



The Sather Pathfinder

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May 6, 2006

Sather Air Base , Iraq

Table of contents

CMSAF letter to Airmen

'Are you ready?' Page 2

PACAF Chief named next CMSAF

Murray retires in June, Page 3

Airmen move up the ranks

Promotion list, Page 3

Mission Accomplished!

Open Voice: AEF 9/10, Page 4

Tips for a successful redeployment

Everything you need to know, Pages 5-7

Young mechanics set the bar high

Maintainers youth not a challenge , Page 8

Recalling AEF 9/10 in pictures

Thanks for the memories, Pages 9-10

Mother's Day notes from Iraq

Warriors say 'thanks mom,' Page 11

The last in the 'Wilson' saga

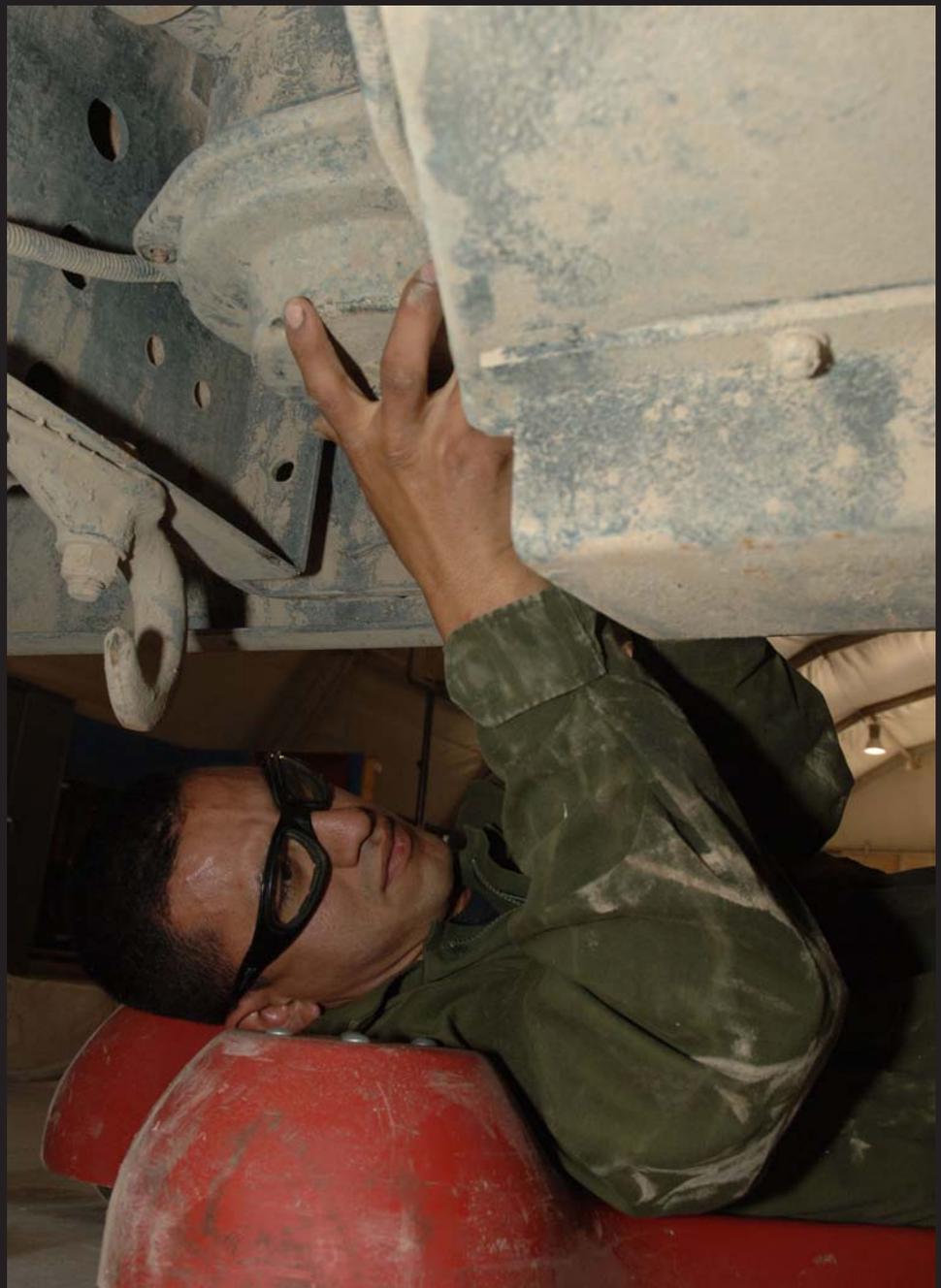
Crossing into the Green, Page 12

Soccer playoffs

Who earned bragging rights? Page 14

Final intramural basketball stats

Who went undefeated? Page 15



Letter to Airmen: Are you ready to go at a moment's notice?

By **Gerald R. Murray**

Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force

As Airmen, we raised our right hand and solemnly swore to support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic. Our enemies emerged from the shadows on 9-11 and today, in the Global War on Terror, we are taking the fight directly to them. Our mission is clear – win this war.

We all have a role to play and we must continually evaluate whether we are doing everything we can to support the war and combat operations. If the call comes tomorrow for you to deploy to Baghdad, Kandahar, or wherever our Air Force needs you, are you ready to go? You must be. We are the nation's warriors!

By now, many of you are familiar with frequent or extended deployments. Thank you for your continued dedication and personal sacrifice. Many thanks to your

family as well, for enduring many sacrifices as they await your return. You are the Airmen this nation called for and depends on. For those not ready to deploy at this moment, what deliberate action are you taking to be ready? For some, it may be time to re-evaluate why you are serving in our Air Force. You volunteered and swore an oath; our nation relies on your readiness and commitment.

Combat operations call for a force with ingenuity and courage ... a force that is trained, equipped and ready to deploy at a moments notice. To achieve this you must maintain your duty and combat skills, health and fitness levels, and take the necessary steps to prepare yourself and loved ones for the road ahead. Your family counts on your plans and preparation for deployments and separation. Finances, housing, legal matters, child-care arrangements, and extended family support needs must all be settled before the deployment orders come down. These are basic responsibilities of being expeditionary Airmen.

Thousands upon thousands of Airmen have served, fought and sacrificed before us. We owe it to our forefathers who shed their blood so we can enjoy the freedoms we cherish today. More than 2,400 of our comrades have given their lives in this fight against terrorism. We owe it to them to be ready to continue their legacy.

Our first Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force, Paul Airey, joined the Army Air Corps at the age of 17 to serve our nation during a hellacious time of war, World War II. He left U.S. soil in March, 1944. Soon afterwards, on his 28th combat bombing mission over Germany, his aircraft was shot down; he was captured, and held as a prisoner of war until May, 1945. We owe it to Chief Airey and so

many others who endured years of separation and hardships to be ready.

Senior Airmen Jason Cunningham, a pararescueman, answered the call to deploy to Afghanistan in 2003. He continued answering that call even after being mortally wounded while on a rescue mission in support of Operation Anaconda. Jason was credited with saving 10 fellow comrades before he ultimately lost his life. We owe it to Airman Cunningham and his family, who gave the ultimate sacrifice, to be ready.

As the requirements for more six-month and one-year taskings and deployments continue to rise, more Airmen will be called upon to deploy, and, in many cases, perform duties in different organizations and environments than they've known before. These are different times; the War on Terror is a different kind of war; and, it requires Airmen to be adaptive, courageous, and ready to fight. What has not changed is that we are fighting for fundamental freedoms.

The American public - mothers, fathers, husbands, wives and most importantly, our children - are the beneficiaries of our efforts. I ask you to never forget the people who are counting on us—here at home and in the fledgling democracies abroad. Also never forget those who came before us. They answered our nation's call to fight for freedom. Now we must carry that torch. We inherited an arduous responsibility, but one we must shoulder with courage and honor. In time to come, others will reflect on our service. How will they judge our courage, our commitment, our readiness?

You have to be ready to fight today and tomorrow. Keep your focus on the mission, live by our Core Values. Remember how blessed we are to live in and serve our great nation

Sather Air Base Warriors of the Week



• Staff Sgt.
Robin Krzyzanowski

447th Expeditionary
Logistics Readiness
Squadron

• Airman 1st Class
Cody Frank



447th Expeditionary
Civil Engineer
Squadron

Selected as the Top III Committee's
'Sharp Troop' Airman and NCO for March.

The Sather Pathfinder

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Front Page photo

Staff Sgt. Oscar Figueroa, 447th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron Vehicle Maintenance Flight mechanic, works on a bus here recently.



See Page 8 for the rest of story.

Photo by
Master Sgt. Will Ackerman

McKinley to replace CMSAF Murray in July

WASHINGTON — Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley has named Chief Master Sgt. Rodney J. McKinley to serve as the 15th chief master sergeant of the Air Force. Chief McKinley will assume his new position July 1, following the June 30 retirement of Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Gerald R. Murray. Chief Murray's retirement culminates 29 years of service to the Air Force.

"I'm excited to have Chief McKinley take the helm of our enlisted force," General Moseley said. "Chief McKinley is a tremendous leader with an impressive array of expeditionary and combat experiences to help him steer our Airmen and serve as my partner."

"We were blessed to have a number of exceptionally well-qualified candidates for the position. While the decision was not an easy one, I feel we have the right person to lead our enlisted force during this time of a long war on terrorism, recapitalization and transformation. I look forward to working with him."

Chief McKinley is currently the command chief master sergeant

for Pacific Air Forces. He originally joined the Air Force in 1974, took a break in service in 1977, attended college and re-entered the Air Force in 1982.

Chief McKinley's career includes assignments in the medical, aircraft maintenance and first sergeant fields. He has also served as the command chief master sergeant of the 86th Airlift Wing at Ramstein Air Base, Germany; 1st Fighter Wing at Langley Air Force Base, Va.; 379th Air Expeditionary Wing in Southwest Asia; and 11th Air Force at Elmendorf AFB, Alaska.

The office of the chief master sergeant of the Air Force represents the highest enlisted level of leadership, provides direction for the enlisted corps and represents their interests to the American public and all levels of government. The chief master sergeant of the Air Force serves as a personal adviser to the Air Force chief of staff and secretary of the Air Force on all issues regarding the welfare, readiness, morale, proper utilization and progress of the enlisted force and their families.



U.S. Air Force Photo

Command Chief Master Sgt. Rodney J. McKinley, shown here shaking hands with Airmen, has been selected as the 15th chief master of the Air Force by Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley. He will replace Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Gerald R. Murray on July 1, following Chief Murray's retirement June 30. Chief McKinley currently serves as the command chief master sergeant for Pacific Air Forces.



Photo by Master Sgt. Will Ackerman

Secretary of Defense meets Airmen

Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld meets Airmen here April 27 after meetings in Baghdad.

PROMOTIONS

The following Airmen were promoted to the rank indicated:

Technical Sergeant

- William Bennett, 447th Operations Support Squadron
- Arnold Graham Jr., 447th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron
- Anntionette Johnson, 447th ECES

Staff Sergeant

- Erika Manos, 447th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron
- Jared Saario, 447th ESFS

Senior Airman

- Sean Daly, 447th ECES
- David Adriatico, 447th ECES
- Jason Eubanks, 447th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron
- Matthew Hague, 447th ESFS
- Lindsey Maynard, 447th ECES

OPEN VOICE: *Mission accomplished!*

By Master Sgt. Will Ackerman

447th Air Expeditionary Group Public Affairs

Mission accomplished. You did it!

As I sat here reviewing the past four months of Air and Space Expeditionary Force rotation four here at Sather Air Base, I am amazed at the accomplishments this team made in such a short period. Especially since four months ago we came together from all parts of the world and had to quickly meld into a synergized team. But you did it.

When we arrived, the team faced continuous flooding caused by heavy rain. Not only did we have our own "Lake Sather" at the entrance to Tent City, but several people had to literally bail the water out of their buildings. But none the less, we pulled up our waders and forged on.

On the heels of the team's arrival, the medics moved from old, dusty World War II-era tents that were less than optimal conditions for medical treatment to a new 15,000-square foot permanent structure. Not only did this double the working space from the old 6,000-foot clinic, but they came out of the dust, which improved their capability to provide general medical and surgical care to people here and battlefield wounded.

The aerial port team continued to set the benchmark for the rest of Iraq for moving cargo and passengers, which is why it is known as the "Gateway to Iraq." In fact, the port earned the distinction of being first in passenger movement and second for cargo: they processed more than 83,000 passengers through the port since January and more than 16,300 short tons of cargo as of April 28.

The civil engineers changed the face of Sather Air Base and improved much infrastructure. They worked with contractors and installed combination Cadillac shower and shave tents and removed the old Harvest Falcon tents. Following the flooding, they dug trenches to reduce the water that turned the dirt and gravel roads into a four-wheeler's delight. They also erected several "Big Top" tents and are currently finishing the new "Oasis" kiosk.

While the engineers improved the infrastructure, their explosive ordnance disposal brethren were busy risking their lives every day outside the wire to safe the way. Covering a 500-square mile sector, they responded to 350 calls to disarm explosive devices. Although they were extremely successful, we also realized the danger they face when the base lost Tech. Sgt. Walter Moss when he was trying to safe a device.

Our communications warriors worked feverishly to keep us connected. Whether it was processing tons of mail or keeping the e-mail telephone lines open, they provided us the means to keep in contact with loved ones back home. They also upgraded and installed new infrastructure including a new satellite terminal here and also improved communications for other customers in Baghdad including New Al Muthana Air Base, the Air Force House at Camp Victory and the U.S. State Department's Sully Compound.

The operations support squadron kept the airfield traffic flowing. From the air traffic controllers providing the "eyes in the sky" to transient alert directing the aircraft on the ramp to the weather flight's up-to-date forecasts, they ensured the busiest aerial

port in Iraq operated safely.

Logistics readiness demonstrated their versatility. From the fuels flight keeping the aircraft gassed up to supply providing the supplies needed to operate, no logistical challenge was too great. The vehicle maintenance flight exceeded Air Force standards and kept an impressive 96-percent vehicle-in-commission rate. To ensure a smooth AEF rotation, logistics plans worked to ensure people were manifested in and out so the mission could continue.

But how could we forget all those great morale-enhancement events. Services not only opened a new fitness facility, they also provided myriad events including Karaoke, Jeopardy, Spades and Bingo. They also brought people together at events including Super Bowl Sunday, the AEF 9/10 icebreaker and the farewell luau. They also arranged trips to other events including the Charlie Daniels concert and Camp Liberty talent show.

Although they don't often get the glory, the security forces defenders provided the last line of defense for the base. Whether they were ensuring only authorized people entered the base or patrolling the fence line, the SFS Airmen kept Sather Air Base secure.

Even though I could never feature every accomplishment or unit here at Sather Air Base, you can all be proud of the teamwork and successes you made. You did it as a team. And you were a vital part of supporting the Global War on Terror. You can be proud of the service to your nation, the Coalition and the Iraqi people.

Mission accomplished!



Photo by Master Sgt. Will Ackerman

Sharp Airman

Lt. Gen. Gary North, U.S. Central Command Air Forces commander, "coins" Staff Sgt. Andrew Smith April 28. The Robins Air Force Base, Ga., Airman installed a tactical air navigation system here while TDY.



Photo by Master Sgt. Will Ackerman

Early morning take-off

An Army Blackhawk helicopter carrying Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld takes off for Baghdad April 27 as the sun rises over Sather Air Base.



It's time to redeploy: Tips for success

For the past 45 days, your unit deployment manager and the 447th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron Logistics Plans and Traffic Management Flights have worked feverishly to get ready for today. More than 500 personnel assigned to the 447th Air Expeditionary Group are within 30 days of redeploying. To ease the transition, there are a couple of things everyone needs to know.

What determines when you redeploy?

The time-phased force deployment data, commonly referred to as the TPFDD, determines how and when personnel redeploy. It is a living database that can change often. Your UDM is kept abreast of these changes by the 447th ELRS logistics planners. Personnel are coded either AC or AK in the TPFDD.

AK coded personnel

AK coded personnel are aggregated to depart on a specific mission; they must meet the movement scheduled for them. Squadron commanders have limited control over the redeployment of these personnel. U.S. Central Air Forces functional area managers have control on personnel overlaps and should have planned in and outflow of personnel to meet mission needs. Air expeditionary wing commanders and AEG group commanders are the approval authorities for all AK deviations. AK-coded personnel will depart the area of responsibility within the two-day window available-to-load date and earliest load date.

Onward travel from the port of debarkation will be coordinated through the traffic management office as required via commercial travel to your home station.

AC coded personnel

AC-coded personnel must obtain squadron commander's approval to redeploy and will be booked on AC-coded rotator missions to

their aerial point of debarkation. Onward travel from the port of debarkation will be coordinated through TMO as required via commercial travel to your home station.

Outprocessing Checklist

Before you board the airplane to return home, there are a couple of squares that need to be checked. The Sather Air Base out-processing checklist details the steps that must be taken to ensure a successful redeployment. The outprocessing checklist is available on the Sather intranet under UDM info guide link. All personnel must complete the Sather Air Base out-processing checklist no earlier than 10 days and no later than five days prior to redeployment.

Supply

Bring your outprocessing checklist, copies of your orders and any serviceable issued items that you have signed a hand receipt at Sather Air Base (individual body armor, first-aid kits, etc.). For those who were issued a firearm from here, outprocessing and return of any firearm must be completed between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. Supply can also dispose of any extra or unwanted uniforms items such as boots, hats, coveralls and work gloves. These items must have all name tapes, insignia and badges removed and all pockets emptied before turn-in. Equipment custodians must complete the following prior to out processing: (1) update their equipment custodian letter and (2) complete a 100-percent inventory on all equipment assets on an R14. If needed, contact equipment management at 446-2316 to receive a copy of your R14.

Chapel

Within 30 days of departing, attend a reintegration briefing by a chaplain here. The mandatory briefing provides an overview of

some issues you may encounter during your transition back home. If you do not receive the briefing during a commander's call, the chapel staff provides it Mondays at 7:30 a.m. and Thursdays at 7 p.m. at the chapel office. For more information, call 446-2452.

PERSCO

Print and complete the personnel contingency office checklist from <https://bdbaweb/perco/docs/out%20processing%20package.pdf>. Personnel will outprocess PERSCO the day of departure. Bring the completed checklist on the day of your departure. For more information, call 446-3009.

Post Office

Make sure you provide the post office with your forwarding address.

First Sergeants

Clear/certify that there are no other unit obligations to be completed.

Unit weapons/ammo custodian

Turn in ammo.

Unit deployment manager

Confirm flight information.

Lodging

Turn in linen on the day of departure.

Have you checked all the squares? Are all your bags packed? If so, you are ready to redeploy. If your path home includes commercial travel, check with TMO at the passenger terminal. If they do not have your tickets, you must pick up your tickets at the TMO when you arrive at the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing in Southwest Asia. Have a safe and swift journey home!

(Information courtesy of 447th ELRS Logistics Plans and 447th AEG/PERSCO)

Emergency Response Tips

Attack Alarm Actions

Upon attack (Alarm Red), take the actions:

- Assume **Alarm Red**, take cover where you are
- Wait for further instructions (i.e., Giant Voice, radio)
- Follow announced instructions
- Render aid and give a warning as required



Upon Alarm Black, take these actions:

- Remain under cover unless assigned to post-attack reconnaissance team, or if directed, to continue the mission-essential activities



- Travel is not permitted
- Wait for further instructions (i.e., Giant Voice, radio)
- Follow announced instructions

For more information, call CE Readiness at 446-2226.

Enjoy safe, fun post-deployment recovery

By Master Sgt. Michael Griffith

447th Air Expeditionary Group Safety Office

The start of “101 Critical Days of Summer” and post-deployment activities can have deadly consequences if you don’t assess the risks before you celebrate your homecoming. Your post-deployment time off will be very busy and exciting; don’t let temptation and risk cause you to become a fatality statistic.

When you touch down at your home station, it will be close to the start of the “101 Critical Days of Summer,” the deadliest three months of the year for traffic-related fatalities. Speed, alcohol, fatigue and not wearing a seat belt are contributing factors in many of the 19 Air Force traffic-related fatalities last summer. So when you are out and about, either at home or visiting family, use the tools that have been given to you to make sound decisions in personnel risk management. Take a few minutes and

review the following safety reminders.

• **Drinking and driving:** The message here is simple. If you are going to drink, don’t drive. You stay put. Have a designated driver, or call a cab. Make a plan before going out on the town and ensure you and your friends stick to the plan. Drinking too much can be deadly, whether you are behind the wheel of a vehicle, walking across a busy street or stumbling around on a motel balcony.

• **Fatigue:** Everyone wants to hurry home to see his or her family. With a little foresight, you can reach your happy reunion without any accidents on the way. Be conservative in how far you plan to drive each day.

Drive during the daytime and have a driving partner. Take plenty of breaks. Rest or sleep when your body or buddy tells you

to. Plan to leave early enough to allow ample travel time both to and from your destination.

• **Seat belts:** Wear your seat belt, it’s the law, and it has been proven without question seat belts saves lives. Out of the nine vehicle fatalities last summer, four were not wearing a seat belt.

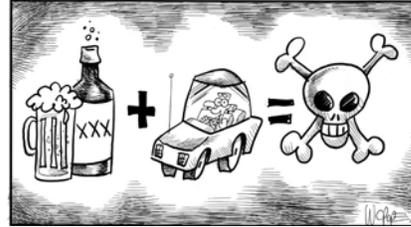
Don’t let the few seconds it will take to buckle-up cause you serious injury or worse yet, cost you your life.

We can prevent needless fatalities with good risk management,

responsible decisions and common sense.

Stay focused, stay alert and stay alive. Your loved ones, your co-workers and your nation need you.

Enjoy your post deployment time off and have fun, but do it safely. You earned your break, but don’t become a statistic.



Force protection: Don't let guard down, be alert

By Master Sgt. Donnie LaDuke

447th Air Expeditionary Group Force Protection Office

As some of you near the end of the deployment, thoughts turn from actions here to those of home. These thoughts, although normal, could cause distractions and potentially lead to a lapse in the overall protection of the base. Knowing about force protection and following its intended guidelines is key to providing a secure environment for every Airman, Soldier, Sailor, Marine and civilian occupying the battle space.

Department of Defense Joint Publication 1-02 defines force protection as “...designed to protect servicemembers, civilian employees, family members, facilities, information and equipment in all locations and situations, accomplished through planned and integrated application of combating terrorism, physical security, operations security, personal protective services and supported

by intelligence, counterintelligence and other security programs.”

Whether forward deployed or serving at your home station, it is essential to maintain proper security measures to help protect your fellow service men and women as well as your families. Practicing basic security tips can keep the enemy guessing and save lives.

* **Know the threat:** Keep track of the current conditions, to include the current force protection condition, uniform posture, mission-oriented protective posture level, etc.

* **Be alert for suspicious behavior:** It is everyone’s responsibility to be alert for attempts at gaining information. Third-country nationals and local nationals asking you duty-specific questions or listening to your conversation can all be considered time-critical information elicitation attempts and must be reported as soon as possible.

* **Watch what you say:** Operational security is an essential part of force protection and deals with identifying, analyzing and controlling critical information. Be careful not to discuss things including travel itineraries or mission planning over an unsecured line out in the open.

* **Watch what you throw away:** One man’s trash is another man’s treasure. Certain non-classified items, when put together with other pieces of information, may give a clearer picture of the much larger puzzle and become detrimental to security. These items are called “essential elements of friendly information.” Items such as duty rosters, flight schedules or even letters from home could provide the enemy with much-needed information. When in doubt, SHRED. Also, be weary of throwing away uniform items as the enemies can pull them from the trash and use them. Here’s an easy solution ... take your uniform issue items home.

* **Avoid complacency:** The threat doesn’t stop when you’re relief is here. Don’t lower your guard. Continue the mission until you step off the plane at home.

* **Protect yourself:** It’s not enough to have your individual protective equipment close by. Take the time to clean and inspect your equipment regularly to include your gas mask and your assigned weapon(s). Most of all, keep a low profile, be alert to your surroundings and be aware of your situation.

Remember, insurgents can strike at any time. You are nearing the end of your TDY and have deserved the title “short-timer.” However, do not forget, the mission continues long after you depart.

Gen. John Jumper, former Air Force chief of staff, said, “Every Airman is a warrior, every Airman is a sensor.” Simply put, everyone is expected to do his or her part in “protecting the force.”

To report suspicious activity, call BDOC at 446-2722/2739.

Don't let redeployment fantasies ruin reunion

By Chaplain (Lt. Col.)
Jim Browning

447th Air Expeditionary Group
Senior Chaplain

I just love fantasies, don't you? I know what you are thinking ... after four months in Iraq. I admit I have some fantasies I hope will turn into reality when I get home. I yearn for the sweet embrace of my wife and children. I anticipate being able to relax in my own home, to eat my wife's home-cooked food and to take longer than a three-minute showers. I really anticipate not having to use a port-a-potty or listening to the noise of the flightline throughout the night. The other fantasies ... I'll keep those to myself.

I know for sure one fantasy that will not come true. This fantasy involves two people, who have been apart for four months, coming together in perfect bliss with no problems or issues to overcome. Problems back home do not magically disappear. Often, they only simmer until the deployed member returns home. Fortunately, we can proactively work the reintegration issues so we can re-enter life back home as smoothly as possible.

Hopefully, for each of us, our family's bandwagon will cheerfully greet and welcome us

home. Yet, I know some individuals will return to a broken relationship and home. If you fit this category, seek some help before and after you get home. Family Support, Life Skills and the chaplain can all provide you resources and help. For the rest of us, what can we do when the reunion welcome wears off and the reality of reintegration hits us? The Air Force Crossroads Web site at http://www.afcrossroads.com/famseparation/ret_intro.cfm has some wonderful information. Check it out for a more thorough game plan.

Permit me to suggest a few basic guidelines. First, give everyone, including you, some time for acclimation. Those back home need time and space to adjust to you just as much as you do. Be patient, forgiving, gracious, respectful and loving. Don't expect it to be easy. Remember, they will be as tired as you are. Avoid being critical. Remember, they were working with a shortage of personnel – YOU! Look for the positive in the changes. Show interest and pleasure in how they have grown and changed. Learn how this experience affected each one of your family. Each member will have his or her own unique experience.

Second, find simple ways of expressing your appreciation for



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Brian Bahret

Airman 1st Class Curnita Brisby reunites with her cousins Kareem (left) and Cameron Johnson at Robins Air Force Base, Ga., April 18 after she returned from a deployment to Camp Bucca, Iraq. Returning servicemembers should prepare for exciting reunions followed by a period of reintegration into their family life.

their support while you were gone. Avoid comparing who had it rougher. (I'm convinced it is always harder on the one left behind.) Spend time with each family member. Make a special date with your spouse and each of your children. Spend time to listen to their story. Be patient, especially with very young children and pets. They may take some time to warm up to you. Work hard to listen to what each one wants to communicate to you. It may be hard to listen to their resentment of your leaving. Let them know that you care for them even

when you were away.

Third, give yourself at least half the time you were away to reintegrate. For most of us, that is at least two months. Reintegration is a process that you cannot rush. Your family system must now readapt to your presence just as it had to readapt when you left.

Don't kid yourself. Reintegration is not easy. If, however, we each work it carefully and patiently, then our whole family will grow back together. Like a broken bone, this time the seam is even stronger.

Medical outprocessing key to identifying health issues

Medical outprocessing is key to identifying any medical issues incurred while deployed to Iraq. The following actions are required prior to redeploying:

√ Within 10 days of leaving here, complete the post-deployment questionnaire at https://www.afchips.brooks.af.mil/afcita_web/dd2796.aspx?basecode=BDAB. It is available from the intranet under EMEDS. (Enable "TLS 1.0." Contact your workgroup manager.) Ensure you complete all items.

√ For base code, enter "BDAB." For

deployed locations, check "Iraq" and add "BIAP." Enter "OIF" for operation.

√ Visit the medical clinic here for a face-to-face interview with a medical provider seven to 10 days before leaving AFTER completing the form. Outprocessing hours are 7 to 8 a.m. or 7 to 8 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday. The provider will sign your outprocessing form after the interview. A technician will give you your "sealed" medical records, which must be taken to your home-base public health office.

√ When you return home, take your records

to public health or or force health protection office. They will order blood tests that you must have drawn and will determine if you require a tuberculosis skin test. You will also be required to complete a post-deployment health assessment online 90 to 180 days after redeploying.

√ If you have any illness you think may be relative to your deployment, see your health provider.

√ Questions? Call public health at 446-2445.

Mechanics keep the fleet rolling through dust, mud

By Master Sgt. Will Ackerman

447th Air Expeditionary Group
Public Affairs

Working on vehicles in the desert presents challenges. Mechanics sometimes have to scrape off layers of dirt and mud just to get to the broken part. Then there's the parts issue—it's not like they can simply call an automotive supply store in Baghdad to deliver a part.

"Back home, you could look in a book and order a part. Not here," said Master Sgt. Henderson, 447th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron Vehicle Maintenance Flight fleet manager. It might take a month to get a part through the military supply system, he said.

But you wouldn't know the flight faced these challenges with their vehicle in-commission rate of 96 percent, which is the percentage of more than 300 fleet vehicles that are operational. The VIC rate for critical vehicles including refuelers and fire trucks was even better – 98 percent. This exceeded the Air Force standard of 90 percent.

With a team of mechanics whose rank is staff sergeant and below, their

average experience level is about six years, said Master Sergeant Thomas

Lytle, the flight's superintendent. Couple this with the fact more than 40 percent of the mechanics are on their first deployment, the team's success boils down to one thing, he said.

"Enthusiasm and effort overcomes expertise 99 percent of the time. The (mechanics) constantly ask questions."

The fleet includes rental cars, aircraft K-loaders, armored

HUMVEES, fire trucks and refueling vehicles. Although the Air Force fleet comprises a variety of vehicles and the mechanics have general mechanical experience, "You can't imagine the diversity of the fleet here," said Sergeant Lytle.

"(Most) of them are not experienced with such a diversified fleet," he said.

But they don't let that stop them. If one mechanic has experience on a piece of equipment that others don't, they teach the other mechanics. However, one mechanic said they sometimes must rely on their basic experience, common sense and step-by-step technical orders.

"I know the concepts of how an engine works. If I know what (kind of vehicle) I'm working with, I can open the T.O. and fix it," said Staff Sgt. Oscar Figueroa, who's deployed from

Royal Air Force Mildenhall, England. "We will go and find a way to fix it."

The deployed environment also takes its toll on vehicles with unpaved roads and thick, deep mud during the rainy winter. Besides having to sometimes scrape inches of dried mud to reach the part of the vehicle they suspect is the problem, they also respond to pull vehicles out of the mud.

"We own a farm tractor. We have to rescue vehicles every time it rains because the mud is

like clay," Sergeant Lytle said. "We pull out 'old' Betsy."

The summer can be equally challenging. When the temperature outside is 100-degrees Fahrenheit plus, the mechanics face temperatures of up to 200 degrees when they diagnose engine faults.

"A lot of times the engine has to be on if we are diagnosing the problem," Sergeant Henderson said. "We have to watch the heat-rest cycle."

Although the flight maintains a bench stock of basic items for preventative maintenance such as oil and filters, getting parts to replace major problems is not as easy as going to local store.

"We do not have ready access to base supply here," said Larry Southworth, a Department of Defense civilian who is the flight's material control specialist.

When engines or transmissions break, he has to order through the Air Force supply system. This can mean a wait of up to 30 days for a part. But Mr. Southworth uses his 15 years of prior Army service in vehicle maintenance to work

with the Army here to obtain parts. This is especially critical for obtaining HUMVEE parts.

"I can go to Army units and say, 'Hey. Can I get this,'" he said.

Over the 14 months he's been assigned here, Mr. Southworth also took the initiative to cultivate relationships with individual Army vehicle maintenance material control offices on Victory Base Complex. He said this is helpful when he needs to find a part.

"Different units have different types of vehicles and parts. I know where to go look."

Although the flight is excited with the progress of their vehicle in-commission rates, they also take pride because they eliminated 67 excess vehicles that were here when they arrived in January.

"We sent them where they were needed in the AOR," Sergeant Lytle said.

Regardless of the unfamiliarity with some vehicles, reduced parts access and the young workforce, Sergeant Henderson described the team's work during AEF 9/10: "Awesome!"



Photo by Master Sgt. Will Ackerman

Senior Airman Jorge Chavez, 447th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron Vehicle Maintenance Flight mechanic, replaces a roller on a 10-K aircraft loader. The flight maintains a fleet of more than 300 vehicles here.

AEF 9/10: Remembering the deployment in pictures



Photo by Master Sgt. Will Ackerman

(Above) Heavy rain turned the basketball courts here into "Lake Sather" in February. (Right) Todd "Ripe Zucchini" Key lassos Chief Master Sgt. Debra Garza, 447th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron chief enlisted manager, during "Operation Swashbuckle" March 27. The show was part of an Armed Forces Entertainment tour throughout Southwest Asia. (Below) Staff Sgt. Marco Puentes, 447th Air Expeditionary Group Command Post controller, offers Army Soldiers goodies during a chapel-sponsored Thursday night visit to troops waiting for flights at the passenger terminal here.



Photo by Master Sgt. Will Ackerman



Photo by Master Sgt. Lance Cheung

Tech. Sgt. Michelle DuLac, checks a boy at the Radhwaniya Medical Clinic at Camp Liberty. The sergeant and others in the 447th Expeditionary Medical Squadron visit the Civil Medical Outreach Center three times a week on their own time.



Photo by Master Sgt. Will Ackerman



Photo by Master Sgt. Will Ackerman

Staff Sgt. Robin Krzyzanowski, 447th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron, places items she and her teammates found during a scavenger hunt at the Air and Space Expeditionary Force 9 and 10 icebreaker here Feb. 11 at what is now the fitness center.



Photos by Master Sgt. Will Ackerman

A 447th Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron Transient Alert Airman marshalls in an Iraqi C-130 E Hercules near New Al Muthana in February. The transient alert team controlled all the aircraft movement on the Sather Air Base flightline.

AEF 9/10: Remembering the deployment in pictures



(Above) The 447th Expeditionary Medical Squadron moved into a new clinic in January. (Right) Airmen with the Coalition Air Force Transition Team trained Iraqi air force airmen at New Al Muthana Air Base, which activated March 7.



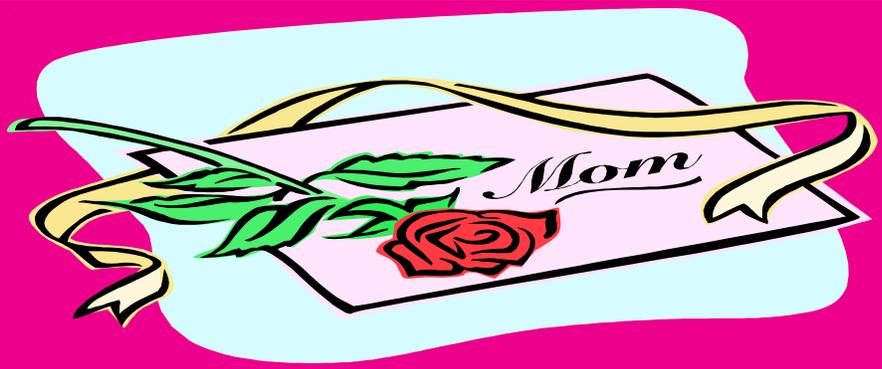
(Above) Master Sgt. Joseph Sachleben, Lt. Col. David Piech, Chief Master Sgt. Scott Lohman, Senior Airman James Adams and Capt. Stephanie Root pay their final respects during a memorial service April 1 for Tech. Sgt. Walter Moss, who died while trying to safe an explosive device near Baghdad. (Left) Sather Air Base firefighters spray water while fighting a five-alarm fire at a nearby firing range March 11.



(Left) Senior Airman Gianne Vinluan, Tech. Sgt. Monica Strong, Staff Sgt. Kandis Gant, and Tech. Sgt. Arleen Recio carry Master Sgt. Alan Stoinski during Rising 6 Career Day here March 17. The day gave people a chance to see jobs they might want to do.

Mother's Day Notes From the Front

Editor's Note: The following are Mother's Day messages to deployed mom's, wives and grandmothers.



Happy awesome Mother's Day to you! Words cannot truly express how much I love and appreciate you. Thank you for everything. Love Lisa.
Tech. Sgt. Lisa Edwards
447th Air Expeditionary Group Finance

Mom, With all the appreciation in the world. Thank you for all you continue to do for me, my sisters and brother. Inner strength is not inherited; it's learned from others. Thank you for teaching me. From my heart to your heart. Carol.
Master Sgt. Carol Poindexter
447th Expeditionary Services Squadron

Marsha. Thank you for making me who I am today. May this day be a special one for you. Happy Mother's Day. Your son, David.
Tech. Sgt. David Williams
New Al Muthana Air Base Air Force

Lilly. I love you from the bottom of my heart. I am really happy that you are my wife and the mother to our children. Happy Mother's Day. David.
Tech. Sgt. David Williams
New Al Muthana Air Base

Tabatha. To my wonderful wife. You were an unsurpassed inspiration to me on this deployment. Thank you for everything you have done for me. I love you.
Senior Airman Robert Disel
447th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron

Mom. Thank you very much for your support as a mother of a son defending the United States of America. You're the best. Happy Mother's Day. Love your son.
Senior Airman Robert Disel
447th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron

To my beautiful mother Susan. You have always been my inspiration to stay strong and determined through all of my life's obstacles. Always know that I love you wherever I am.
Staff Sgt. Darryl Elliott II
447th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron

Mama. Thanks for all that you've done for me throughout my life. Happy Mother's Day. Love Candy.
Tech. Sgt. Charlene Williams
New Al Muthana Air Base

To my wonderful wife, Jackie. Thank you so much for handling the homefront while I'm so far away from you. I think about you and the kids every day that I've been gone. Love Jeffrey.
Master Sgt. Jeffrey Griffith
447th Air Expeditionary Group Safety Office

Nay. You showed me how to live to the fullest. I'm grateful for everything you've done. Hope. Because of you I understand the reason for my life. I appreciate every moment we shared. Being away makes me realize how much I love you.
Staff Sgt. Rogelio Paran
447th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron

Mom. Thank you for your support in my career and my life. You have always been there even though we haven't seen each other in three years. I love you. Steven.
Staff Sgt. Steven Hall
447th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron

To Jan, my wonderful wife, the mother of our children. You are the wind beneath my wings. Thank you for your support for our delightful children and me. Happy Mother's Day. Love Jim.
Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Jim Browning
447th Air Expeditionary Group Senior Chaplain

Happy Mother's Day. Thank you for the love and support you have given me over the last four years. I love you and thank you. I will see you soon.
Senior Airman Shatoria Lowe
447th Air Expeditionary Group PERSCO

Thank you mom for all your love and support.
Staff Sgt. Frank Bayles
447th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron

Dear Momma. Without your light, I would be lost in the dark. I am grateful for your strength, wisdom and love that has kept me moving forward all these years. I love you and can't wait to smile with you again.
Senior Airman Caitlin Goff
447th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron

Mama. You are my strength and inspiration. Thank you for teaching by example the true meaning of unconditional love. Thank you for constant prayers and support. Your strength and beauty radiate from the inside out. I love you so much. Happy Mother's Day. I love you. Monica.
Staff Sgt. Monica Russi
447th Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron

Mom. Thank you for being my guiding force in my life. Happy Mother's Day. Love Doug.
Staff Sgt. Douglas Williams
447th Expeditionary Communications Squadron

To my wife and best friend Melissa. Thanks for being "the best" mother to our four wonderful children. You love and commitment to our family happiness will be cherished forever. Happy Mother's Day. Love Rich T.
Master Sgt. Rich Tatro
447th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron

Mama Bear. Thank you for going through labor 28 years ago. Who would have thought the labor of raising me would be so intense or last so long. For this, I thank you also. I miss you and can't wait to see you this summer. There are many good times to be had. Happy Mother's Day. I love you.
Senior Airman Chad Traynor
447th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron

Mom. Thank you so much for showing me how to be a better person. Your love and courage is an inspiration.
Senior Airman Annette Boysworth
447th Expeditionary Communications Squadron

To a remarkable mom, who's constantly putting others before herself and always loving life to the fullest. Thank you for the wonderful memories and being my very best friend. Happy Mother's Day. Love Raquel.
Senior Airman Raquel Martunas
447th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron

Dearest Cyndi. Thank you for your support during this deployment. I couldn't have done it without you! Thank you for being such a wonderful wife to me and a terrific mother to Katelyn and Christopher. Love always and forever. Jon.
Master. Sgt. Jon Lundgren
447th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron

Mumsy. You are a true blessing. Thank you for the love, support and encouragement you have always given me. After all these years, you are still my hero. I love and miss you so much and thank God for you each and every day. Happy Mother's Day.
Master Sgt. Buelah "Mick" Hale
447th Air Expeditionary Group Finance

To my beautiful wife Tanya. Thank you for providing me with the best family any man can ask for. You are the embodiment of my dreams and the best mother to our girls. Happy Mother's Day. Love Steve.
Staff Sgt. Steve Alderman
447th Air Expeditionary Group Chapel

Mom. Thank you for being such a wonderful mother and making me the person who I am today. Have a wonderful Mother's Day. I will see you soon. I love you. Nicki.
Staff Sgt. Sandra Collins
447th Expeditionary Communications Squadron

Tracey. You are the role model for mothers to emulate. Thank you dedicating your life and love to me and the kids. God blessed us with you. Happy Mum's Day.
Master Sgt. Will Ackerman
447th Air Expeditionary Group Public Affairs



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.

Right Start briefings

All new personnel must attend a Right Start briefing within one week of arrival. The briefings are held every Tuesday and Friday at 9 a.m. at the Glass House conference room.

Airmen must bring their gas masks and a new, unopened filter cannister.

Flightline photography

Flightline photography is prohibited without prior approval from the 447th Air Expeditionary Group Public Affairs office. Individuals caught taking photographs or videotaping on or around the flightline area without PA approval may be apprehended by security forces and have their camera confiscated.

When taking photographs around the rest of the base, use the same principles learned at weapons training: only aim at what you intend to shoot. Know what is behind the subject being photographed.

Sending photos and videos to loved ones is authorized, but they should never be sent directly to any news media.

For more information, call public affairs at 446-2405.

Bottled water safety

The 447th Expeditionary Medical Squadron Bioenvironmental Flight tests a percentage of each lot of bottled water delivered to Sather Air Base to ensure bottles are free of bacteria. You can help by following these steps:

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

If you notice anything unusual, don't drink the water. Call bioenvironmental at 446-2608.



Courtesy Photo

Movin' the freight!

Wilson, who was lost at the end of the movie "Castaway," donned a uniform to assist the Army's 623rd Military Cargo Team here. "Sgt." Wilson unloaded cargo, palletized it and prepped it for shipping to a forward-operating base in Iraq from Sather Air Base.

No pets allowed

Don't feed the animals. General Order No. 1 prohibits this. Additionally, stray animals may carry fleas, ticks, rabies and are hosts to sand flies, which can cause leishmaniasis.

During warm weather, bats may appear at night, which is good, because they eat their weight in insects that would otherwise bite you. But they can carry rabies. Do not touch a bat, even if it is on the ground.

Air Force PT uniform

The 447th Air Expeditionary Group commander policy for wearing the Air Force physical training uniform is as follows:

- The T-shirt must be tucked into the trousers or shorts. Exception: the shirt may be untucked while you're actively engaged in exercise including at the fitness center, running outside or playing basketball on the courts. It must be tucked in at all other times.
- Shoes must be tied; socks must be white.

Story ideas, corrections

Got a story idea? Like to write? Contact public affairs at 446-2405 or stop by the office at the Glass House.

Although we strive for accuracy, if you find an error in the *Sather Pathfinder*, please contact PA at 447aeg.pa@bdab.centaf.af.mil.

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. The Hometown News Service sends news stories to your hometown. They also highly encourage you to submit a photo of yourself in uniform with the release.

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 list shows the number of HTNRs for each unit submitted since Jan:

- 447th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron - 14
- 447th Expeditionary Medical Squadron - 13
- 447th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron - 10
- 447th Air Expeditionary Group Staff - 7
- 447th Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron - 7
- 447th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron - 6
- Coalition Air Force Transition Team - 4
- 447th Expeditionary Communications Squadron - 2
- 447th Expeditionary Services Squadron - 1
- 623rd Military Cargo Team (Army) - 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

Vegetarian veg soup
 Meat loaf
 Barbecue ribs
 Spaghetti w/meatballs
 Caribbean chicken

Dinner

Vegetarian veg soup
 Beef and noodles
 Baked ham
 Fried fish

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
 Rotisserie chicken
 Italian-style veal steak
 Salisbury steak
 Barbecue pork chops

Dinner

Cream of mushroom soup
 Texas-style beef brisket
 Turkey cutlet
 Fried chicken

Tuesday

Lunch

Cream of broccoli soup
 Yakisoba
 Pulled pork barbecue
 Caribbean chicken
 Swiss steak w/ mushrooms

Dinner

Cream of broccoli soup
 Meat loaf
 Veal parmesan
 Roast pork loin
 Parmesan pollock fish

Wednesday

Lunch

Chicken w/rice soup
 Swedish meatballs
 Barbecue chicken
 Corn beef
 Honey-glazed chicken

Dinner

Chicken w/rice soup
 Baked chicken
 Grilled pork chops
 Roast beef
 Fish filet

Thursday

Lunch

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

Dinner

Vegetarian veg soup
 Spaghetti w/meat sauce
 Veal parmesan
 Fried chicken

Friday

Lunch

Bean w/bacon soup
 Fried & baked fish
 T-bone steak
 Crab legs
 Fried shrimp
 Seafood gumbo
 Fried chicken
 Lobster tails

Dinner

Bean w/bacon soup
 Salisbury steak

Glazed-baked ham
 Baked chicken
 Italian veal

May 13

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

May 14

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

May 15

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
 Spaghetti

May 16

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

May 17

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

May 18

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

May 19

Lunch

New England clam chowder
 Fried fish
 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

**Note: Rice and/or potatoes and a variety of vegetables are served with every meal.
 Menu is subject to change without notice!**



Sambois Argenis tries to kick the ball while Oscar Figueroa (center) tries to stop him in the soccer championship game here April 25. Argenis' team "Juventus" snagged the championship in overtime 2-1 over the runner up "Maintainers of the Apocalypse."

Photo by Master Sgt. Will Ackerman

T. J. Nargang discusses strategy during a break at the Sather Air Base soccer championship game April 25. The team, named "Juventus," comprised Army and Air Force members. They beat the "Maintainers of the Apocalypse" team 2-1 in overtime.



Photo by 2nd Lt. Jessica Boudra

SOCCER CHAMPS

The "Juventus" team battled and took the intramural soccer championship from "Maintainers of the Apocalypse" in overtime 2-1, April 25.

Team Juventus comprised players from the Army here and Team "Maintainers of the Apocalypse" comprised Airmen from the 447th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron.



Photo by 2nd Lt. Jessica Boudra

(Above) Jorge Chavez and Henri Marks fight for the ball during the Sather Air Base soccer championship game here April 25. Marks' team, "Juventus," won the title over "Maintainers of the Apocalypse" in overtime 2-1. (Right) William Gaytan tosses the ball to his "Maintainers of the Apocalypse" teammates during the game here April 25.



Photo by Master Sgt. Will Ackerman



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, Horseshoes at the pit behind the Mirage Recreation Center
- Tuesday, Spades at the Mirage
- Wednesday, Ping Pong at Paradise Point
- Thursday, Dominoes at the Mirage
- Friday, Texas hold 'em at Paradise Point
- May 15, Spades at the Mirage
- May 16, Darts at Paradise Point
- May 17, Dominoes at the Mirage
- May 18, Horseshoes at the pit
- May 19, Texas hold 'em at Paradise Point



All weekday activities are at 7:30 p.m. All events subject to change. To sign up for events, stop in the Mirage Recreation Center. For more information, call 446-2802.

5-kilometer Fun Run



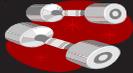
Feel like a good run with your friends? Services will hold a fun run, which starts at 10 a.m. at the Mirage Recreation Center May 13.

Karaoke



Come out and show your talents and get your 15 seconds of fame every Saturday at the Mirage Recreation Center. Starts at 7:30 p.m.

The Fitness Corner



• Step aerobics, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7 p.m., at the Tigris Fitness Center.

(The final class for AEF 9/10 rotation is Thursday. If you are new to Sather Air Base, and are qualified to lead aerobics, contact the Services staff at 446-2802.)

• The final weigh-in for the "Biggest Loser" is May 15. Call 446-2802 for details.



Intramural Basketball Standings

(Final)

Team	Wins	Losses
EOSS	6	2
ECES 1	0	8
ELRS 1	6	2
ECS	4	4
EMEDS	3	5
ECES 2	1	7
ELRS 2	2	6
ECES 3	8	0
ESFS	6	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

WEDNESDAY

- 7 p.m., Catholic Rite of Christian Initiation
- 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