

# Krab KRONICLE

Volume 4 Issue 9

506th Air Expeditionary Group, Kirkuk Air Base, Iraq

April 24, 2006

## News Briefs

### 506th ECS Photo Contest

The 506th Expeditionary Communications Squadron and the 506th Expeditionary Services Squadron present an Amateur Photo contest. The competition has two categories:  
 -- Nature/landscape (surroundings)  
 -- Personality (people, expression)

Contestants should submit photos via e-mail to Airman 1st Class JoAnn White, 506 ECS/SCS, at joann.white@krab.centaf.af.mil

Photo submissions will not be accepted after 5 p.m., May 4.

Call the 506th ECS Support Flight at 444-2442 for information or questions.

### DCU disposal

Dont' get rid of old uniforms by throwing them in the trash. They could be used to gain access to the base.



Take unserviceable uniforms to the 506th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron warehouse located next to the Air Terminal Operations Center at the flightline entrance. They will dispose of them properly.

### To complete a Hometown News

Release, go to  
<http://intranet.krab.centaf.ds.af.mil/aeg/Public%5Faffairs/DOCS/DD2266.htm>



Photo by Airman 1st Class JoAnn White

## Just follow the blue wire ...

Staff Sgt. James Fishinghawk runs local area network cables at the new 506th Expeditionary Communications Squadron compound. He is a member of the Forward Operating Engineering and Installation team deployed from the 219th Air National Guard based in Tulsa, Okla.

Think you can take a better photo? Enter the Amateur Photo Contest. See details on this page in News Briefs.

## Redeployment is in the works

By Staff Sgt. Kristina Barrett

506th AEG Public Affairs

“When are we getting out of here?” is the question most heard by unit deployment managers in every squadron in the 506th Air Expeditionary Group.

Not to fear, Airmen at the 506th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron Deployment Control Center are trying to do

just that — get Airmen home.

Now that most Airmen here are about 30 days out, missions are beginning to flow from the “undisclosed location” where most Airmen caught the C-130 to Kirkuk. UDMs will start notifying Airmen when they are scheduled to leave.

“Airmen will know when they are scheduled to leave the AOR and will receive a

\_\_\_\_\_ see REDEPLOYMENT, Page 3

## What's Inside



### Feature

Sense of unity carries EMEDS through the day

Page 4



### Feature

When the 'doc' is a sergeant

Page 8

# What's in a diamond?

By Senior Master Sgt.

**Scott Marsich**

*Air Force Institute of Technology*

*First Sergeant*

## WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio

— Like so many other Airmen, throughout my career I came to work, gave 100 percent of myself and worked my way through the junior ranks.

My primary mission five days a week was to diagnose and fix the electronic counter-measures systems on the B-52 Stratofortress and B-1B Lancers. I worked the flightline for more than 18 years and loved every minute of it, but as you've heard, the only thing constant in the Air Force is change.

In the spring of 1999, Master Sgt. Kerry Yost, first sergeant for the 28th Bomb Squadron at Dyess Air Force Base, Texas, offered me what can only be deemed as the opportunity of a lifetime. Sergeant Yost asked if I wanted to help out half-days in the "shirt's" office at the 28th BS.

I was a technical sergeant at the time so I figured my role was probably going to be tied to administrative tasks, but nothing could have been further from the truth. In fact, what Sergeant Yost was offering me was a first-hand look into the world of the Air Force first sergeant. I gladly accepted and followed Sergeant Yost around the base, where I had the opportunity to meet others in the business of helping people.

The next nine months changed my life. Before this experience, my perception of the first sergeant was very skewed as I, like so

many other Airmen, thought that the shirt was there strictly to discipline Airmen when they fell out of line.

Sergeant Yost showed me how wrong I was.

Late in 1999, I found out that I had a line number for master sergeant. Sergeant Yost had asked me a couple of times before the promotion release if I had ever thought about actually becoming a first sergeant. Before my time as an additional duty first sergeant, my answer would have probably been, "No, thank you, Ma'am."

But after considering my opportunities, I had to ask myself: If I could have any job in the entire world, what would I do? The answer came to me in a moment of clarity. With the encouragement and support of our commander, I applied to cross-train into the first sergeant career field.

Seven years and five squadrons later, the diamond is still proudly displayed on my uniform. This was unequivocally the best decision I ever made. I get to wear this unique chevron because I was given an opportunity to see what an Air Force first sergeant actually does.

For instance, I get the chance to directly affect the future success of our young Airmen as I badger them into taking college classes. I have the opportunity to correct ill-

fated financial decisions by troops barely old enough to vote as I shepherd them through

the Personal Financial Management Program.

Simply put, I now have the opportunity to directly reach out and touch the lives of hundreds of Air Force members and so do you.

If you are a master sergeant or a technical sergeant with a line number and you'd like to know why, after almost seven years in this line of work, I still think it's the best job in the Air Force, just ask your shirt to afford you the same opportunity that Sergeant Yost gave me in 1999.

So many people have asked me when I'm going to retire and my answer never changes. I tell them that I'll keep doing this as long as I believe I am making a difference. I wake up every day with a small amount of guilt because I just can't believe I get to do this job and get a paycheck on top of it.

First sergeants have a creed that we live and die by. Wherever I go, I carry a round metal object in my pocket inscribed with a line that reads: "I am an Air Force first sergeant, my job is people. Everyone is my business." There's no better feeling than making a difference in people's lives.

If you could have any job in the world, what would you do?

***First sergeants have a creed that we live and die by. Wherever I go, I carry a round metal object in my pocket inscribed with a line that reads: "I am an Air Force first sergeant, my job is people. Everyone is my business." There's no better feeling than making a difference in people's lives.***



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506th AEG

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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

## Burn, baby, burn

Firefighters from the 506th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron Fire Department put out a blaze during training.

Think you can take a better photo? Enter the Amateur Photo Contest. See details on Page 1 in News Briefs.

## REDEPLOYMENT *Continued From Page 1*

mission and chalk number 21 days prior to departing,” said Master Sgt. Zane McCausland, DCC superintendent. “Airmen will depart Kirkuk 24 to 48 hours prior to their scheduled rotator from the point they entered the AOR and will be notified approximately 24 hours prior to their flight out.”

The DCC is beginning to push information to the UDMs, who have all the information on what window the Airman is eligible to leave, what mission they are scheduled on and at what airport they are scheduled to arrive in the United States.

Airmen will get their flights home from the airport when they enter the U.S. from their UDM’s, who will coordinate commercial transportation for their personnel from the rotator termination point to their final destination

through 506th ELRS passenger travel.

There are things Airmen can start doing now.

“People should start getting themselves ready to leave by making sure to allow enough time to get their outprocessing done,” Sergeant McCausland said. “People should start mailing items home if they want to lighten the load they are carrying.”

For a list of items Airmen are allowed to send home, people should contact their UDM.

In addition, Sergeant McCausland said Airmen need to be patient and be flexible.

“We are working with the UDMs to ensure people leave on time,” he said.

Those with questions can contact their unit deployment manager.

### OUTPROCESSING CHECKLIST TIPS

**Outprocessing checklists are available at:**  
[http://intranet/aeg/PERSCO/DOCS/Outprocessing%20checklist%20\(3\).pdf](http://intranet/aeg/PERSCO/DOCS/Outprocessing%20checklist%20(3).pdf)

Completed checklists must be turned into PERSCO prior to departure.

*The following organizations require outprocessing:*

- UDM
- EMEDS (w/in 10 days of departure)
- Post Office
- Lodging
- Help Desk
- Room Inspection
- CSS (pick up LOE 10 days prior to departure)

*The following outprocessing tasks are on an ‘as applicable’ basis:*

- Turn in self-help tools
- Unit Mail Clerk
- Unit LMR Custodian (5 days prior to departure)
- ADPE Custodian (5 days prior to departure)
- Equipment account (5 days prior to departure)
- Turn in library items (5 days prior to departure)
- VCO/VNCO (2 days prior to departure)

# Network passwords soon a thing of the past

**WASHINGTON (AFPN)** -- For many, the Common Access Card, or "CAC," is just a replacement for the green military ID card used for so many years. But the card can be used for more than getting past gate security. The cards carry digital "certificates" that allow a user to more securely identify themselves to a computer network.

It is that secure networking capability the Air Force expects to begin taking advantage of, said Lt. Gen. Michael W. Peterson, the Air Force chief of warfighting integration and chief information officer.

By July, the Air Force expects nearly 80 percent of Airmen and Air Force civilians will use their CAC to log in to their NIPRNet, or "Non-secure Internet Protocol Router Network," accounts at work.

Once fully implemented, users can forget their network account names and passwords. Instead, they will log in to work computers by sliding their CAC into readers and entering a personal identification number. The need to have a physical product, a card, to get into the network, provides a level of security beyond the traditional password and login name combination, General Peterson said.

Because the CAC also serves as a military ID and is used to gain physical access to Air Force installations and resources, Airmen know how important it is to protect it. General Peterson said he believes the emphasis Airmen put on protecting their CAC from loss



will translate to protecting the Air Force network when they begin using it to log in there.

The unique digital certificates stored on the CAC are of critical importance. Those certificates are used to confirm the identity of cardholders to Air Force computer networks. The same certificates also allow Airmen to digitally sign and encrypt e-mail messages.

While not all computer systems in the Air Force will require Airmen to use a CAC for login, most eventually will. The change, said General Peterson, is part of the future of network security, and is important to protecting the Air Force's vast warfighting network.

"This is about identity management and rights management on the network and making sure that warfighting system is available when we need it," General Peterson said. "This is a quantum step in securing our networks. But I believe 24 months from now we will all simply look at this as the way we do business."

General Peterson said that the Air Force is aware that not all users of Air Force computer networks possess a CAC, especially in overseas locations. He also said that some computer systems, such as those aboard Air Force aircraft, do not possess the ability to utilize a CAC. The Air Force information technology community is working on solutions to those challenges.

## News from around the Air Force

### 'My Stuff' lets Airmen track requests

**RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPN)** — Airmen can now track the status of requests and correspondence sent to the Air Force Contact Center via the "My Stuff" tab on the Air Force Personnel Center public Web site.

Members can personalize their generic account by visiting the AFPC public Web site at <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil> and following these instructions:

— Click the My Stuff gray tab on the front page underneath the search box .

— Type their generic user ID and click the "Email Me My Password" button. The generic user ID is the member's last name and last four digits of their social security number

— Once the system e-mails the password, members can use their generic user ID and password to login and personalize their account by creating a unique user ID and password.

For questions or issues regarding establishing a My Stuff account call the contact center at (800) 616-3775, option 1, option 1, option 2; commercial (210) 565-5000; or DSN 665-5000.

### DOD to set up worldwide joint intelligence operations

**WASHINGTON (AFPN)** — The Department of Defense is moving to establish a worldwide group of joint intelligence organizations designed to rapidly gather, interpret and act on information to better meet 21st century military needs.

On April 3, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld issued a directive to establish a joint intelligence operations center at DOD's Defense Intelligence Agency, at each unified combatant command and at U.S. Forces Korea.

Findings of Capitol Hill and DOD commissions and studies, conducted since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the United States, recommended the department integrate and improve the processes it uses to gather, analyze and act on intelligence information.

One of the first changes DOD made was to establish the office of the undersecretary of defense for intelligence. The JOIC system is structured to eliminate traditional chain-of-command logjams to facilitate rapid cross-communications between analysts and intelligence gatherers in the field.

Modern battlefields like Afghanistan and Iraq have highlighted the need for decentral-

ized intelligence activities that can rapidly assess information and then react to the fleeting opportunities that we have to get a target that is presented to us.

### Services functions realign with manpower and personnel

**WASHINGTON (AFPN)** — Two Air Force functions are coming back together, an Air Force official here said recently, but initially the effects won't be felt outside the Pentagon.

When the services and manpower and personnel functional organizations combine, the change will be invisible to those in the field at base-level.

The merge falls in line with Air Force Smart Operations 21, the term given to changes being made Air Force-wide that allow organizations to combine the best parts of several civilian efficiency programs, to develop Air Force-unique process improvement programs.

The goal is to improve readiness while continuing to strengthen the programs within the career fields, he said. He gave the example of services and personnel Airmen working together in a deployed environment.

## Airmen train Afghan Soldiers for first mission

By Staff Sgt. Jennifer Rendente  
455th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

**KABUL, Afghanistan** — U.S. Airmen recently trained Soldiers from the Afghan National Army's Central Movement Agency for their first long-haul convoy mission.

The mission March 12 covered hundreds of miles from Kabul to Kandahar and involved two trucks, each carrying 6,000 liters of fuel.

The Airmen and ANA soldiers rose to the challenge when the coalition's forward operating bases needed fuel and contractors were not available. They planned and coordinated the mission in a single day, said Maj. Richard Jones of the 755th Expeditionary Mission Support Group.

Major Jones is the senior mentor with an embedded training team that arrived in January to teach ANA soldiers how to operate tactical cargo vehicles. At the time, the Central Management Agency had no working vehicles and were living in the cabs of old trucks, he said. In addition, many soldiers had no experience as drivers.

"Now we have a brand-new fleet of vehicles and have moved into new buildings," Major Jones said. "(The) ANA is becoming a self-sustaining force, no longer relying on local contractors, but making nationwide movements on their own."



Photo by Staff Sgty. Jennifer Rendente

**Maj. Richard Jones briefs soldiers from the Afghan National Army's Central Management Agency on the route they will take for their first long-haul convoy mission in Kabul, Afghanistan. Major Jones is the senior mentor assigned to the 755th Expeditionary Mission Support Group's CMA embedded training team.**

## Air Force Engineers support the fight

By Army Spc.  
Barbara Ospina  
1st Brigade Combat Team  
Public Affairs

**MOSUL, Iraq** — Air Force engineers from the 557th Expeditionary Red Horse Squadron are supporting Bastogne Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry near Hawijah, Iraq, by increasing the quality of living on forward operating base McHenry.

"It's a mission worth supporting," said 2nd Lt. Tim Brodman, the officer in charge of the Red Horse detachment. "Working with the people here has been tremendous."

Air Force engineers arrived at the small FOB in January, and have been working nonstop since.

After completing a new medical aid station, three sea huts (wooden multipurpose buildings), a military dog training course, new containerized housing units, and a modified post exchange, the Airmen said their list of projects is drawing to a close.

"Our team started out at 23 (people),"



Photo by Army Spc. Barbara Ospina

**Air Force engineers from the 557th Expeditionary Red Horse Squadron work to improve the quality of living for Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, stationed on Forward Operating Base McHenry, Iraq.**

Lieutenant Brodman said. "Since the last of our projects are almost complete we are gradually sending Airmen back to Mosul."

With only 15 Airmen still working on the FOB, the work they are accomplishing is still top of the line.

"(The new aid station) is really nice, and

we will be able to treat more patients," said Army Capt. Mark Demuth, battalion surgeon at FOB McHenry. "It was all a team effort to develop and design the aid station."

The engineers' accomplishments run throughout the FOB, affecting all of the Soldiers.

"You can see the change in the Soldiers' attitudes because of the work we are doing here," said Staff Sgt. Delbert Johnson. "You definitely notice a confidence boost."

Although the unit started out with a specific list of projects, they have been more than willing to support the FOB McHenry in any way they can.

No matter how small or large the projects, Air Force engineers said they are proud to be supporting the Bastogne Soldiers and enjoy the atmosphere on the FOB.

"I love it here," Sergeant Johnson said. "I have a better sense of pride about the work we are doing here."

# EMEDS team shares invisible bond

*"After what I saw last night, I understand why American Soldiers love their country. America values human life. Last night, no matter what the soldier's injuries or the soldier's rank, there were 10 medical specialists working on each Iraqi soldier. We are proud to have American Soldiers as our brothers."*

*-unnamed Iraqi Army officer*

**By Staff Sgt. Kristina Barrett**  
506th AEG Public Affairs

It is said that teamwork is the backbone for any organization. For the 506th Expeditionary Medical Squadron, it's the teamwork resulting from the bonds between medical professionals that inspired the quote above.

On the night of March 23rd, EMEDS received an urgent call, a call that brought a team of medics from different backgrounds and career fields together with one goal – to save lives.

It was a routine day until 9:30 p.m. when four Iraqi Army soldiers arrived at the emergency room after their armed vehicle was involved in a rollover. caused by an improvised explosive device Not knowing what injuries to expect, the team jumped into action to prepare for their patients. A medical team, including the Mobile Field Surgical Team, or MFST, was assembled, hoping for the best, preparing for the worst.

The four patients were brought in by helicopter and transported from the helo pad to the nearby emergency room by litter. t's not much different than a scene from the television series M\*A\*S\*H. Although the medical capabilities are much more advanced than five decades ago, the scene is similar. What prevails is these Airmen are faced

with the true nature of war and how their relationship with each other as a team allows them to face life and death situations

"We are a very close-knit group, despite the fact we come from 11 different bases, to include active duty, guard and Reserve" said Col. (Dr.) David Rhodes, EMEDS commander deployed from Keesler Air Force Base, Miss. "We have a camaraderie that has developed from the common bond we share."

It's this bond that carries them through the more than 1,500 patients they've treated, including more than 60 trauma cases.

The EMEDS here is designated as a level 2 facility. Level 1 care comes from the medics in the field, while level 2 facilities provide the first level of advanced care to patients who are "straight off the battlefield." This facility is considered an "EMEDS+10" and has the capability of housing 10 patients for 24 to 72 hours. The staff of about 50 encompass a wide range of medical specialties – physicians, nurses, and medical technicians – and includes a dentist, X-ray technician, lab technician and psychologist. Continuing and more specialized care is provided at level 3 facilities, one of which is located at Balad Air Base.

"Sometimes we have a patient who requires immediate care at a level 3 facility. We have the option to send them via helicopter to the next level of care," Colonel Rhodes said . "We have a dedicated flight surgeon who can travel with a patient and provide care in the air. Here at EMEDS we are able to provide initial trauma management and perform emergency surgery to save life and limb ."

"We also see the full range of less emergent medical problems and have about a 90 percent return to duty rate overall," he added.

Facing the more severe injuries can be difficult initially, especially in a war zone, said Master Sgt. Sandra Scott, noncommissioned officer in charge of emergency services.

Regardless of deployment experience or familiarity with treating severe trauma, the



(left ot right) Capt. Mario Calbone, operating room nurse, Tech. Sgt. George Koehler, medical technician, Maj. Scott Brandon, orthopedic surgeon, and Lt. Col. David Blake, general surgeon, perform as a team during surgery.

types of traumas they see in Iraq are different, said Sergeant Scott and Chief Master Sgt. Leon Hall, EMEDS superintendent. Both are deployed from Keesler.

“For us, acclimation begins as soon as we hit the ground and we have to stay ready because emergencies can occur at anytime in this environment,” she said.

“We see the trauma we’re faced with and in the time it takes us to take a deep breath, the medic in us takes over and allows us to do our job,” the chief said.

Sergeant Scott credits the team’s ability to gel quickly with great morale and team maturity, allowing them to jump in and provide the best care they can.

“If the members of the team don’t gel, it just doesn’t work,” she explained. “When we have a trauma to respond to, we don’t have to spend a lot of time talking about the duties of the team, we just do it, knowing by experience what needs to be done.”

That level of communication is necessary when there are 4 to 5 people to a patient and there are 4 to 5 things that all need to be accomplished in a short period of time, she said. “We just flow from one task to another.”

Such activity might appear to be “organized chaos,” according to Staff Sgt. Jake Leyva, independent duty medical technician deployed from Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M. He said that the many ongoing tasks are unspoken but carefully coordinated because the team members can count on each other.

“We are focused on treating the patient and this totally consumes our attention,” he said. “We can’t focus on the blood and

mass trauma because if we lose our focus, we could lose the patient.”

Each team member must deal with the trauma they see regularly, Colonel Rhodes said, and the comraderie that develops in these difficult environments helps defuse tension after the work is done. Humor is one way they deal with the challenges of the workday.

“A sense of humor is mandatory equipment here. There is a certain period of transition each person goes through given the level of trauma we see here,” the colonel said. “We each deal with it individually and as a group; we help each other through it.”

Major (Dr.) Mark Summers, flight surgeon deployed from Minot Air Force Base, N.D., has served as trauma team leader on several trauma patients.

“We’re in the middle of the ER all doing the same job and we must rely on each other,” explained Maj. Summers. “The thing that helps us through are the things that make us a team.”

Sergeant Scott agrees.

“When we have a trauma, we are focused on doing the job and that is the most important thing at that moment,” she



**Lt. Col. (Dr.) David Blake evaluates a patient for internal trauma.**

said. “Once we are finished, we sort of ‘eyeball’ each other to see how everyone is doing.”

The medics take care of each other because they realize they are an important link in the chain of the medical care their patient receives.

Sergeant Scott deployed to Landstuhl, Germany at the beginning of Operation Iraqi Freedom and has seen patient care from both ends of the spectrum – immediate care and after care.

“We provide the best level of immediate care here possible, to ensure optimal after-care down the line,” she said.

Colonel Rhodes, currently on his fifth deployment, stresses the importance of having a cohesive team which makes all the difference when lives are on the line.

“We spend a lot of time together even when we’re not working,” he said. “Morale here is high because we can see the difference our team effort makes.”

As the lives of the Iraqi soldiers hung in the balance, the Kirkuk EMEDS team worked through the night. In the end, all who came to the EMEDS that night were saved.

“This is the best part of what we do,” Colonel Rhodes said. “We can see the immediate benefits to our patients as we treat their injuries and, when necessary, move them to higher levels of care.”

**EMEDS Airmen evacuate a patient.**



# IDMT's role is a versatile one

By Staff Sgt. Kristina Barrett  
506th AEG Public Affairs

Although they have 'officially' existed in the Air Force since the early 1950s, Independent Duty Medical Technicians can trace their actual roots to the days of the Roman Empire, who put the word medic into our current vocabulary. Today they are often affectionately known as 'doc' to the Airmen they treat.

Medical care has come a long way since the Roman army. Staff Sgt. Jake Leyva, deployed from Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M., is currently the only IDMT assigned to the 506th Expeditionary Medical Squadron at Kirkuk. He has the ability to serve in multiple functions such as patient care, sick call, lab, bioenvironmental, public health, immunizations, dental and various other roles.

"The whole idea is to send us where there are no other medical providers, and under those circumstances, we do it all," he said.

"IDMTs diagnose and treat active duty personnel all under the license of a supervising doctor," the Jackson, Tenn., native said. We serve as a physician extender, force multiplier."

The IDMT role at home station is strictly under the supervision of a doctor in a training atmosphere, Sergeant Leyva explained. However, they serve more as a health care provider in the absence of a doctor at deployed or remote locations.

"IDMTs are serving with special forces, security forces and civil engineer units throughout the area of operations," he said. "But we are not limited to Air Force units, we can deploy with our sister services as well."

IDMTs must stay proficient in all aspects of their job, whether it's seeing patients, testing the water, monitoring for food borne illnesses or performing infection control. Whatever the job, it has a far reaching impact on deployed Airmen.

"We have been given a huge responsibility that we take very seriously," Sergeant Leyva said. "What we do or don't do can have a huge impact on an individual or even an entire base."

Despite the level of responsibility, Sergeant Leyva said the daily challenges he deals with are more than worth it in terms of job satisfaction. "I enjoy being able to be involved with taking care of people – it's very hands-on work," he said.

Although there are a variety of patients seen at the 506th EMEDS, Sergeant Leyva's role in a trauma patient is more as a medical technician assisting the attending physician as a member of a trauma team.

"I have never experienced the level of trauma we see here," he said. "But the training and experience will serve me well as I progress further in my career."

Sergeant Leyva's career as an IDMT June 2005, the same year the career field was changed from a special experience identifier on the medical technician specialty code to its own Air Force Specialty Code. Despite the somewhat short life as a separate career field, the history of the IDMT predates the United States Air Force.

According to the IDMT Association Web site, Air Force IDMTs began their existence during the Cold War when radar installations were being built across the free world's northern frontier and the need for more skilled technicians became apparent. Since these installations were manned with less than 100 personnel, it was neither cost effective nor practical to assign a physician, dentist and other health care professionals to each and every site. But since it was essential to have medical care available, the IDMTs were assigned to fill this need. When the Vietnam War got underway in 1965, the Air Force's operational demands for medical support increased in the field. Again, the IDMT was used to fill this need. Then, during the 1970's, with the Cold War build up near completion and small fixed facilities common in the European and Asian theaters, the IDMT was recognized as an important member of the Air Force's



Photo by Staff Sgt. Kristina Barrett

**Staff Sgt. Jake Leyva performs a follow-up examination on a Soldier injured by shrapnel. Sergeant Leyva is an Independent Duty Medical Technician and the only IDMT assigned to the 506th Expeditionary Medical Squadron here.**

health care team. After the end of the Cold War in the late 1980s, the number of sites requiring independent medical support drastically decreased. However, the 1990s introduced new operational doctrine including military operations other than war. When Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom began, the need for IDMTs at base locations increased. Now, IDMTs serve in locations across the Middle East and sometimes are the only medical care available to Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors and Marines.

The IDMT history is one to be proud of, said Chief Master Sgt. David Lewis, IDMT career field manager.

"IDMTs of the past existed for the sole purpose of providing care for patients as the only enlisted provider..." he said. "They truly want to do it for the sake of the patient."

Sergeant Leyva carries on the traditions and history of IDMTs before him.

"No matter what, we always attempt to provide the highest level of care," he said. "With a patient there is no past and no future, it's just the present and we do what we have to do to fix them."

# STONEKRAB revealed

By Tech. Sgt. Charles Murrell  
506th AEG Command Post

Everyone has heard the voice of STONEKRAB, but who is it? It's the 506th Air Expeditionary Group Command Post.

Behind a blue door at the 506th Air Expeditionary Group headquarters is a communication center alive with activity.

Controllers manage two secure telephones, 10 hotline phones, UHF or VHF radios, LMR access to all base agencies and NIPR or SIPR accounts.

They can respond to a voice alarm from the Theater Ballistic Missile Defense warning system, an individual caught on video at the building's main door or just about anything happening on base. Any incident can occur and send a seemingly quiet day into a frantic one.

The command post's main job is to relay time critical information that commanders may use to direct their forces. It operates much like a nerve center. So a bomb threat, structural fire, aircraft crash, rocket attack, inbound dustoff mission or a terrorist act similar to 9-11 can cause the command post to come instantly alive with unclassified and classified message traffic.

Normally controllers do not wish for incidents like these to occur on their shift, but if anything were to happen, the controllers would notify any agency on base to respond with the appropriate actions to take control of the situation.

"The command post is the 'heart beat' of the 506th AEG mission, providing the life blood of command and control necessary to ensure the mission runs smoothly," said Lt. Col. Dave Carrell, 506th AEG deputy commander. "They are able to reach out and touch anyone, anywhere on the base or at other bases to facilitate mission requirements."



(left to right) Senior Airman Chris Ramsuer, Tech. Sgt. Charles Murrell and Senior Airman Abby Daws conduct shift changeover procedures.

Photo By Staff Sgt. Kristina Barrett

There are six controllers assigned to the command post and all are from various major commands.

Senior Airman William Sage, deployed from Anderson Air Force Base, Guam, and Senior Airman Christey Tuff, deployed from Yokota Air Base, Japan, accomplish the day shift duties, while Senior Airmen Chris Ramsuer and Abby Daws, deployed from Shaw AFB, S.C., and Senior Airman Christopher Nunez, also deployed from Yokota, carry out the night shift responsibilities.

Duties include providing information to all Air Mobility Command assets to ensure aircraft, passenger and cargo data is rapidly transmitted to other AMC locations.

The command post gets its most visibility during attacks on the installation. In a split second, the night shift goes from peaceful to hub of activity.

Controllers grab the quick reaction checklist book, determine the correct checklist of 70 checklists and respond by notifying the base populace of the Alarm Red condition while the other controller made notifications to base leadership.

"I was very impressed with how quickly the controllers adjusted to local procedures and expertly handled every situation that was thrown at them," said Col. Pete Hronek, 506th AEG commander. "The CP team has made great strides in streamlining

many of the processes in the command post to make it much more effective for the leadership and base populace."

"What they do is critical to mission accomplishment and the safety of our Airmen and those we support on this base," he added.

The command post relies on its relationship with other base agencies, this is where communication is key. The controllers of the command post have had the opportunity to experience many of the missions happening on Kirkuk – from the Iraqi Air Force to the 727th Expeditionary Air Control Squadron.

As the representatives of the commander, controllers must be professional at all times, either while notifying first sergeants of Red Cross notifications, relaying messages to numerous base agencies or passing information to higher headquarters. The command post always has been and always will be the nerve center of an installation.

"They are able to reach out and touch anyone, anywhere on the base or at other bases to facilitate mission requirements," Colonel Carrell said. "Their expertise is also required during rocket attacks and other base emergencies as they are the integral link in initiating survival and recovery operations to ensure senior leadership and first responders have situational awareness on the nature of the actions."

# Combat stress when deployed

By Staff Sgt. Kevin Nicols  
U.S. CENTAF News Team

Many things can cause stress when deployed, even for members who don't regularly engage in combat operations. If servicemembers realize they might need help, the thought of going to see a deployed mental health professional can be intimidating.

Capt. (Dr.) Marshall Hayes, staff psychiatrist at Kandahar, Afghanistan, said he sees military members from varied backgrounds, situations and different levels of stress.

Asking for help isn't easy, especially with the perceived stigma about seeing a mental health professional.

"People think that if they come to see us, everyone will find out and this makes them feel vulnerable or exposed," Captain Hayes said. "We keep separate medical records and the consent of the patient is needed before I can give out any information."

Sometimes education is enough to get the ball rolling to defeat stress.

"Getting involved with the chaplain services, exercising with friends or taking part in recreational activities will help," Captain Hayes said. "One of the most important things for troops to do as soon as they get to their deployed location is to set up a routine. They need something to look forward to, such as reading a book or getting out and meeting people. That's the best way to counter stress."

People feeling a little off their game while deployed should remember that help is not far away. Talking to any medical professional is the first step to dealing with stress.

"Stress is something we all have to deal with, especially when deployed," Captain Hayes said. "No matter where you are, mental health professionals are standing by to help."

## Unattended bags versus suspicious packages What's the difference? What you should know

By Staff Sgt. Kristina Barrett  
506th AEG Public Affairs

Three Airmen are walking from their living area to get some coffee. Right in their path sits a box that has no business being there. The Airmen think back to their training and step back from the box and try to determine what's inside. One flap is open but the other is closed, concealing most of the contents of the box. Should the Airmen call it in or just leave it alone? After all, it could be just a box of water, right?

Maybe and maybe not. Insurgents have been known to put improvised explosive devices in common items. The Airmen decide to call it in. Was it the right choice?

"There's a difference between unattended objects and suspicious objects," said Tech. Sgt. Eric Thomas, 506th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron battle captain. "Unattended packages are those that don't look suspicious but they don't belong, while suspicious packages are completely different."

One difference in an unattended package and suspicious package is the way they look. An unattended package could just be someone's laundry or backpack sitting at a table or by a door. Suspicious packages are ones that have wires protruding from them, stains or excessive amounts of tape. The second difference is the response generated when called in to the base defense operations center.

"If the BDOC receives a report of an unattended or suspicious package, a patrol will be sent over and we will give the fire department and (explosive ordnance disposal) a heads-up about what's going on," Sergeant Thomas said. "The patrol will put eyes on the package and make a determination from there."

If people notice an unattended or suspicious package, they should call the BDOC to report it. Airmen should ensure someone

is keeping an eye on the package from a safe distance and make sure no one goes near it, Sergeant Thomas added. Airmen manning the phones will ask the caller to describe the object, such as size, type and color. Also, the caller must be inform the BDOC with the actions taken to clear the area until a patrol is sent.

"Caller must give as much information as possible so a determination can be made on sending a patrol, if a cordon is required and the response measures necessary," Sergeant Thomas explained. "If the package is determined to be suspicious, official notification is given to the fire department and EOD."

Sergeant Thomas also said that all local nationals and third country nationals are thoroughly searched when they enter the installation but people still need to be vigilant. He said people should be aware of their surroundings, both inside buildings and in outside areas also.

"Airmen should specially be aware in common areas that would provide the most casualties in the event something did happen," he added.

So did the Airmen do the right thing?

"Well there's no going to be a box sitting out there that has TNT written on the side," he laughed. "It's everyone's job to do security so Airmen need to be aware of what's going on around them."



Report all suspicious packages to the BDOC at 444-2303.

### WHAT TO DO

If calling to report a suspicious package, person or event:

- be clear with information
- provide a good description (size, type, color, direction)
- provide as much information as possible
- ensure someone keeps the item in view from a safe distance and ensures no one goes near it

**Call BDOC at 444-2303**

# Who is the FOD Boss?

By Master Sgt. Todd Miller  
506th EOSS Airfield Management

First, the big quiz. What does the acronym, FOD, mean? Foreign Object Damage. The term has also come to be colloquially used as a noun (foreign-object-debris), and therefore refers to all the loose pieces of concrete on ramps and taxiways, bag tags and locks, nuts and bolts, plastic bags, rocks and stones, and other debris on Kirkuk's ramps, taxiways, and runways.

While each small piece may not seem like a problem, collectively they represent a huge problem.

Each flightline vehicle should have a FOD can. If you see debris on the ramp, pick it up. Why? Each piece, no matter how small, has the potential to ruin an engine or cut a tire. Damaging a single fan blade on a Boeing 757 engine costs about \$26,000.



How much do you think the AOR has spent already this year on FOD damage?

Incredibly, those miniscule items we all have seen have cost us \$4.1 million in this AEF alone! If four million doesn't bother you, consider that C-130 or contracted airliner that will pick you up to depart Kirkuk AB.

Beyond the FOD cans, you may have noticed two additional ways we are dealing with the problem. All vehicle operators should have a FOD tool on their key chain. Call the 506th Expeditionary Operations Squadron Airfield Management Flight at 444-2456 to have one delivered. Also, Airfield Management has increased vigilance along with the airfield sweepers. We have just set a record for the collection of 10 tons of debris collected along with cutting over 50,000 feet of grass with a push lawnmower. Let's not rest on our laurels, because there truly is only one FOD Boss — YOU.

## Personal hygiene helps Airmen stay healthy

### Prevent the spread of disease by practicing good handwashing techniques

By 506th Expeditionary Medical Squadron Public Health

It's always important for Airmen to take care of their health, whether they're at home or at a deployed site, like Kirkuk. Personal hygiene, especially frequent, thorough hand washing is key to staying healthy.

Airmen can get sick in a new place simply because their body hasn't had a chance to adjust to the food, water or air in a new environment.

Getting used to the new environment can take a few days and in those days, the body needs to adjust.

Diarrhea isn't something that many Airmen want to discuss, but it can be a serious problem and a detriment to the 506th Air Expeditionary Group's mission. If diarrhea continues for more than a few days, there may be another problem that needs to be checked out by the medics.

Diarrhea, characterized by frequent and watery bowel movements, is often caused by gastrointestinal infections. Germs such as parasites, viruses, or bacteria grow in the intestines, causing damage and diarrhea.

It can also come from other illnesses or changes in diet. Usually gastrointestinal

infections cause abdominal cramping followed by diarrhea.

You may also experience:

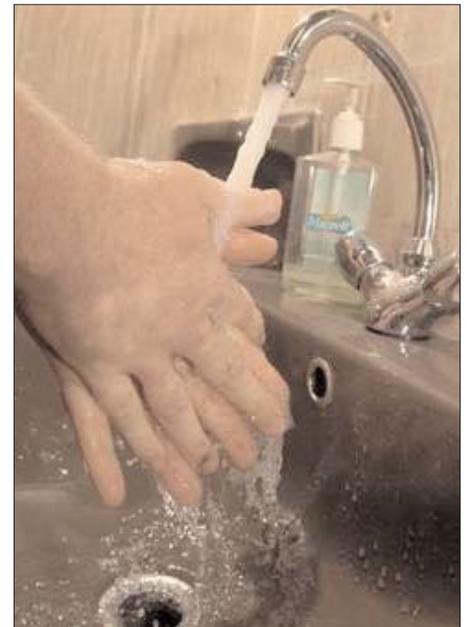
- fever
- loss of appetite
- nausea
- vomiting
- weight loss
- dehydration

These symptoms can last for a few days, possibly longer. The usual sources of such germs are contaminated food, water and contact with persons who are already infected.

How do the little creatures end up in Airmen's mouths in the first place? The answer is simple. When people don't wash their hands after using the bathroom, they pass these germs to others by shaking hands or other casual contact.

Dirty hands carry germs into the body when people bite their nails or use their hands to eat.

The most effective way to prevent diarrhea is frequent hand washing with soap. It's important to always wash hands with soap and water or hand sanitizer thoroughly before eating, and after using the restroom. This is especially important if an illness is going around.



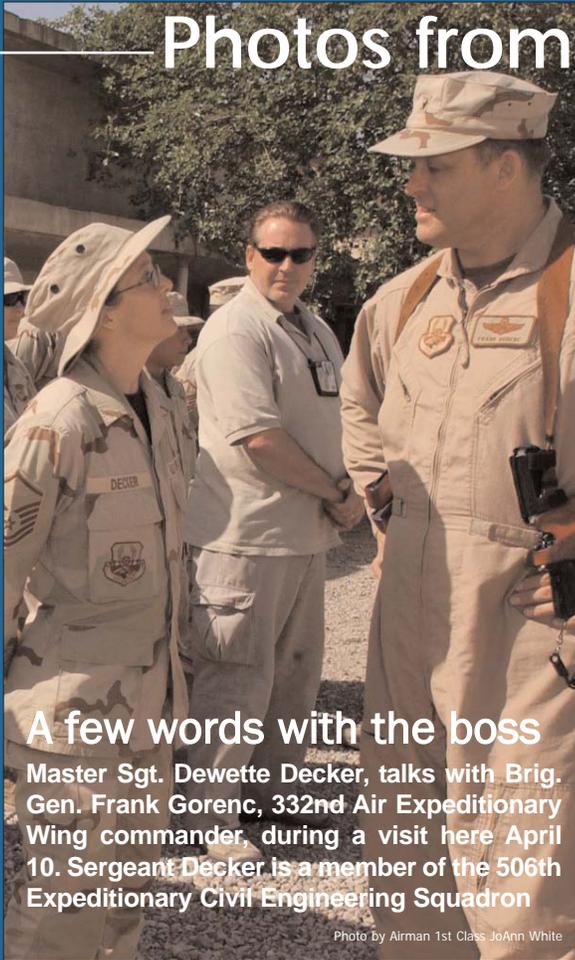
**Handwashing is the most effective technique for reducing the introduction of germs into the body.**

Most infections that cause diarrhea, especially viral infections, will go away without treatment. Taking it easy, getting enough rest and drinking plenty of fluids to avoid dehydration are the best ways to ride out the illness.

If the illness persists, please report to the emergency room at EMEDS.

For any questions, please contact the 506th EMEDS Public Health office at 444-2790.

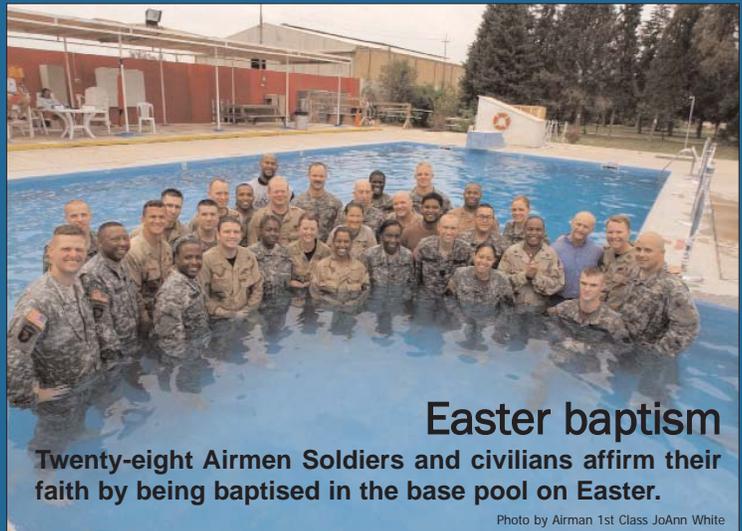
# Photos from around the KRAB



## A few words with the boss

Master Sgt. Dewette Decker, talks with Brig. Gen. Frank Gorenc, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing commander, during a visit here April 10. Sergeant Decker is a member of the 506th Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron

Photo by Airman 1st Class JoAnn White



## Easter baptism

Twenty-eight Airmen Soldiers and civilians affirm their faith by being baptised in the base pool on Easter.

Photo by Airman 1st Class JoAnn White



## Top Chaplain visits base

Major Gen. Charles Baldwin talks with Staff Sgt. Elizabeth Man at the Operation Provide School Supplies warehouse. General Baldwin is the head Air Force Chaplain and Sergeant Man is a chapel assitant here.

Photo by Airman 1st Class JoAnn White

## Sky high

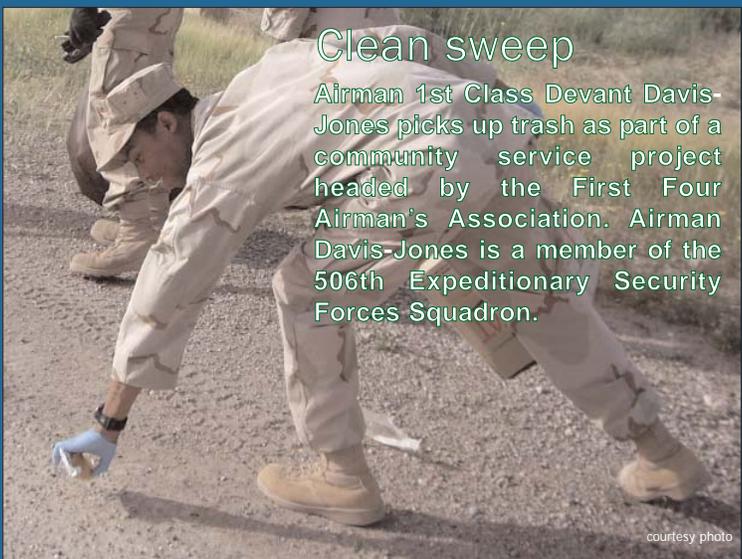
Photo by Airman 1st Class JoAnn White

Airmen from the 506th Expeditionary Communications Squadron get a great view as they put the finishing touches on the new LMR tower here.



## Clean sweep

Airman 1st Class Devant Davis-Jones picks up trash as part of a community service project headed by the First Four Airman's Association. Airman Davis-Jones is a member of the 506th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron.



courtesy photo

# Chaplain's Thoughts

By Chaplain Jason Peters



About a year ago, I met a personal friend of John Wooden, the legendary UCLA basketball coach. He was bristling with admiration for this great coach!

I know March Madness is over, and, thankfully, March Mustache Month is over (I apologize for the emotional scarring I caused many of you during my attempts to grow a mustache), but Wooden is an inspirational leader and I want to share part of his story as told by Michael Dudit...

On the 21st of the month, the best man I know will do what he always does on the 21st of the month.

He'll sit down and pen a love letter to his best girl. He'll say how much he misses her and loves her and can't wait to see her again. Then he'll fold it once, slide it in a little envelope and walk into his bedroom. He'll go to the stack of love letters sitting there on her pillow, untie the yellow ribbon, place the new one on top and tie the ribbon again.

The stack will be 180 letters high then, because the 21st will be 15 years to the day since Nellie, his beloved wife of 53 years, died...There's never been a finer man in

American sports than John Wooden, or a finer coach.

He won 10 NCAA basketball championships at UCLA, the last in 1975.

Nobody has ever come within six of him. He won 88 straight

games between January 30, 1971, and January 17, 1974. Nobody has come within 42 since.

"Discipline yourself, and others won't need to," Coach would say. "Never lie, never cheat, never steal," and "Earn the right to be proud and confident." If you played for him, you played by his rules: Never score without acknowledging a teammate. One word of profanity and you're done for the day. Treat your oppo-

## KRAB Religious Schedule

<b>Monday</b>	(Freedom Chapel)
11:30 a.m. — Catholic Mass (Freedom Chapel)	11:30 a.m. — Catholic Mass (Freedom Chapel)
7 p.m. — Ladies Fellowship (Freedom Chapel)	7 p.m. - Jewish Service (Bastogne Chapel)
7 p.m. — Catholic Fellowship Discussion Group (Hotel Charlie)	7 p.m. — Gospel Choir Practice (Freedom Chapel)
7:30 p.m. — Daniel Bible Study (Eagle's Nest)	<b>Saturday*</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	7 p.m. — Catholic Mass (Freedom Chapel)
7 p.m. — Protestant Praise Team (Freedom Chapel)	7 p.m. — Gospel Joy (Bastogne Chapel)
7 p.m. — Men's Bible Study (Bastogne Chapel)	9:30 p.m. — Catholic Mass (DFAC)
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Sunday*</b>
11:30 a.m. — Catholic Mass (Freedom Chapel)	8 a.m. — Gospel Service (Freedom Chapel)
7 p.m. — Gospel Service Bible Study (Freedom Chapel)	9 a.m. — Catholic Mass (Bastogne Chapel)
7 p.m. — Bible Study (Bastogne Chapel)	10 a.m. — Contemporary Worship Service (Freedom Chapel)
<b>Thursday*</b>	11 a.m. — General Protestant Service (Bastogne Chapel)
7 p.m. — Protestant Praise Team (Freedom Chapel)	11:30 a.m. — Catholic Mass (Freedom Chapel)
7:30 p.m. — Praise Team (Bastogne Chapel)	1 p.m. — Protestant Sunday School (Freedom Chapel)
8:30 p.m. — Common Ground Kirkuk (Freedom Chapel)	1:30 p.m. — LDS Service (Bastogne Chapel)
<b>Friday*</b>	7 p.m. — Contemporary with Communion Worship Service (Freedom Chapel)
7:30 a.m. — Common Ground Kirkuk	

nent with respect.

He believed in hopelessly out-of-date stuff that never did anything but win championships...He's almost 90 now. You hope it's not the last time you see him. He smiles. "I'm not afraid to die," he says. "Death is my only chance to be with her again."

May God guard and guide us as we love deeply and serve honorably here at the KRAB!

# HAMAS

By Maj. Matthew Ence  
Middle East Foreign Affairs Officer

HAMAS officially appeared as an organization in 1987, but their history begins much earlier with the creation of the Palestinian branch of the Muslim Brotherhood.

The Brotherhood originally abstained from political and military action, favoring instead a peaceful jihad to improve community services, administer religious trusts, and advocate various social causes.

During the 1987 intifada, however, a militant faction split from the Brotherhood and advocated direct military con-

frontation with

Israel's armed forces.

While HAMAS continued to provide important community and social services, they increasingly targeted the Israeli military, and later Israeli civilians, with both guerilla and terrorist attacks.

HAMAS considers all of Palestine (Israel) a waqf, a spiritual trust given to Muslims by God. As such, they believe that no leader, Israeli or Palestinian, has the right to negotiate away this trust and



routinely refuse to support any peace negotiations between Israeli and Palestinian leaders. HAMAS asserts that it is every Muslim's duty to fight to reclaim Palestine from the "Zionist entity." To that end, they have popularized the use of suicide, or "martyrdom operations." Because they do not differentiate between combatants and non-combatants, this has earned them the designation of a terrorist organization by many countries.

## Did you know?

... HAMAS is an acronym which stands for the group's name in Arabic, Harakat al-Muqawama al-Islamiya, the Islamic Resistance Movement. ... The growth of the Muslim Brotherhood was at first encouraged by the Israeli government as a counterweight to Fatah, Yassir Arafat's faction of the PLO.

## Clamtina Events

Mondays  
 Hearts 8 p.m.  
 Dominoes 8:15 p.m.

Tuesdays  
 Texas Hold 'Em 8 p.m.  
 8-Ball/9-Ball 8:15 p.m.

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

Thursdays  
 April 27 Fear Factor 4 p.m.  
 Black Jack 8 p.m.  
 Ping Pong 8:30 p.m.

Fridays  
 April 28 Fear Factor 4 p.m.  
 May 5 AEF 9/10 Farewell Party 8 p.m.

Saturdays  
 April 29 Fear Factor noon  
 Progressive BINGO 8 p.m.  
 Karaoke 9:30

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

## Fitness Center Events

Mondays  
 Ab Class - 5:30 a.m. Spin Class - 6:30 a.m.  
 Martial Arts 7 p.m.

Tuesdays  
 Abs Class 6:30p.m.  
 Boxing Basics/Spin Class 7:30 p.m.  
 April 25 Military Press Competition 8 p.m.  
 May 2 Push-up Competition 8 p.m.

Wednesdays  
 Ab Class - 5:30 a.m. Spin Class - 6:30 a.m.  
 Martial Arts 7:30 p.m.

Thursdays  
 Spin Class 7:30 p.m. Abs Class 6:30 p.m.  
 April 27 Tricep Dip Competition 8 p.m.  
 May 4 Arm Curl Competition 8 p.m.

Fridays  
 Ab Class - 5:30 a.m. Spin Class - 6:30 a.m.  
 Boxing Basics 7:30 p.m.

Saturdays  
 5K Run 10 a.m.  
 Spin Class 7:30 p.m.

Sundays  
 KRAB Cup 3 p.m. Spin Class 7:30 p.m.



# KRABusters Video



**Monday, April 24**  
 0700 & 1900 The Hills Have Eyes  
 1000 & 2200 Honey I Shrunk the Kids  
 1300 & 0100 Urban Legends The Final Cut  
 1600 & 0400 That Thing You Do

**Tuesday, April 25**  
 0700 & 1900 Thank You For Smoking  
 1000 & 2200 Aliens  
 1300 & 0100 Die Hard  
 1600 & 0400 Metroland

**Wednesday, April 26**  
 0700 & 1900 Yours, Mine and Ours  
 1000 & 2200 Christmas Vacation  
 1300 & 0100 Bevis and Butthead  
 1600 & 0400 Evil Dead

**Thursday, April 27**  
 0700 & 1900 Chronicles of Narnia  
 1000 & 2200 Superstar  
 1300 & 0100 Instinct  
 1600 & 0400 The Mask of Zorro

**Friday, April 28**  
 0700 & 1900 Last Holiday  
 1000 & 2200 The Target  
 1300 & 0100 Crocodile Dundee  
 1600 & 0400 Junior

**Saturday, April 29**  
 0700 & 1900 The Ringer  
 1000 & 2200 Formula 51  
 1300 & 0100 Analyze This  
 1600 & 0400 The Core

**Sunday, April 30**  
 0700 & 1900 Aquamarine  
 1000 & 2200 Verticle Limit  
 1300 & 0100 Joe Dirt  
 1600 & 0400 Die Hard Special Edition

**Monday, May 1**  
 0700 & 1900 The Hills Have Eyes  
 1000 & 2200 Creepshow  
 1300 & 0100 The Lost Boys  
 1600 & 0400 Grumpier Old Men

**Tuesday, May 2**  
 0700 & 1900 Munich  
 1000 & 2200 Lethal Weapon 3  
 1300 & 0100 Pretty Woman  
 1600 & 0400 Animal House

**Wednesday, May 3**  
 0700 & 1900 Yours, Mine and Ours  
 1000 & 2200 The English Patient  
 1300 & 0100 You've Got Mail  
 1600 & 0400 Flesh of Frankenstein

**Thursday, May 4**  
 0700 & 1900 King Kong  
 1000 & 2200 Fried Green Tomatoes  
 1300 & 0100 Pitch Black  
 1600 & 0400 Who Framed Roger Rabbit

**Friday, May 5**  
 0700 & 1900 Last Holiday  
 1000 & 2200 Major Payne  
 1300 & 0100 Outlaw Josie Wales  
 1600 & 0400 Airplane

**Saturday, May 6**  
 0700 & 1900 Phat Girlz  
 1000 & 2200 Miss Congeniality  
 1300 & 0100 National Lampoon's Vacation  
 1600 & 0400 Sixteen Candles

**Sunday, May 7**  
 0700 & 1900 Aquamarine  
 1000 & 2200 A Pyromaniacs Love Story  
 1300 & 0100 Training Day  
 1600 & 0400 The Net

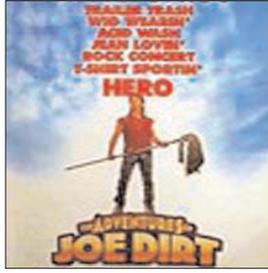
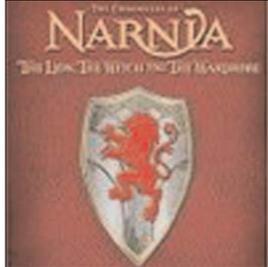
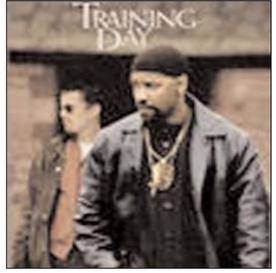
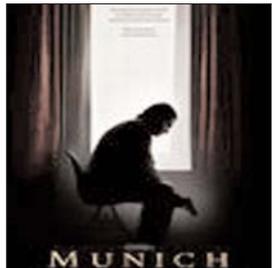




Photo by Airman 1st Class JoAnn White

### Keep away

David Mallette goes for Eric Walton's flag during a Krab Cup game of flag football. Mallette is an emergency room doctor assigned to the 506th Expeditionary Medical Squadron. Walton is a work group manager assigned to the 506th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron. Walton was recently named "Kirkuk's Strongest Man" during a competition where he lifted a combined weight of 1,400 pounds - squat, 525; bench, 315 and dead lift, 560 pounds. Think you can take a better photo? Enter the Amateur Photo Contest. See details on Page 1 in News Briefs.

## Krab Cup Standings and Events

### KRAB CUP EVENTS as of April 23

April 30	All Ranks PT Test 6x200 Relay
May 4	3 on 3 Basketball
May 5	Volleyball
May 6	Tug of War
May 7	Krab Cup Finale - Dodgeball - 2x600 Relay - 5 on 5 Football - Ultimate Fisbee - Kickball
May 7	506th AEG Picnic

### KRAB CUP STANDINGS as of April 23

ESFS	42 pts.
ESVS	41 pts.
Group Staff	35 pts.
EOSS	35 pts.
ECES	28 pts.
EMEDS	28 pts.
ELRS	27 pts.
732 ECES	16 pts.
ECS	17 pts.