Sgt. Kris Kuhr and Army Sgt. Dan Wills. The next KRAB Idol is scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 16 when 12 new contests vie for a spot on the final round Friday, Feb. 24.

WARRIOR SPOTLIGHT



Photo by Staff Sgt. Kristina Barrett

Senior Airman Joseph Sheffer removes the belt housing casing from a Polaris "gator." Airman Sheffer is a vehicle maintenance journeyman deployed from Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho.

Hronek takes command *Continued From Page 1*



Photo by Airman 1st Class JoAnn White

Col. Pete Hronek, 506th AEG commander, addresses members of the audience during the change of command ceremony Feb. 5.

Brig. Gen. Frank Gorenc, 332d Air Expeditionary Wing commander presided over the ceremony.

"I know the team here will continue the work done by the previous rotation," General Gorenc said in a message to the Airmen of the 506th. "Give Colonel Hronek what you gave Colonel Daniel – hard work, loyalty, support, respect, and the greatest thing you could give, your trust."

Colonel Hronek shared some of his priorities with his new Airmen.

"I am pleased to see, in just a few short days I have been here, the family type of relationship the 506th team has already begun to develop"

Colonel Hronek said. "We will all need to continue and strengthen this during the coming months as we learn to work and live together and further our mission in this part of Iraq."

"Give Colonel Hronek what you gave Colonel Daniel – hard work, loyalty, support, respect, and the greatest thing you could give, your trust."

- Brig. Gen. Frank Gorenc

The colonel went on to say the strength of the Airmen here and the success of the mission is dependent on friends and families back home and he asked each person to pass on his thanks to their loved ones. In addition, he reminded Airmen what to keep in mind during this rotation.

"Our work here brings dangers we are not normally accustomed to. We must all continually remind ourselves and our wingmen not to allow complacency to sneak up on us," he said. "Getting the job done is important, but doing so safely and returning home to our families is equally important. I ask you to watch out for each other over the coming months and make sure we are taking good care of each other."

Colonel Hronek is an F-16 command pilot with more than 3,300 flight hours and has been awarded the Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf cluster.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Kristina Barrett

COMM cleans up

Senior Airman Thomas Dodson and Tech. Sgt. Danny Tipton replace the sidewalks after a rain storm washed them away. Kirkuk Air Base, Iraq was hit with almost two inches of rain in a 24-hour period, which is approximately the entire average rainfall for the month of February. Airman Dodson (left) is deployed from Tinker Air Force Base, Okla., and Sergeant Tipton (right) is deployed from Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. Both are members of the 506th Expeditionary Communications Squadron.

News from around the Air Force

CMSAF announces retirement

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — The 14th chief master sergeant of the Air Force, Gerald R. Murray, announced plans to retire after serving more than 28 years. Chief Murray has served as the chief master sergeant of the Air Force since July 1, 2002.

Chief Murray's official retirement date is Oct. 1, but a formal ceremony and appointment for the 15th chief master sergeant of the Air Force is planned for June 30. The Air Force chief of staff selects the individual to fill the position of chief master sergeant of the Air Force. Each major command and direct reporting unit commander and deputy chiefs of staff can nominate potential successors from within their respective commands.

OS EQUAL list available

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPN) — The Overseas Enlisted Quarterly Assignment Listing is available for overseas requirements reporting in the months of October to December.

Deployed personnel should work with their personnel support for contingency

operations representative to update assignment preferences.

Assignment preferences require updating by Feb. 17. If selected, Airmen will be notified by March 15.

Members are instructed to review, prioritize and update their assignment preferences based on the EQUAL list.

Airmen can view the list by logging onto the AFPC secure Web site through www.afpc.randolph.af.mil.

AF changes officer distinctions

WASHINGTON — The Air Force will eliminate the distinction between active-duty regular and reserve officers by May 1.

Previously, an officer who earned a reserve commission served a probationary period until promoted to major, when they could become a "regular" officer.

All officers who entered active duty after May 1, 2005 were commissioned as regular officers. All other active-duty officers will be automatically transferred to regular status by May 1.

The change will not affect the active-duty service commitment.

AFAF campaign begins

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPN)

— This year's Air Force Assistance Fund "Commitment to Caring" campaign, from today through May 5, will provide Airmen the opportunity to contribute to any of the four official Air Force charitable organizations.

Now in its 33rd year, 100 percent of designated AFAF contributions will benefit active-duty, Reserve, Guard, retired Air Force people, surviving spouses and families.

People can contribute through cash, check, money order or payroll deduction to The Air Force Aid Society, The Air Force Enlisted Village Indigent Widow's Fund, The Air Force Village Indigent Widow's Fund, and The General and Mrs. Curtis E. LeMay Foundation.

Contributions to the AFAF are tax deductible. For more information, visit afassistancefund.org or the Air Force Personnel Center's voting and fundraising Web site at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/vote-fund.

Military parents send Arizona heat

By Staff Sgt. Kristina Barrett
506 AEG Public Affairs

Standing a post, any post, is a tough job; but when the post is a perimeter guard tower at a base in Iraq and it's the middle of winter, the stakes just got a little higher.

Thanks to one family in Arizona, the Airmen of the 506th Expeditionary Security Force Squadron are feeling a bit warmer.

When his family questioned him about what he needed for Christmas, Tech Sgt. Max Quitiquit Jr., 506th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron deployed from the Arizona Air National Guard, responded with a request for his fellow deployed Airmen rather than for himself.

"My Mom wanted to send more cookies and snacks but we already had more than plenty of those items," he said. "Many Airmen spent quite a bit a time outside in the cold and I thought they could use the hand warmers and other items."

So the family responded and purchased 1,840 pairs of hand warmers and 100 headbands with ear protectors and scarves, with a cost of more than \$1,200.

"This year at Thanksgiving dinner, our family decided that instead of exchanging gifts this year we would expend our time and money in trying to do something for our deployed troops," said Max Quitiquit, Sergeant Quitiquit's father and retired U.S. Navy commander, in an e-mail. "We asked our son what the guys needed and he advised us the people working inside really

didn't need anything but the Airmen working outside could use some hand warmers."

Once friends of the Quitiquit family found out, they also responded with donations. Now the family has an additional \$700 to purchase hand warmers and headbands for other deployed Airmen.

The Airmen of the 506th ESFS were thankful of the donation, since temperatures here can dip into the 30s.

"The Airmen were appreciative of the thought and sacrifice made by the family," said Capt. Michael Borders, security forces flight commander. "It means someone is thinking of them ... it all boils down to a group of Americans caring enough to send another group of Americans something to make defending freedom a little easier.

"Security forces Airmen need support. It's lonely and cold on post and knowing somebody cares enough to help, or just say thanks, is important," the captain added.

The standard time on post is 12 hours, but sometimes, depending on circumstances, that could stretch to 14 or 15 hours. Senior Airman Daisy Salas, deployed from Moody Air Force Base, Ga., was one of the Airmen who received the hand warmers.

"For a family to sacrifice their Christmas ... makes me thankful to be an American," she said.

The response to his request was more than he imagined, Sergeant Quitiquit said. The response was so great, he was able to donate items to the 101st Airborne.

"We all stay so busy doing our own mis-

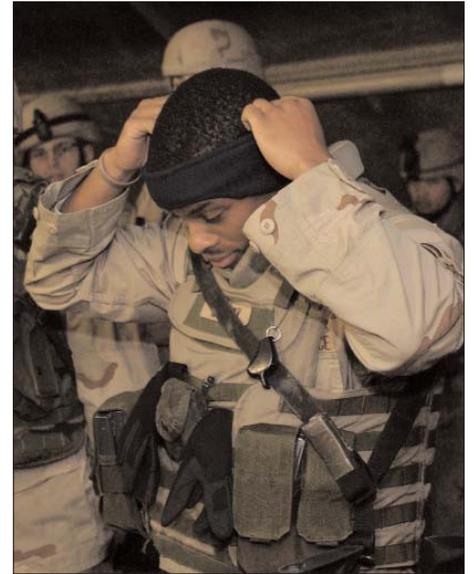


Photo by Airman 1st Class JoAnn White

Airman 1st Class Steven Cherry tries on a donated headband with built-in ear protectors before going out on patrol.

sions that sometimes it's hard not to take for granted what others do to enable us to accomplish our own missions," he said "Security forces personnel accomplish a demanding mission every moment of every day. Their vigilance and dedication permit the rest of us to go about our daily tasks with confidence and security."

Now the Airmen of the 506th ESFS can perform their mission a little toastier, thanks to generous Americans supporting the troops in Iraq.

Watch out for emergency vehicles

By Dan Salinas
"Dan Dan The Safety Man"
506 AEG Safety Office

In the last few days the 506th Air Expeditionary Group Safety Office has received calls regarding HMMWVs traveling at excessive speeds. In actuality, the vehicles in question were responding to emergencies.

At the KRAB, there are very few emergency response vehicles marked with lights

and/or sirens.

The quick response force may respond at any time, some other vehicles may be carrying wounded.

The only warning pedestrians or vehicle operators may get is flashing headlights, hazard lights, and/or a beeping horn. The drivers of these vehicles are trying to get somewhere quickly because they are needed.

Airmen are reminded to keep this in mind and pay attention to what is going on.

SAFETY GUIDELINES

When driving:

- watch for the other vehicles
Treat them the same as you are supposed to treat an ambulance, police car, fire truck because they might be just that.
- don't turn the radio loud enough to drown out sirens, horns or attack warnings

When walking:

- stay on the left side of the road, facing traffic
- wear reflective clothing/belts at night
- at night carry a flashlight in the hand nearest traffic
- use sidewalks when available
- cross at the corner or the crosswalk.

- don't loiter in the roadways, driveways or the middle of the parking lot
- be smart -- vehicles outweigh you humans by a lot

Members of the QRF:

- accomplish the mission as safely as possible
- remember most vehicles aren't marked and the mission may not be immediately recognized by everyone else
- Be familiar with the vehicle - up armored HMMWVs outweigh the standard model by nearly 5,000 pounds and visibility is diminished due to the smaller windows, and the wear of body armor.
- ALWAYS wear seatbelts.

AMMO  101

Airmen get back to basics

By Staff Sgt. Kristina Barrett
506th AEG Public Affairs

Deep in the heart of old Iraqi bunkers lay the weapons of the force that defeated the country's former dictator. Surely the dictator would have never thought just five AMMO Airmen would track and maintain the same weapons that freed the Iraqi people from his oppression. The mission of the 506th Air Expeditionary Group Munitions Flight is to do just that.

Responsible for Kirkuk's base defense assets, the Airmen are accountable for 445 line items, valued at more than \$1 million.

"AMMO's mission here is basically like any other base," said Master Sgt. Anthony Newton, flight superintendent deployed from Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. "However here it's more like AMMO 101 – keeping the basics going and the bomb dump in operation."

Even though the flight doesn't handle large weapons, such as munitions for combat aircraft, keeping up with the challenges of the location keeps them busy.

"Bio (environmental flight) has come in here to test for contaminants and, even though they didn't find anything, we were told not to stir up any dust," Sergeant Newton said. "Also, the storage structures here aren't up to our standards. The earth

around them is eroding and causing problems with how much we can put in them."

For proper safety, each structure, or igloo, must be covered in a certain amount of dirt to contain a blast, if one should occur. The containment of the blast ensures other munitions within the dump aren't affected, Sergeant Newton explained.

In addition to the various stages of decay the structures are in, Mother Nature has been playing her hand. The severe weather Kirkuk experienced the past week caused havoc in the few bunkers buried deep underground.

"The weather has been hindering our work," said Senior Airman Jonathan Calhoun, deployed from Kirkland Air Force Base, N.M. "Now we have accountable munitions that are underwater."

Because the munitions are small arms, chances are they are still serviceable. Even if they have been affected, there will be little impact on the mission here.

"The biggest problem will be the crates the munitions are packed in. If they don't dry out or are damaged beyond use, we'll have to repack them in new containers in accordance with our tech data," Sergeant Newton said.

Recovering from nature's blow won't put the team behind schedule they said, because it's all part of being deployed and since



Photos by Staff Sgt. Kristina Barrett

Senior Airman Mandi Wilkinson checks the inspection date on a box of small arms munitions. Airman Wilkinson is one of five Airmen in the AMMO flight who manages the bomb dump here.

there's no flying mission here, it gives them a chance to do something different. Being AMMO isn't about paperwork.

"Since we don't have combat aircraft assigned, we don't support a lot of operations," said Senior Airman Johnathon Martinez, deployed from Lackland. "We basically just hand out bullets."

His desire to do something different doesn't extend to other members of the team. Senior Airman Mandi Wilkinson, also deployed from Lackland, is the one who tracks and accounts for all the small arms munitions in the dump. Her job is paperwork and she sees it a different way.

"We have a purpose here as opposed to home station -- we hand out bullets then get them back," she said. "Here they get used."

So while the mission here is similar to home station, the chance to do it in Iraq is what makes the job worthwhile, even if the rain wants it a different way.



Senior Airman Jonathan Calhoun and Staff Sgt. Desi Strong move a box of small arms munitions.

Utilities shop works around the clock

Improving living conditions for Airmen at the KRAB

By Tech. Sgt. Lynn Harkins
506th ECES Utilities Flight

The 506th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron Utilities flight kick started their deployment in January with the beginning of Air Expeditionary Force rotation 9/10. The utilities flight consists of air national guardsmen from Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M., General Billy Mitchell International Airport, Air National Guard Base, Wis., Hickam AFB, Hawaii, and active duty Airmen from Mountain Home AFB, Idaho.

Since arriving, the Utilities Flight has been busy.

The single washing machine in the headquarters building had barely a trickle of water when filling up. Upon investigation, it was found that only one pump serviced an outside bathroom trailer and the sinks and washer machine inside the building. It was discovered the water to the inside building was gravity fed.

Utilities Airmen added another pump on the roof to add more pressure to the inside water lines. Upon installation and testing, they discovered inside leaks in the existing wall pipes. A new replumbing plan was designed. Using the existing outside pipeline to the inside water heater, the pipes were replumbed for easy access, shutoff and no leaks.

The result of this new plumbing project was greater water pressure to the existing

washer machine and faster fill time of its tub. Electricians from the combined units also assisted in providing electricity to the new secondary pump as well as troubleshooting the primary pump.

On another part of the base, the 506th ECES, War Readiness Materials had a problem with the existing shower in their trailer. It consistently leaked water through the walls, even through caulking and recaulking.

What was needed was relocating the existing facilities. It involved relocating the toilet to where the shower was currently located and the shower to be moved to the larger room where the toilet and sink were presently located. Upon examination of the trailer's bathroom facilities, it was determined that relocation of fixtures was possible.

The plumbing beneath the trailer was easily accessible. The plumbers went to work and put the piping in place for relocation of the shower.

The sink remained unchanged and stayed in the same room as where the shower was now located. The toilet was relocated to where the shower had been. This resulted in better allocation of fixtures and improved hygienic facilities for WRM facility's live-in residents. Overall, the replumbing and customized design produced a first-class extended bathroom and provided leak proof shower walls.

At the water treatment plant, the Utilities Flight schedule skimming of the main lift station's frothy broth on a monthly basis. At the end of January, the main lift station's pump was turned off temporarily. This allowed suspended and coagulated solids to rise to the surface and top of the tank.

Two non-potable water trucks were brought in to suction out the heavy waste composite debris and removing excess grease and other floating



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Lynn Harkins

Above: Staff Sgt. Bob Tull and Senior Airman Marc O'Conner insert a hose into main lift station at the water treatment plant to skim the tank of debris.

Below: Tech. Sgts. Curtis Leren and Tommy Castillo assemble a skim hose.



topside waste materials. This preventive maintenance helps to get the flow moving through sewer pipes at a constant velocity and helps eliminate the possibility of compacted waste material causing stress-related main line blockages and breaks.

In addition, the shop has fixed several main line sewer breaks in past weeks. The breaks were due to thin-walled 4-inch sewer line pipe. The installed pipe in some areas was not able to bear the sewage water's force of flow and weight. The pipes were replaced with better materials.

By doing preventative maintenance, less stress will be put on the new piping. These measures help ensure a steady sewage flow and efficient waste water management throughout the system.

Although the Utilities Flight does a lot of behind the scenes work, their success is very apparent at the right time.



Tech. Sgts. Tommy Castillo and Curtis Leren upgrade the plumbing at the headquarters building.

Photos from around the Air Force



Nighthawk at Red Flag

NELLIS AIR FORCE BASE, Nev. -- Airman 1st Class Keith Hartman removes the ladder guard after Capt. Erik Jacobson climbs into the cockpit during Red Flag 06-1. The aircraft are flying missions day and night to the nearby Nevada Test and Training Range where they simulate an air war. Captain Jacobson is an F-117A Nighthawk pilot with the 49th Fighter Squadron at Holloman Air Force Base, N.M. Airman Hartman is an electrical engineering specialist with the 49th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Kenny Kennemer



Display of might

BARKSDALE AIR FORCE BASE, La. -- Airman 1st Class Scott LaCoy aligns an Mk-82 bomb. The munitions are part of a display showing the B-52 Stratofortress' full capabilities. Airman LaCoy is with the 2nd Munitions Squadron here.

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Robert J. Horstman



Cope Tiger '06

KORAT ROYAL AIR FORCE BASE, Thailand -- Airman 1st Class Victor Reynosa waits for an engine start-up on a C-130 Hercules before a Cope Tiger '06 mission. Airman Reynosa is one of 300 U.S. military members and 1,000 military members from Thailand and Singapore who are participating in the exercise. Airman Reynosa is a C-130 loadmaster with the 36th Airlift Squadron at Yokota Air Base, Japan.

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Keith Brown



Red Flag shows airpower

NELLIS AIR FORCE BASE, Nev. -- Senior Airman Jeff Musselman tightens screws on an F-15 Eagle Feb. 6 during Red Flag 06-1 here. More than 130 aircraft and 2,500 personnel are supporting the simulated air war over the Nellis Test and Training Range. Airman Musselman is a crew chief with the 58th Aircraft Maintenance Unit at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla.

Photo by 1st Lt. David Tomiyama



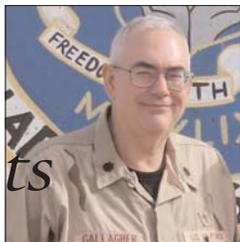
C-17 finds home at Hickam AFB

HICKAM AIR FORCE BASE, Hawaii -- When "The Spirit of Hawaii Ke Aloha" landed on the flightline here it delivered a new era of air operations for the Pacific Air Forces and the U.S. Pacific Command. Hickam is the first base outside the continental U.S. to permanently host the strategic airlifters. By the end of the year the base will be home to eight C-17 Globemaster IIIs.

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Shane Cuomo

Chaplain's Thoughts

By Chaplain Robert Gallagher



Strange but true – Valentine’s Day was not invented by Hallmark. It originated as a “Christianized” version of an old Roman celebration of “Lupercalia” which began Feb. 15th.

Part of this fertility festival involved boys walking through town with strips of goat hide dipped in blood. They would gently slap females they encountered with the bloody goat hide and the females considered the mark it left to be good luck charm that would make them more fertile the coming year. The day ended in a sort of lottery that would “pair up” the unmarried young men and women of the vicinity.

As Christianity gained political and spiritual influence, the Lupercalia was banned, but the idea that February was the beginning of spring and time for romance was still a popular view.

In 498 the Church declared the 14th of February to be St Valentine’s Day, though they were a little fuzzy on which Valentine was being celebrated. One legend is that Valentine was a 3rd century priest in Rome when the Emperor Claudius II decided single men made better soldiers and outlawed marriage for military men.

Valentine defied the emperor and performed marriages for soldiers; when the emperor found out, Valentine was imprisoned and put to death.

There is a further legend that claims that while in prison Valentine fell in love with his jailor’s daughter who used to visit him there – priests could marry in those days. Before his death he wrote her a letter telling of his love and ended it with “From Your

KRAB Religious Schedule

<p>Monday 11:30 a.m. — Catholic Mass (Freedom Chapel) 7 p.m. — Ladies Fellowship (Freedom Chapel) 7 p.m. — Catholic Fellowship/Discussion Group (Hotel Charlie) 7:30 p.m. — Family Night (Bastogne Chapel)</p>	<p>Friday 11:30 a.m. — Catholic Mass (Freedom Chapel) 7 p.m. — Gospel Choir Practice (Freedom Chapel)</p>
<p>Tuesday 7 p.m. — Protestant Praise Team (Freedom Chapel) 7 p.m. — Men’s Bible Study (Bastogne Chapel)</p>	<p>Saturday 7 p.m. — Catholic Mass (Freedom Chapel) 7 p.m. — Gospel Joy Night (Bastogne Chapel) 8:15 p.m. — Rosary & Catholic Mass (DFAC)</p>
<p>Wednesday 11:30 a.m. — Catholic Mass (Freedom Chapel) 7 p.m. — Gospel Service Bible Study (Freedom Chapel) 7 p.m. — Bible Study (Bastogne Chapel)</p>	<p>Sunday 8 a.m. — Gospel Service (Freedom Chapel) 9 a.m. — Catholic Mass (Bastogne Chapel) 10 a.m. — Contemporary Worship Service (Freedom Chapel) 11 a.m. — General Protestant Service (Bastogne Chapel)</p>
<p>Thursday 7 p.m. — Protestant Praise Team (Freedom Chapel) 7:30 p.m. — Praise Team (Bastogne Chapel) 8 p.m. — “Common Ground Kirkuk” Protestant Community (Freedom Chapel)</p>	<p>11:30 a.m. — Catholic Mass (Freedom Chapel) 1 p.m. — Protestant Sunday School (Freedom Chapel) 1:30 p.m. — LDS Service (Bastogne Chapel) 7 p.m. — Contemporary with Communion Worship Service (Freedom Chapel)</p>

Valentine,” an expression we still use today.

The romantic figure of Valentine was popular throughout the middle ages and it became a custom to exchange handwritten notes between friends and lovers or, for people who couldn’t read and write, some small token of affection.

In our day, clever greeting cards have replaced personal notes and boxes of chocolate have become the “token of affection.”

We have come a long way from blood dipped goat hide but it might be worthwhile to recover some of the things that made this a popular religious feast: a celebration of love that endures through hardship and even death; the value of marriage and fidelity; the importance of giving expression to our feelings of affection and friendship for the people in our lives. St Valentine’s Day – it’s about more important things than chocolate and overpriced cards.

‘Aashura: Remembering Martyrdom

By Capt. Matthew Ence
 Middle East Foreign Affairs Officer



Upon Muhammad’s death, a crisis arose over who was to succeed him as the political and religious leader of the Muslim community. Some claimed any pious Muslim male who followed the example of Muhammad could be chosen by consensus to lead. Others believed his successor must be a blood relative. The dispute split the community into two factions, known today as the Sunni and the Shi’a. It also culminated in the death of his grandson, the Imam Husayn ibn Ali at the Battle of Karbala.

Today Shi’i Muslims still commemorate Husayn’s martyrdom during ‘aashura, which literally means “the tenth.” On the 10th day of Muharram, the first month of the

Muslim New Year, Shi’a around the world reenact their grief over the death of Husayn.

During ‘aashura, Shi’i Muslims typically parade through the streets or gather in public halls to express their remorse.

In Iraq, worshippers may cut themselves with knives or beat themselves with chains as they march to show their grief. ‘Aashura is particularly significant in Karbala, Iraq where pilgrims journey to pay their respects at the Holy Shrine of Imam Husayn. ‘Aashura is also important to Sunni Muslims, although to a lesser extent and for different reasons. The 10th of Muharram is traditionally the date on which Noah’s Ark came to rest after the Flood, the day the

prophet Abraham was born and the day the Ka’aba was built in Mecca.

Did you know...?

- The Islamic calendar is a lunar calendar, the dates of Islamic religious events shift about 10 days earlier each year in relation to our own solar-based calendar.
- Husayn’s martyrdom is widely regarded by the Shi’a as a symbol of the struggle against the injustice, tyranny and oppression of the Sunni majority.

Clamtina Events

Tuesdays

Texas Hold 'Em 8 p.m.
 8-Ball/9-Ball 8:15 p.m.
 Feb. 28 Mardi Gras Party 8 p.m.

Wednesdays

Darts 7 p.m.
 Spades 8 p.m.

Thursdays

Feb. 16 KRAB Idol 8 p.m.
 Checkers 7:30 p.m.
 Blackjack 8 p.m.
 Ping Pong 8:30 p.m.

Fridays

Feb. 17 Bazaar 1:30 - 9 p.m.
 Feb. 24 KRAB Idol 8 p.m.

Saturdays

Feb. 18 Bazaar 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 Progressive BINGO 8 p.m.
 Karaoke 9:30

Sundays

Foosball 7 p.m.
 Texas Hold 'Em 8 p.m.

Fitness Center Events

Mondays

Spin Class 5 and 6:30 a.m.
 Ju Jitsu 7 p.m.

Tuesdays

Feb. 14 Valentine Fun Run 10 a.m.
 Feb. 21 Bench Press Contest 8 p.m.

Wednesdays

Spin Class 5 and 6:30 a.m.
 Ju Jitsu 7 p.m.

Thursdays

Feb. 16 Dead Lift 8 a.m.
 Feb. 23 Arm Wrestling 8 a.m.

Fridays

Spin Class 5 and 6:30 a.m.
 Ju Jitsu 7 p.m.

Saturdays

5K Run 10 a.m.
 KRAB Cup 2 p.m.

Sundays

Spin Class 7:30 p.m.



KRABusters Video



Monday, Feb. 13

0700 & 1900 Lord of War
 1000 & 2200 Charlie & the Chocolate Factory
 1300 & 0100 Hitch
 1600 & 0400 Girl w/ the Pearl Earring

Tuesday, Feb. 14

0700 & 1900 Flight Plan
 1000 & 2200 Frankenstein
 1300 & 0100 Drumline
 1600 & 0400 War of the Worlds

Wednesday, Feb. 15

0700 & 1900 Cheaper by the Dozen 2
 1000 & 2200 Reversible Errors
 1300 & 0100 The Forgotten
 1600 & 0400 Shall We Dance

Thursday, Feb. 16

0700 & 1900 Into the Blue
 1000 & 2200 Riddick
 1300 & 0100 The Day After Tomorrow
 1600 & 0400 13 Going on 30

Friday, Feb. 17

0700 & 1900 The Exorcism of Emily Rose
 1000 & 2200 Hearts of Atlantis
 1300 & 0100 Billy Madison
 1600 & 0400 G.I. Jane

Saturday, Feb. 18

0700 & 1900 Great Raid
 1000 & 2200 Anger Management
 1300 & 0100 Rain Man
 1600 & 0400 The Manchurian Candidate

Sunday, Feb. 19

0700 & 1900 Two for the Money
 1000 & 2200 One Hour Photo
 1300 & 0100 Head over Heels
 1600 & 0400 Ali

Monday, Feb. 20

0700 & 1900 Fun With Dick & Jane
 1000 & 2200 007-Live & Let Die
 1300 & 0100 Mortal Combat
 1600 & 0400 Rambo 2

Tuesday, Feb. 21

0700 & 1900 Big Mama's House 2
 1000 & 2200 Big Daddy
 1300 & 0100 Top Gun
 1600 & 0400 All the King's Men

Wednesday, Feb. 22

0700 & 1900 Get Rich or Die Tryin
 1000 & 2200 Along the Great Divide
 1300 & 0100 American Buffalo
 1600 & 0400 American Flyers

Thursday, Feb. 23

0700 & 1900 The Legend of Zorro
 1000 & 2200 Lethal Weapon 3
 1300 & 0100 Creep Show
 1600 & 0400 Grumpier Old Men

Friday, Feb. 24

0700 & 1900 Glory Road
 1000 & 2200 Ace High
 1300 & 0100 Major Payne
 1600 & 0400 The Paper

Saturday, Feb. 25

0700 & 1900 Tristan & Isolde
 1000 & 2200 A Knight's Tale
 1300 & 0100 Miss Congeniality
 1600 & 0400 Full Metal Jacket

Sunday, Feb. 26

0700 & 1900 The Fog
 1000 & 2200 Uncommon Valor
 1300 & 0100 Platoon
 1600 & 0400 Don't Say A Word

