



The Sather Pathfinder

Volume 1, Issue 11

April 22, 2006

Sather Air Base , Iraq

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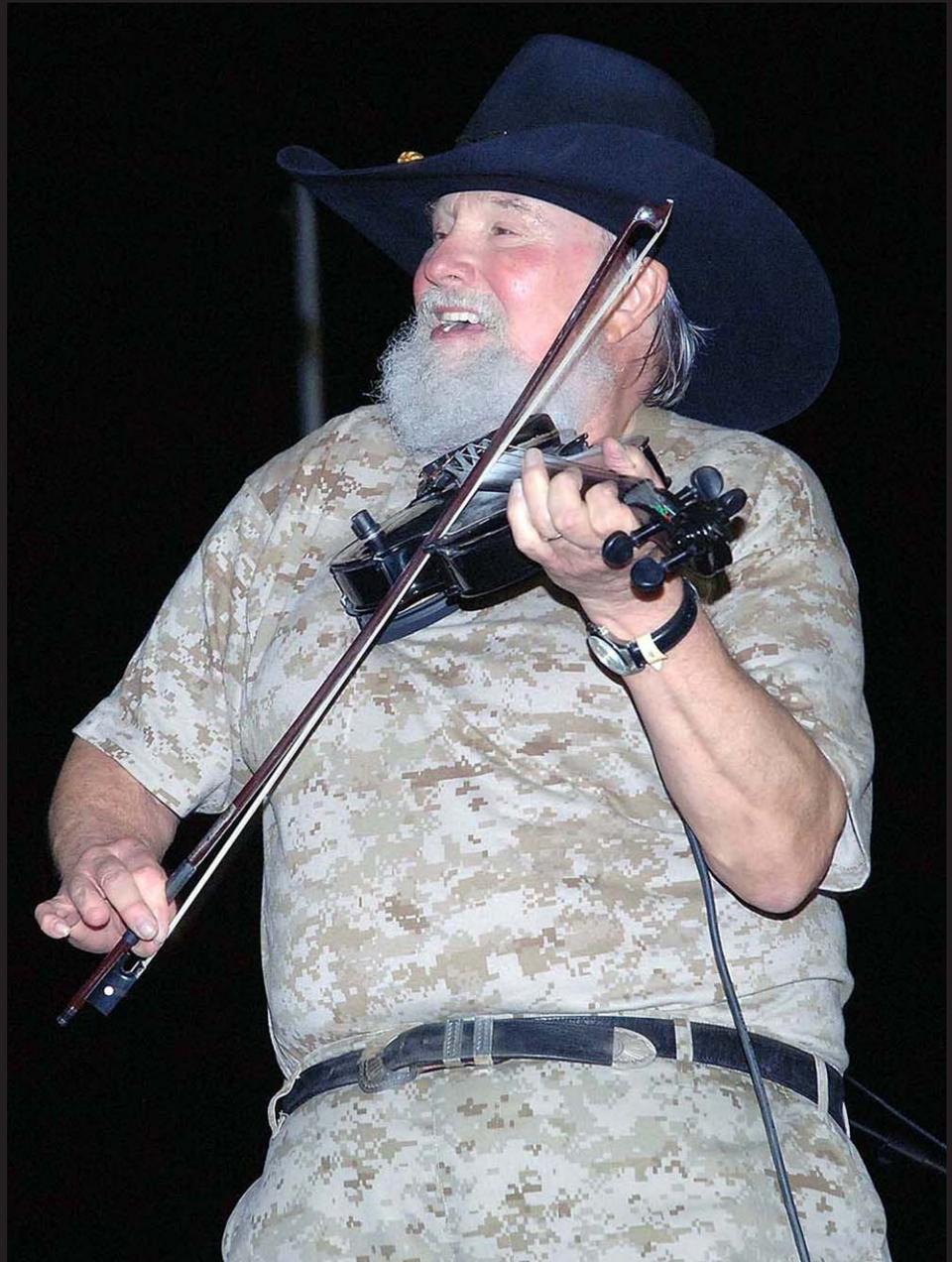
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Letter to Airmen: Advanced education key to global mission

By The Hon. Michael W. Wynne & Gen. T. Michael Moseley

Secretary & Chief of Staff, U.S. Air Force

Since our birth as an Air Force in 1947, we have continually adapted and evolved - providing our nation with the most lethal and capable force possible. The challenges of today and tomorrow demand we continue to improve. We are transforming our processes, streamlining our organizations, recapitalizing our systems and improving the capabilities of our people. These changes will ensure success in defending our nation and her global interests.

A key component of our evolution is the more deliberate development of our most important weapon system - our Airmen. In a smaller, leaner and more expeditionary-focused Air Force, it is essential that our Airmen have the knowledge and competency to accomplish our mission. As we continue to fight this Global War on Terror, we will be conducting operations in

both familiar and unfamiliar places, with both old and new friends. To succeed, our expeditionary Air Force will need all the cultural, political and technical skills available.

One of the most effective ways to develop this knowledge is through advanced education. However, we have all seen how this intent can be misunderstood. Over time, earning a post-graduate degree deteriorated into a method to increase the likelihood of promotion. People used their education benefits and precious free time to pursue degrees that may or may not have been relevant to their Air Force duties. So, to discourage such activity, information regarding advanced degrees was masked from central promotion boards. This had two effects. As intended, people stopped "square filling." Unfortunately, many others stopped pursuing degrees that would have benefited themselves and the Air Force. And, we made it impossible for boards to see all that you have accomplished and your

full potential.

Both of us want to encourage Airmen, not discourage them, from pursuing advanced education. Therefore, we want a change to the officer promotion process that would again provide supervisors, commanders and selection boards information on all academic degrees earned. Beginning with the calendar year 2008 central selection boards, information on all degrees earned by an officer will be available to the board. If you choose to complete an advanced degree, this timetable will give you almost two years to complete a degree before this policy is implemented.

We have the greatest Air and Space force the world has ever known. The challenges we face will demand our utmost determination, and all the intellectual "throw weight" we can muster. This policy will help ensure we are equal to the task.

Together we will win the War on Terror and continue our proud heritage of defending this great republic.

Sather Air Base Warriors of the Week



• 1st Lt. Ronald Wallace
447th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron



• Senior Airman Caitlin Goff
447th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron



• Master Sgt. Johnathan Hover
447th Air Expeditionary Group

Selected 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing's company grade officer, airman and senior noncommissioned officer, respectively, for March.



Photo by Capt. Troy Basnett

Water fall!

Master Sgt. Alan Stoinski, 447th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron, retrieves water bottles at Sather Air Base's main gate April 11. The bottles fell after the delivery truck hit a bump.



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Front Page photo

Legendary country artist Charlie Daniels performs at Camp Liberty, Iraq, Tuesday. He finished his "Stars for Stripes" tour through Southwest Asia at the show.



Photo by Master Sgt. Will Ackerman

See Page 8 for the rest of story.

Lucky deployment reunites brothers

By Master Sgt. Will Ackerman

447th Air Expeditionary Group Public Affairs

Senior Airman Chad Hargarten heard his brother was at Camp Striker. He had not seen his brother since Christmas 2004. He jumped into a truck and went on a search to find his brother.

Army Specialist Eric Hargarten, who's based in Kuwait, had just arrived in Iraq on temporary duty to a forward-operating base. He knew his brother was based somewhere in Baghdad. So he called his mother in Hawaii to ask what base the Airman was at. When she told him Sather Air Base, he still didn't know how close the base was.

He asked several people where Sather Air Base was relative to Camp Striker. When he heard it was down the road a few minutes, he jumped on a shuttle bus and went to the 447th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron third-country national escort office.

The brothers literally passed each other on the road. One of Airman Hargarten's co-workers called him on the radio and told him his brother was in his work center. The Airman turned around and went back to Sather Air Base.

"He's there talking to my supervisor (when I walked in)," said Airman Hargarten. "He pretty much ran and gave me a big hug."

Like many siblings, they didn't learn to appreciate each other until they went their separate ways as adults.

"We fought all the time. It was like he was on

my turf," said Specialist Hargarten. "We went our separate ways and got close."

They kept in contact via e-mail. Except for that last Christmas together in 2004, their military careers kept them apart. However, their respect grew.

"I appreciate my brother a lot more than before," Airman Hargarten said.

The brothers' followed a long family heritage of serving in the military. Their father was an Air Force officer. Their grandfather was a Navy officer. So the two – the youngest of five siblings, and the only boys – felt it was a calling to continue the tradition.

"We love what we do in the military," Specialist Hargarten said.

However, Airman Hargarten said he feels a lot of concern about his older brother, because Specialist Hargarten is going to be patrolling the Iraq roads as a 50-caliber gunner in an M1-Abrams tank. It's a job he trained for in technical school, but he's been working in a support role for the last two and half years.

"For him being outside the wire, it's a lot more dangerous," the Airman said. "I think



Photo by Master Sgt. Will Ackerman

Spc. Eric Hargarten and Senior Airman Chad Hargarten

about it a lot—what if I get that phone call. There's always that chance. I pray for him all of the time."

Specialist Hargarten said although his younger brother is not working outside the wire, he's still very proud what the Airman has achieved since joining the Air Force.

"He's gone from a boy to a man, which the military helped him to do," the Specialist said.

The two brothers don't know when their next chance meeting will occur, so they planned to spend the evening together talking and enjoying each other's company. And Specialist Hargarten has one other thing he plans to do while at Sather Air Base.

"I want to see how the Air Force lives."

U.S. Embassy opens transient site at Sather Air Base

By Master Sgt. Will Ackerman

447th Air Expeditionary Group Public Affairs

The Department of State opened a new transient facility at Sather Air Base April 10.

Located across from the base's military aerial port, the "Sully Compound" provides temporary accommodations for "Chief of Mission" personnel who are traveling to and from Baghdad. The annex includes trailers with temporary lodging and work areas with Internet access.

"The compound represents a

quantum leap in our ability to be able to support (U.S.) Embassy personnel," said Gregory Engle, Management Counselor.

Transient State Department personnel who were waiting for transportation at Sather Air Base used to travel to nearby Camp Striker, where the old facility was located. The previous site used to be housed in tents and was farther away.

"It will enhance the morale of our travelers as they travel in and out of Iraq," said Mr. Engle.

The compound was named after Stephen Eric "Sully" Sullivan, a

special agent with the Diplomatic Security Service, who was killed while traveling in a motorcade near Mosul, Iraq, Sept. 19, 2005.

"This facility serves the people of the Department of State, just like Sullivan did," said Mark Hunter, Regional Security Officer for the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad. "It sets a tone for people who arrive here."

Mr. Hunter said that when State Department personnel travel through Sather AB and ask where Sully Compound is, "Every time the name comes off your lips, you will be remembering a great man."



Photo by Master Sgt. Will Ackerman

Gregory Engle, Management Counselor, U.S. Embassy, Baghdad, talks about the new Sully Compound at its grand opening here April 10

NCO retraining applications due by May 15

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas - To meet the Fiscal 2006 Noncommissioned Officer Retraining Program objectives for 30 undermanned Air Force Specialty Codes, Airmen identified as retraining eligible must complete their retraining packages by May 15.

Nearly 1,100 Airmen who have not completed their administrative requirements face separation if they fail to comply with this Air Force policy.

"It's critical the Air Force balances the enlisted corps across all Air Force specialties to meet

its mission requirements," said Maj. Gen. Tony Przybylski, Air Force Personnel Center commander here. "The NCO Retraining Program is a vital tool to ensure the Air Force has experienced NCOs serving in all career fields."

Airmen who decline retraining must separate on their current date of separation or when their term of service expires. They are ineligible for promotion, voluntary assignment consideration and reenlistment or extensions for the remainder of their enlistment. Declination may preclude Airmen

from enlisting in another service branch or into the Air Force Reserve or Air National Guard. In addition, the Air Force will not score promotion tests for Airmen who tested as of May 15 and declined retraining.

"Airmen must commit to retrain now, because those who wait too long will be separated," said Col. Kurt Pfitzner, chief of the personnel process and development division at AFPC.

The two-phased Fiscal 2006 NCORP is a multi-purpose program designed to rebalance the enlisted force by moving

NCOs from career fields with overages to those skills experiencing manpower shortages. It included a voluntary retraining phase that ended in October and an involuntary phase which began Nov. 30 and is still in effect. To date, the Air Force has only retrained 442 Airmen toward the Air Staff goal of 1,069.

For more information regarding retraining policy, Airmen should contact their base military personnel flight or major command retraining office.

Call 447th Air Expeditionary Group PERSCO at 446-3009.

Cheney thanks troops for work

By Donna Miles

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — Vice President Richard B. Cheney told servicemembers at Fairchild Air Force Base, Wash., they play a key role in the war on terrorism and that their countrymen believe in them and their mission.

He visited the home of the 92nd Air Refueling Wing Monday and told a gathering of about 600 Airmen and other servicemembers they are helping prevent the spread of terrorism and protecting the United States.

Fairchild's 50 active duty and eight Air National Guard KC-135 Stratotanker aircraft and their crews support operations Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom and Noble Eagle and other missions around the world.

Other major units at Fairchild are the Air National Guard's 141st Air Refueling Wing, the Air Force Survival School, the 36th Rescue Flight and the Joint Personnel Recovery Agency's Personnel Recovery Academy.

Vice President Cheney told servicemembers they are vital to the global war.

"The war on terror goes on," he said.

"Thanks to you, it's a war we're going to win."

More than 450 Fairchild Airmen are deployed to Southwest Asia, including refuelers, civil engineers, security forces and survival experts from the Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape School.

Vice President Cheney said conditions on the ground in Iraq and Afghanistan — not artificial timetables set by politicians in Washington, D.C. — will determine when the mission is completed.

"The only way to lose this fight is to quit, and that is not an option," he said. Terrorist attacks aren't caused by using strength, but rather, by the appearance of weakness, he said. He vowed the United States will remain strong and see the war through to victory.

"The president and I want you to know how much we appreciate everything you do for the United States," the vice president said.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Laura K. Smith

Vice President Richard B. Cheney congratulates Marine Staff Sgt. Joseph Bowman after reading the enlistment oath to 18 Airmen, Soldiers and Marines at Fairchild Air Force Base, Wash., Monday. He thanked troops for their service.

"America believes in you."

The vice president's speech a welcome message for the base, said Maj. Carol Gering, 92nd ARW public affairs officer.

"It's nice to be recognized for the role we play in supporting the mission," she said. "Because they perform a support role, our aAirmen are largely unsung heroes. So it's really great to see them acknowledged and publicly thanked."

Emergency Response Tips

CORRECT

- Snap buttons
- Secure velcro
- Wear a reflective belt at night



Individual Protective Gear Wear

- Must be worn during Alarm Red
- Ensure vest, helmet are correct size
- Secure helmet chin strap when wearing
- Call CES Readiness at 446-2226 for info



INCORRECT





Photo by Lt. Col. Craig Berlette

Meeting the deployed troops

Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida greets Tech. Sgt. Valerie Lloyd, 447th Air Expeditionary Group Command Post, here April 15. Governor Bush, whose brother is President George W. Bush, traveled with Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels, Iowa Gov. Tom Vilsack, and West Virginia Gov. Joe Manchin.



Rep. Cathy McMorris of Washington “coins” Senior Airman Manuel Avelarizade here April 8. She visited 447th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron Airmen deployed from Fairchild Air Force Base, Wash.

OPEN VOICE: *Continuity is key to success*

By Master Sgt. Will Ackerman

447th Air Expeditionary Group Public Affairs

As May quickly approaches, many deployed Airmen here will start looking toward the day their replacement arrives and they get to redeploy. The first Air and Space Expeditionary Force 1 and 2 replacements will begin to trickle in within the next two weeks.

Although it’s normal for people to get excited as their departure date arrives, now is the time to ensure you set your successor up for success.

Think about when you arrived. Did you have any type of continuity book, or did you have to spend the first couple of weeks trying to figure out how things in your section worked here? Do you remember your frustration of getting adjusted to the mission here? It doesn’t have to be frustrating; it takes a little proactive work on your part.

As your redeployment date starts to approach, think forward and build a continuity book or point paper to leave your successor. This can be as simple as a list of commonly performed tasks to a list of points of contact who you frequently call or e-mail.

These simple lists are crucial elements to provide for a smooth transition and to reduce the time it takes for your successor to get familiar with the mission here.

Each person will establish his or her own way of doing business, but the primary method to complete the job remains the same with each rotation. There is no specific format for producing a continuity book, but here are a few recommended areas to consider:

- List each major function you perform.
- What are the important steps that are critical to perform that mission?
- What are specific problem items for that area?
- What did you do to fix the problems?
- List current projects, what’s been done and what is planned.
- List future projects.
- Are there regular deadlines to meet? List them.
- Do you have additional duties? List them.
- List frequently called phone numbers, office symbols and points of contact.

These are just the bare minimum areas to consider. You can make your continuity book as detailed or brief as you need. But at least by providing the basics, your

replacement will have the “game book” to start the next rotation with some tools for success. This is not intended to be all-encompassing, but a simple tool for your replacement once you have left Sather Air Base.

Although some people here will have a few days to spend with their replacement to “show them the way,” don’t plan on it. I can recall when I arrived that there were supposed to be five days of overlap. However, I got stuck at another location on my way, and my predecessor got booked on a flight a couple days early. Net transition time—one and half days. For a one-deep shop like mine, that transition time and continuity book becomes critical.

You have nearly completed your mission here at Sather Air Base. There were challenges you faced along the way to perform the mission. But you figured it out and got it done. Why not share these new and improved processes with your replacement so they don’t face the same transition challenges that you incurred.

There’s still time, but it’s quickly running out. Now’s the time to plan for that smooth transition for the hand off from AEF 9/10 to AEF ½.

(Right) Airman 1st Class Bradey Frazier sings a song he wrote April 15 at the Baghdad Idol competition. (Below) Staff Sgt. Monica Russi, Senior Airmen Jason Castleman and Mark Isaac (not pictured) perform "Undo Me." They won the competition.



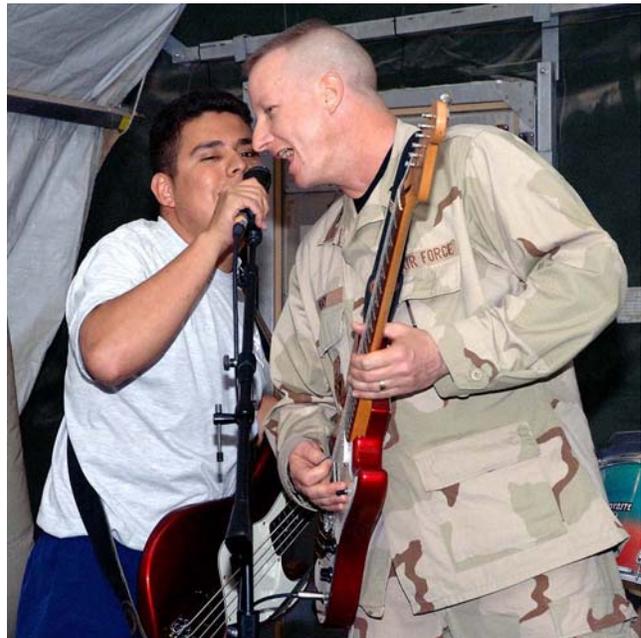
Baghad Idol

Simon Cowell and Paula Abdul were not here as judges. The contestants competed for bragging rights rather than million-dollar record contracts.

Airmen and Soldiers showcased their talents at the Baghdad Idol competition to an overflowing crowd at the Mirage Recreation Center here April 15.

Staff Sgt. Monica Russi, Senior

Airmen Jason Castleman and Mark Isaac took the title with "Undo Me" by Jennifer Knapp. Staff Sgt. Adam Thurston took second with "I'll never fall in love again" by Shai. Army Sgt. First Class Nicolas Batista and Staff Sgt. Susan Rivera placed third with Salsa dancing. The winners received Army and Air Force Exchange Service gift cards.



(Above) Staff Sgt. Marco Puento and Capt Raymond Way perform "Lovin, touching, squeezing" at the Baghdad Idol competition at the Mirage Recreation Center April 15. (Left) Staff Sgt. Adam Thurston performs "If I ever fall in love again" at the competition. He won second place in the show.

Reverance, respect: Mortuary Soldiers send fallen home

By Master Sgt. Will Ackerman

447th Air Expeditionary Group
Public Affairs

Tucked away in an obscure building at Sather Air Base, a group of Soldiers hopes today is a slow day. Although most people like to have lots of work, these Puerto Rico Army Reserve Soldiers are content not to have business. When they are busy, it means someone has died serving here in Iraq.

“When there is nothing, it’s a good thing,” said Sergeant Jose Vega, 311th Quartermaster Company Mortuary Affairs technician. “It’s better to stay that way than working.”

However, when they do process human remains for the flight back to the United States and to the family of the deceased, they perform their mission with “respect and reverence,” said Spc. Juan Mendezvega.

“We treat (each person) as an individual.”

The mortuary affairs team processes remains of American forces, Coalition, contractors and Iraqis who died in Iraq. They do not embalm the remains. The remains are transported in the condition they are received.

They document the condition of the remains at the time of death on an anatomical chart. They list all wounds, tattoos, scars or identification marks.

“We write down anything identifiable,” Specialist Mendezvega said.

Although the Dover Air Force Base, Del., mortuary is responsible for positively identifying the individual, the mortuary affairs team’s meticulous work here often

provides “tentative” identification.

“We look for a person’s ID tags so we can provide a tentative ID to Dover,” said Sergeant Vega. “This can help them in notifying the family (of the deceased) as soon as possible.

One way they tentatively identify the remains is taking any “personal effects,” documenting these on a form and placing them in a container or bag that travels in a transfer case with the remains.

Although the team processes hundreds of remains, the hardest emotional challenge is when they find a family photo.

“One of the worst parts is seeing pictures of the family,” Sergeant Vega said. “It reminds us they had people waiting back home.”

The remains are placed in an aluminum transfer case in the condition they were received from the field along with a “case file” that includes the anatomical chart, personal effects list and a death certificate from a medical authority here. The remains are sent on a military aircraft to a regional mortuary in Kuwait. There remains are then packed on ice for the journey to Dover AFB, where they are embalmed.

The mortuary team here processed more than 135 U.S. remains since September 2005. They also processed 27 insurgent and detainee remains and 63 third-country nationals.

Although there is no requirement to do so, the team leads a brief ceremony as they load the remains onto the aircraft to pay respect for the individual’s service. They and volunteers who are servicemembers here carry the

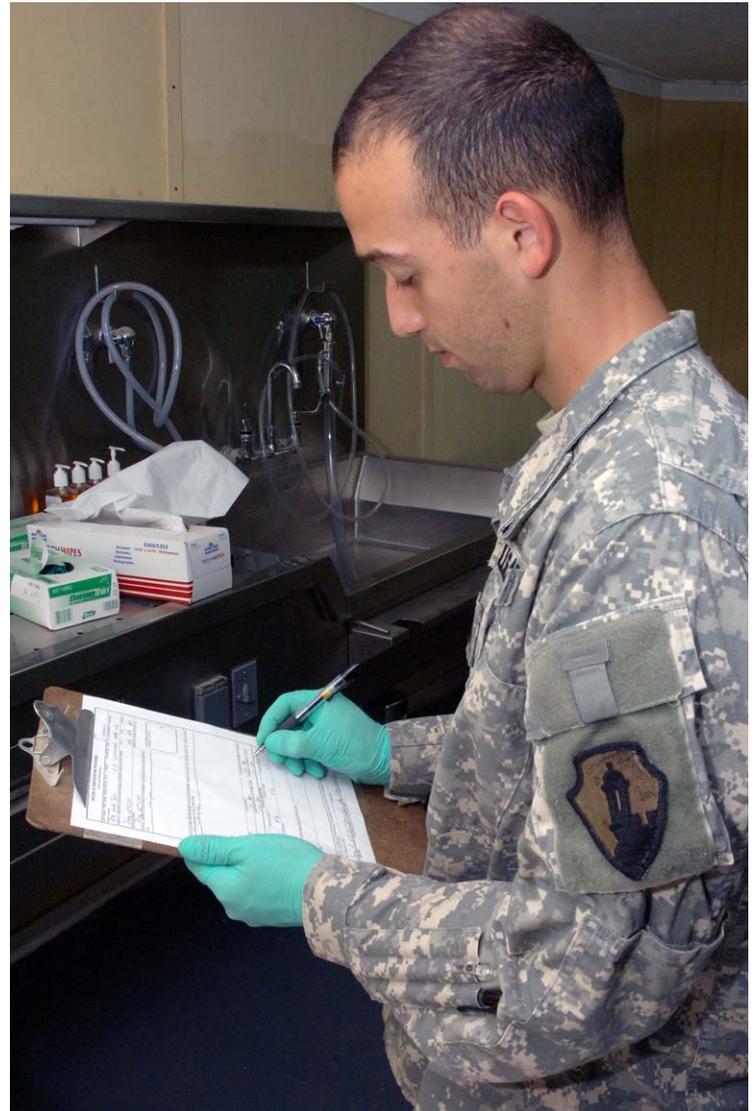


Photo by Master Sgt. Will Ackerman

Army Sgt. Jose Vega, 311th Quartermaster Company, completes a form used to help provide identification of a deceased person at the mortuary at Sather Air Base recently. The mortuary team processes human remains here and prepares them for shipment to regional mortuaries in Kuwait and Dover Air Force Base, Del.

flag-draped transfer case onto the aircraft while a small military formation presents a final salute.

“The (person) made the greatest sacrifice for the cause. I try to go every time and pay my respects,” Specialist Mendezvega said.

Although handling human remains from the battlefield is challenging, the Soldiers’ morale is high. Sergeant Vega said they all volunteered for the career field. Additionally, many have been together for years in the Reserves.

If one person has a problem, they all work together to deal with it.

“We can talk about anything,” Specialist Mendezvega said. “We are like a small family.”

Because they can receive remains at any time of the day or night, and they never know when they will have “downtime,” they take advantage of the quiet periods by playing basketball, watching movies or just talking.

The mortuary affairs career field is one that takes a special kind of person, Sergeant Vega said. But every member of the team volunteered.

“To me, I wouldn’t be doing any other job in the Army,” Specialist Mendezvega said.



Army Capt. Ruth Vetter tries to keep up with legendary country fiddle player Charlie Daniels during a concert at Camp Liberty Tuesday. Mr. Daniels was on tour with "Stars for Stripes" throughout Southwest Asia. Captain Vetter is a legal analyst for plans and policy at Multinational Corp-Iraq.

Photos by Master Sgt. Will Ackerman

Charlie Daniels

Legendary country artist Charlie Daniels and his band played in an open-air concert at Camp Liberty Tuesday.

More than 800 servicemembers and contractors listened to Mr. Daniels and his band, who have performed together for more than 30 years.

CBS Early Show's Dave Price got the audience warmed up with his own unique sense of comedy. Mr. Price also tested his fiddle-playing talents against the legendary Mr. Daniels.

An Army Captain who plays classical music got to test her fiddle skills against Mr. Daniels. Capt. Ruth Vetter, a legal adviser with Multinational Corp-Iraq plans and policy, tried to pluck note for note to keep up with the legendary Mr. Daniels.

The show was the final of a "Stars for Stripes" tour through Southwest Asia. Stars for Stripes is non-profit organization dedicated to providing quality entertainment to U.S. military forces deployed to remote locations overseas



(Left) Contractor Tom Burton shows dances during pre-show music. (Above) CBS Early Show's Dave Price talks to Senior Airman Caitlin Goff, 447th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron, before the concert Tuesday. He was the show's emcee.



CBS Early Show's Dave Price duels with legendary country artist Charlie Daniels during a concert at Camp Liberty Tuesday. Mr. Daniels was touring Southwest Asia with "Stars for Stripes." This was his last show of the tour.



Photo courtesy of Combat Camera

Master Sgt. J.T. Thrower (center) and Senior Airman James Adams (right), 447th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron Explosive Ordnance Disposal Flight technicians, stand with an Army colleague with a weapons cache they found off base in Iraq Feb. 21.

The danger is real; the reward is saving another life

By Master Sgt. Will Ackerman

447th Air Expeditionary Group Public Affairs

One might think explosive ordnance disposal troops are adrenalin junkies or risk takers. But they are meticulous about their work and don't take unnecessary risks. However, because they deal with explosives here placed by the enemy, the risk is real.

"We all know the consequences," said Tech. Sgt. William Sistler, a 447th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron EOD team chief. "But we don't think about it."

Since January, the EOD Airmen responded more than 340 times to more than 250 improvised explosive devices in an area of responsibility covering 500 square miles.

Even though they face the chance of injury or even death every time they respond, their safety record demonstrates the focus they have when responding and the type of people in the career field.

"They are the kind of people who think on their feet," said Senior Master Sgt. Dale Moser, 447th ECES EOD superintendent.

Until Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom, Air Force EOD's primary mission was base support, which included disarming hung flares on aircraft or suspect packages. But now they perform what used to be primarily an Army mission—safing explosives on the battlefield.

The career field had not lost an Airman

performing a safing procedure since Vietnam, Sergeant Moser said, until March 29. Tech. Sgt. Walter Moss, an EOD team chief here, died while trying to safe an explosive device near Baghdad.

"It makes you think, 'It could happen to anyone,'" Sergeant Moser said. But "sometimes accidents happen."

Although the team took the loss hard and took a few "mandatory" days off to deal with the emotional side of the incident and to review their procedures, they know this is one of the dangers they face.

"There is not a whole lot we can change in the mission," said Tech. Sgt. John Hill, an EOD team chief. "We looked at the scenario, and we doubt any of us would have done anything different."

Another threat is incoming small arms or mortar rounds while they are trying to safe an explosive device. An equal danger is getting to the place where the device is located. Sometimes they pass four or five IEDs to get to their initial response location.

"Many of us consider getting to the IED a bigger threat than the IED itself," said Senior Airman Amos Smith, an EOD technician. "We are pretty skilled in getting across bridges, where sometimes our vehicle is slightly wider than the bridge and the tires are hanging over the edge on both sides."

The roads also become slick when it rains; occasionally causing vehicles to slide into

one of the numerous canals.

"There is always the danger the vehicle can flip over in the canal and the doors may jam shut, which can cause you to drown," he said.

Regardless of the threat, they try to mitigate the risks. They use high-tech robots with mounted cameras and mechanical arms to view and disarm explosives. But sometimes they still have to take the walk to safe an explosive device.

"People who have never taken that long and lonely walk down to safe an IED or a roadside bomb will never come to fathom how it feels," Master Sgt. J.T. Thrower wrote in a message that was read at Sergeant Moss' memorial service April 1.

Because they face these dangers each mission, the EOD Airmen trust each other.

"We put each other's life on the line," said Sergeant Sistler. "If our Team Leader says it's good to go downrange, we have to trust that he or she is right."

They also realize the value of their work.

"For every IED we take care of, one more won't explode," Sergeant Sistler said. "It won't take out another civilian or Coalition troop."

If you ask EOD Airman to quantify why they put their lives in danger for people they don't even know, the answer is simple.

"It's just what we do," said Sergeant Sistler.



(Above) People compete in a water balloon toss here at the luau for AEF 9/10 Friday. (Right) Tech. Sgt. Toby Dunlap does the limbo while Tech. Sgt. Monica Strong and Staff Sgt. Candis Gant hold the stick.



LUAU-IRAQ STYLE

Team Sather celebrated their successful deployment at a “farewell luau” here Friday. The luau was geared to bring all the Sather Air Base members together for one last morale event before people start redeploying home in May.

Events included a barbecue, a scavenger hunt, a limbo contest, dodgeball, tug-o-war and a bonfire. The V Corp Army Band “VC Groove” entertained the crowd with various music.

Air and Space Expeditionary Force 9 and 10 members here will start redeploying as early as next week.

Photos by Master Sgt. Will Ackerman



Master Sgt. Everett Spells feels the beat at the AEF 9/10 luau here Friday.



Army Sgt. First Class DerriCk Gray and other Top III members show their might after tug-o-war at the AEF 9/10 luau Friday.

SATHER AIR BASE BRIEFS

Headgear in PT uniform

Headgear is not required while wearing the Air Force physical training uniform. However, Airmen may wear the 8-point desert camouflage or floppy hat while in the PT uniform to provide protection from the sun's ultraviolet rays, according to the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing supplement to Air Force Instruction 36-2903, Dress and Personal Appearance of Air Force Personnel.

Army Medical Records

Army Soldiers can now view their individual medical readiness and immunization records at Army Knowledge Online. Soldiers can open and save the two documents using Adobe Acrobat.

There are also links to informational Web sites and Army regulations covering medical readiness at <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/login/welcom.htm>. Soldiers who find incorrect or blank data in their medical records here can contact their medical processing data entry representative to update or correct information.

Desert Uniforms

The Force Protection staff reminds deployed members not to throw their desert camouflage uniforms in the trash. People should take the uniforms with them when they return to their homestations.

For more information, call the Force Protection office at 446-2410.

Base Training Manager

Sather Air Base members can complete professional military education and career development courses.

Contact Master Sgt. Carol Pointdexter at 446-2069 or carol.pointdexter@bdad.centaf.af.mil.

Civil Engineer work order

To request work from the 447th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron that requires detailed planning, complete an Air Force Form 332, Civil Engineer Work Request.

Complete blocks 1 to 3, 5, and 7 to 13. Skip blocks 4 and 6. Describe the work requested in block 8. Provide the justification in block 9. Sign block 13 and then drop the original 332 form at CES customer service. For more information, call 446-2235.



Photo by Master Sgt. Will Ackerman

Wilson goes on tour with Charlie!

Wilson, who was lost at the end of the movie "Castaway," recently performed with legendary country artist Charlie Daniels. Mr. Daniels toured Southwest Asia with "Stars for Stripes," which brings stars to raise morale for troops deployed worldwide.

Flags over Iraq

To have a U.S. flag flown over Iraq, buy one at the base exchange and drop it off and complete a form at the Glass House.

SNCO Course 14

The Senior Noncommissioned Officer Professional Military Education Course 14 is now available for enrollment.

The Web-based course contains the same curriculum as the CD-ROM-based Course 12, but it is accessible on the Internet.

Students may not enroll in both courses concurrently. To enroll in either course, contact your unit training manager or base education or training office.

For more information, visit the Air University Web site at <http://course12.maxwell.af.mil/index.htm>.

Story ideas, corrections

Got a good story idea? Contact public affairs. Find an error in the *Sather Pathfinder*? Although we strive for accuracy, if you find an error in the newspaper, please contact PA at 447aeg.pa@bdad.centaf.af.mil or call 446-2405 between 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Hometown News Release

The Army and Air Force Hometown News release is a great way to share your service with family and friends back home.

You can complete a HTNR for events including deployments, promotions, education degrees or significant awards.

Click on <https://hn.afnews.af.mil/webpages/paperless/46790/46790-447aegbaghdadiap.html>. For more information, call 446-2405.

Sather HTNR Unit Totals

The following numbers of HTNRs were submitted in AEF 9/10 since January:

- 447th Expeditionary Medical Squadron -13
- 447th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron -13
- 447th Air Expeditionary Group Staff - 7
- 447th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron - 6
- 447th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron - 5
- Coalition Air Force Transition Team - 3
- 447th Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron - 2
- 623rd Military Cargo Team (Army) - 1
- 447th Expeditionary Communications Squadron - 1



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

Today

Lunch

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

Dinner

Bean w/bacon soup
 Veal steak
 Salmon
 Sweet & sour pork chops
 Chicken Vega

Sunday

Lunch

New England clam chowder
 Glazed baked ham
 Chili mac
 Meat loaf
 Cornish hen

Dinner

New England clam chowder
 Smothered pork chops
 Grilled sausage
 Fried chicken
 Ham hocks
 Baked fish
 Barbecue ribs

Monday

Lunch

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

Dinner

Cream of mushroom soup
 Barbecue pork
 Roast beef
 Fried chicken

Tuesday

Lunch

Cream of broccoli soup
 Cantonese ribs
 Baked chicken
 Chili mac
 Pot roast

Dinner

Cream of broccoli soup
 Cajun catfish
 Braised beef w/noodles
 Breaded pork chops
 Italian veal

Wednesday

Lunch

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

Dinner

Chicken w/rice soup
 Chicken curry
 Roasted turkey
 Salisbury steak
 Honey-glazed ham

Thursday

Lunch

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

Dinner

Bean w/bacon soup
 Grilled chicken breast
 Roast fresh ham
 Veal parmesan
 Swedish meatballs

Friday

Lunch

New England clam chowder
 Fried and baked fish
 Grilled steak
 Seafood gumbo
 Fried chicken
 Crab legs
 Lobster tails
 Fried shrimp

Dinner

New England clam chowder
 Roast pork loin

El Rancho stew
 Baked chicken
 Tuna tetrazzini

April 29

Lunch

Vegetarian veg soup
 Cornish hens
 Grilled pork chops
 Fried shrimp
 Meat loaf

Dinner

Vegetarian veg soup
 Roasted chicken
 Yankee pot roast
 Herb-baked salmon filets
 Spaghetti w/meat sauce
 Chicken Cordon Bleu

April 30

Lunch

Chicken noodle soup
 Roasted turkey
 Barbecue ribs
 Fried fish
 Beef stroganoff

Dinner

Smothered pork chops
 Grilled steak
 Fried chicken
 Baked fish
 Ham hocks

May 1

Lunch

Cream of mushroom soup
 Salisbury steak
 Oven-baked chicken
 Glazed-baked ham
 Turkey curry

Dinner

Lemon-baked fish
 Breaded shrimp
 Barbecue beef cubed
 Honey-glazed Cornish hens

May 2

Lunch

Lemon-baked fish
 Breaded shrimp
 Barbecue beef cubed
 Honey-glazed Cornish hens
 Macroni and cheese

Dinner

Cream of broccoli soup
 Fried fish
 Veal schnitzel
 Meatloaf
 Chicken Cordon Bleu

May 3

Lunch

New England Clam Chowder
 Roast beef
 Fried chicken
 Lemon-baked fish
 Turkey pot pie

Dinner

New England clam chowder
 Baked chicken
 Chili mac
 Lasagna w/eggplant
 Corn beef

May 4

Lunch

New England clam chowder
 Baked chicken
 Chili mac
 Lasagna w/eggplant
 Corn beef

Dinner

Grilled pork chops
 Roast beef
 Chicken Cordon Bleu
 Roasted turkey

May 5

Lunch

Cream of mushroom soup
 Fried & baked fish
 T-bone steak
 Crab legs
 Fried shrimp
 Seafood gumbo
 Fried chicken
 Lobster tails

Dinner

Cream of mushroom soup
 Barbecue ribs
 Beef pot pie
 Roasted turkey
 Salisbury steak

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

Menu is subject to change without notice!

Strongest in the AOR

They've been working for this moment since they got to Iraq. They spent numerous hours pushing weights and training so they could compete for the title "Strongest in the AOR."

Soldiers and Airmen assigned to Sather Air Base competed in the competition at the Tigris Fitness Center April 11.

Participants competed in three events: the squat, bench press and deadlift.

Now some might think that the bigger they are the more chance they had to win. But the

competition used a formula to compare body weight to the weight lifted. This provided a balanced ratio to give even competition.

The winner of the men's category, Richard Maines of the 447th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron, was the smallest in size compared to the other male competitors, but he made up for it in the combined weight pushed.

Aisha DaCosta, also of 447th ELRS, took first place in the women's category.



(Left) Aisha DaCosta, 447th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron, placed first in the women's category at the Strongest in the AOR meet April 11 at the Tigris Fitness Center here. (Below) Richard Maines, 447th ELRS, presses to win first place in the men's category.



Photos by Master Sgt. Will Ackerman

(Above) Lee Wilson gives it his all while squatting at the Strongest in the AOR competition April 11. He's with the Army 155th CTC at Sather Air Base. (Right) Daryl Hardeman, 447th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron, shows his "strongman" face while squatting. He placed second in the men's category during the competition at the Tigris Fitness Center.





Nothing to do here in the desert after work? Tired of sitting in your tent? The 447th Expeditionary Services Squadron has something for everyone

- Every Sunday, Bingo @ 9 a.m. & 8:30 p.m.
- Monday, Jeopardy @ 7:30 p.m., 
- Tuesday, Combat fitness challenge @ 9 a.m. at the Tigris Fitness Center
- Wednesday, Win, Lose or Draw @ 6:30 p.m.
- Thursday, 3-on-3 competition @ 7:30 p.m., at the basketball courts
- Friday, Texas hold 'em @ 9 a.m., 7:30 p.m.
- May 2, Horseshoes @ 9 a.m., 7:30 p.m. behind Mirage Recreation Center
- May 3, Spades @ 7:30 p.m. 
- May 4, Ping Pong @ 9 a.m., 7:30 p.m.
- May 5, Texas hold 'em @ 7:30 p.m., Paradise Point

Activities at Mirage Recreation Center unless otherwise noted

Basketball Playoffs



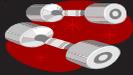
It's not the Final Four, but Sather Air Base's playoffs heat up the courts Sunday through Friday. Come out and cheer on your favorite team.

Cinco de Mayo



Commemorate the battle of the Mexican militia over the French in the Battle of Puebla in 1862. Event is May 5 at 5 p.m. at the Mirage Recreation Center.

The Fitness Corner



- **Combat Fitness Challenge, Tuesdays @ 9 a.m., at the Tigris Fitness Center**
- **Step aerobics, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7 p.m., at the Tigris Fitness Center**
- **Amazin Race, April 29 @ 10 a.m. Call 446-2802 for information.**



Intramural Basketball Standings

(as of April 20)

Team	Wins	Losses
EOSS	4	2
ECES 1	0	5
ELRS 1	4	2
ECS	2	3
EMEDS	3	2
ECES 2	1	4
ELRS 2	1	4
ECES 3	6	0
ESFS	3	2

Sather Victory Chapel Worship Services

SATURDAY

- 5 p.m., Catholic Confession
- 5:30 p.m., Catholic Service
- 8 p.m., Catholic Service/Camp Slayer Chapel

SUNDAY

- 8 a.m., Traditional Protestant Service
- 10 a.m., Gospel Worship Service
- 2 p.m., Latter Day Saints Service
- 3 p.m., Catholic Mass: Striker (Bus leaves Glass House @ 2:30 p.m.)
- 7:30 p.m., Contemporary Protestant Service

MONDAY

- 8 p.m., Evangelical Protestant Worship Service
- All services are at the Sather Victory Chapel unless otherwise noted.*

Chapel Activities

TUESDAY

- 7 p.m., *The Purpose Driven Life* study, Chapel

WEDNESDAY

- 7 p.m., Catholic Rite of Christian Initiation, OSS conference room
- 7 p.m., Women's Bible Study, Chapel
- 8 p.m., "That the World May Know" video study, Chapel office

THURSDAY

- 8 p.m., Life of Jesus Bible Study, Chapel office

FRIDAY

- 7 p.m., Financial Peace Study, Chapel office

SATURDAY

- 7 p.m., "The DaVinci Code: Quest for Answers" -myth vs. fact, Chapel