

Krab KRONICLE

Volume 4 Issue 10

506th Air Expeditionary Group, Kirkuk Air Base, Iraq

May 8, 2006

News Briefs

May promotees

The following Airmen were promoted in the month of May:

To the rank of Airman 1st Class: Stephen Woodward and Kevin Dougherty, 506th ELRS; Angela Saylor and Ashley Bond, 506th ESFS

To the rank of Senior Airman: Timothy Bolger and Brandon Carden, 506th ECS; William Zuniga, Brian Cohick and Brian Sugg, 506th ESFS

To the rank of Staff Sgt.: Fransisco Rivera, 727th EACS; Quinn Madison and Fredrick Rinke, 506th ECES; and David Lewanski, 506th ECS

To the rank of Technical Sgt.: Nicholas Taylor, 506th ESVS; and Christopher Hann, 506th ESFS

April award winners

The following Airmen are the monthly award winners for April:

Airman of the Month: Airman 1st Class James Estep, 506th ESFS

NCO of the Month: Staff Sgt. Eduardo Garza, 506th ECS

SNCO of the Month: Senior Master Sgt. Robert Hague, 506th ECES

CGO of the Month: 1st Lt. Pedro Gonzales, 506th EOSS

Sharp Saber Team: 506th ELRS Air Terminal Operations Center

FOD Award: 506th ECS

Safety Award: 506th ECES

To complete a
Hometown News

Release, go to

<http://intranet.krab.cen.taf.ds.af.mil/aeg/Public%5Faffairs/DOCS/DD2266.htm>



This black and white photo of the skeleton hanger by Senior Airman Jaqe Kraft is the overall winner of the AEF 9/10 Amateur Photo Contest. Airman Kraft is assigned to the 506th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron and is deployed from McConnell Air Force Base, Kan.

Photo contest winners announced

The winners of the AEF 9/10 Amateur Photo Contest have been announced.

The overall winner is Senior Airman Jaqe Kraft, 506th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron. Category winners are: in the Landscape/Nature category, Airman 1st Class Yaacov Mosly, 506th ESFS, Escorts and Airman 1st Class Clinton Hammons, 506th Expeditionary Communications Squadron; and in the Personality category, Master Sgt. William McCoy, 506th ESFS and Tech. Sgt. Jose Santiago, 727th Exped-

itionary Air Control Squadron.

“It was a difficult decision,” said Airman 1st Class JoAnn White, contest judge. “They were all good, but based on the contest criteria the winners really stood out.”

Judging factors included composition, exposure and creativity. Three additional photos in each category received an Honorable Mention.

Two of the category winners are named on Page 3. Other winners and honorable mention photographs are featured on Pages 9 and 10.

What's Inside

News

What to know for medical outprocessing



Page 5

Feature

Iraqi Air Force planes, pilots wait to fly again



Page 7

KRAB mission is "Bodacious"

Airmen's ability to do the job ensure success of Iraq

By Lt. Col. Dave Carrell
506th AEG Deputy Commander

If I had one word to describe the KRAB mission it would "Bodacious."

I'm not talking about the word and/or adjective, I'm talking about the animal. For you rodeo fans, you know Bodacious was the meanest, nastiest bull who ever walked the face of the earth. He was a cowboy killer and mangler.

Even the world champion rodeo riders of the day, like Tuff Hedeman and Lane Frost, could not ride Bodacious for the full eight seconds. They finally ended up retiring Bodacious to the Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame and he was never ridden the full eight seconds.

The KRAB mission is "Bodacious" due to the challenges of fighting a dangerous enemy with ever changing tactics, techniques and procedures and because we have Base Operating Support Integration responsibility for a base with an archaic infrastructure.

While Bodacious has thrown us off, stomped on us, gored us a few times, and even slobbered on us, the most impressive thing about the warriors of the KRAB is their ability to dust themselves off and get back on that bull. We have ridden Bodacious to some great accomplishments to ensure freedom and democracy will flourish in Iraq.

Without a doubt this assignment has been the highlight of my 20 year career. I have

never worked with a better team of professionals who are willing to take on the tough challenges. We all know the nature of this war is quite different for most Air Force support personnel.

It is no longer just about "flying and fixing aircraft." More than ever it is about full spectrum dominance often achieved by our Expeditionary Combat Support warriors.

For instance, we have EOD personnel going outside the wire everyday to perform route clearing missions in support of the Army. We have security personnel patrolling outside the wire to ensure the security of the base and airfield operations. Our Office of Special Investigations team goes outside the wire everyday to meet with their sources to protect the base.

The professionals inside the wire performing medical, airfield operations, communications, civil engineering, services, logistics readiness, air control and group staff functions are equally important to ensure the mission continues unhampered.

We have also worked hard at fostering a

great relationship with our 1st Brigade Combat Team Army brethren who have a very hard mission that they continue to perform in an extraordinary manner.



I also want to thank the contractors who leave their families voluntarily to help in the cause.

Lastly, I have a special thanks to our translator contractors, many who have grown up in Kirkuk and come back to this country to help out of a sense of duty. These are all great Americans.

It has been an honor and privilege to serve

While Bodacious has thrown us off, stomped on us, gored us a few times, and even slobbered on us, the most impressive thing about the warriors of the KRAB is their ability to dust themselves off and get back on that bull. We have ridden Bodacious to some great accomplishments to ensure freedom and democracy will flourish in Iraq.

with the very best – the men and women of the KRAB. I know you all will continue to jump back up on Bodacious and ride – freedom and democracy are depending on it. I wish you all the very best in your life and a joyous reunion with family and friends. God bless you for your selfless sacrifices!



Col. Pete Hronek
Commander
506th AEG

Lt. Col. Dave Carrell
Deputy Commander
506th AEG

Chief Master Sgt. Larry Seibel
Command Chief
506th AEG

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

Krab KRONICLE

Vol. 4, Issue 10 May 8, 2006

This funded newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services overseas. Contents of the Krab Kronicle are not necessarily the views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or the Department of the Air Force.

The content is edited, prepared and provided by the public affairs office of the 506th Air Expeditionary Group.

All photographs are U.S. Air Force

photographs unless otherwise indicated.

The Krab Kronicle accepts stories, photographs and commentaries, which may be submitted to the public affairs staff, located in the group headquarters building, or can be sent directly to the newspaper at 506aegpa@krab.centaf.af.mil Deadline for publication is 7 p.m. Thursday prior to the week of publication.

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



Photo contest winners

Above: Master Sgt. William McCoy's photo of an Iraqi child shows what makes children fun - their difference in perspective. This photo was a winner in the Personality category of the AEF 9/10 Amateur Photo Contest. Sergeant McCoy is the 506th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron first sergeant and is deployed from Moody Air Force Base, Ga.

Left: Airman 1st Class Yaacov Mosly uses sepia tones to invoke feeling in this photo of the base dump. This photo was a winner in the Landscape/Nature category of the AEF 9/10 Amateur Photo Contest. Airman Mosley is assigned to the 506th ESFS as an TCN escort. He is an HVAC technician deployed from Holloman Air Force Base, N.M.

Chief McKinley selected as 15th CMSAF

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.



Chief Master Sgt. Rodney J. McKinley, shown here shaking hands with Airmen, has been selected as the 15th chief master sergeant of the Air Force.

— News from around the Air Force —

Air Force mandates virtual outprocessing

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas

— All Airmen undergoing permanent change-of-station moves, retirements or separations are now required to use the Virtual Outprocessing application available through the Virtual Military Personnel Flight. Airmen can enter the vMPF by logging onto the Air Force Personnel Center's secure Web site where they can view their vOP checklist from the individual actions menu.

The vOP checklist will include requirements based on the Airman's unit and other associated base agencies, such as the transportation management office, finance, medical clinic and Tricare. The checklist also will include the timeframe required for clearing actions at each location. Bases currently not using the vOP system will transition to it no later than May 30.

The online process also will eliminate paper checklists and most in-person outprocessing requirements. (Courtesy AFPC)

Air Force MIA identified

WASHINGTON — The Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office, or DPMO, announced May 2 that the remains of two Airmen, missing in action from the

Vietnam War, have been identified. They were crewmembers on a C-130 Hercules that was shot down in 1972.

The Airmen are Tech. Sgt. Donald Hoskins of Madison, Ind., and Staff Sgt. Calvin Cooke of Washington, D.C. A third person from the crew, Maj. Harry Amesbury, was previously identified.

Of those Americans unaccounted for from all conflicts, 1,805 are from the Vietnam War. Another 841 Americans have been accounted for in Southeast Asia since the end of the war, with 601 of those from Vietnam.

For more information on the Defense Department's mission to account for missing Americans, visit the DPMO Website at <http://www.dtic.mil/dpmo> or call (703)-699-1169.

Fewer Airmen delinquent on GTC payments

WASHINGTON — More Airmen are paying their government travel card bills on time, allowing the Air Force to reach what many believed was an unattainable goal set by the Department of Defense, an Air Force official said.

In the world of credit and money management, delinquency numbers are important.

Whenever someone misses a payment, or illegally uses the government travel card, that is a knock against the service. Plus it costs manpower and money to correct -- whether it is to pay off insufficient funds or to set in motion Article 15 hearings for major offenses.

The goal for the Air Force — and other government agencies that use travel cards -- is to keep the number of delinquencies under 2 percent. Yet the Air Force has a factor working against it. Of all the government agencies, the Air Force owns 42 percent of the cards.

However, aggressive actions were put into place to develop guidelines that explained the program, its rules and regulations. The result? Delinquency rates have continually dropped over the past few years.

By having less than 2 percent delinquent accounts, the Air Force betters the current commercial sector delinquency account rate of 4.7 percent and is in better standing than other DOD agencies, he said. "Better account access was also an important key," Mr. Billbrey said. "We worked with Bank of America to develop and launch a Web site for Airmen to access their accounts, making split disbursements and payments easier to track."

Medical outprocessing made easier

The CENTAF Surgeon General has implemented theater wide use of computer based Post-Deployment Health Assessments to be accomplished before Air Force deployers leave the AOR.

“The post-deployment health assessment is part of a comprehensive database used to track personnel’s deployment experiences and their health status” said Lt. Col. Steve Williams, 506th Expeditionary Medical Squadron public health officer. “As personnel prepare to depart Kirkuk, they should be scheduled by their Unit Deployment Manager or First Sergeant to stop by the EMEDS Public Health office to finalize their computer-based health survey.”

According to Colonel Williams, the information is used to identify and document an individual’s exposure to environmental, physical, and psychological stressors that may have an impact on their physical or mental health both at the time of the survey as well as when the member returns to their home station.

With the new process an individual can complete the Post-Deployment Health Assessment from their workplace computer. Since the interview questionnaire is web-based, folks can complete the questionnaire before they visit the EMEDS. The Internet website is <https://www.afchips.brooks.af.mil/DD2796.aspx> and is easily accessed through the Kirkuk Intranet.

Once the questionnaire is completed, individuals need to report to the EMEDS by appointment to review the survey with a medical

provider. If necessary, further evaluations can be accomplished. The survey information is transferred nearly real time to the central database at Brooks City-Base. Because the information is transferred in real-time it allows for quicker in-processing at home station.

Once the information is processed at Brooks’ central data base it is then sent simultaneously to the Army Medical Surveillance Activity (AMSA) for trend analysis and to the individual’s home station. The home station uses the information to reintegrate the individual back into their unit, part of the Air Forces’ newly adopted ‘reintegration program.’ This streamlining effort allows for gathering data efficiency and eliminates extended time away from family.

“The short term benefit of doing the Post-deployment Health Survey in theater is that it allows individuals to get back to their families quicker,” the colonel said. “The long term benefit is more efficient data gathering to document individuals’ exposures and potential exposures in theater and to ensure personnel who become ill receive the medical benefits they deserve.”

At Kirkuk the program is up and running. Medical out-processing starts at your desktop computer then is completed by appointment at the EMEDS, arranged through the Unit Deployment Manager or First Sergeant. The unit points of contact will work with the EMEDS Public Health office to ensure personnel are out-processed efficiently and on time.

Airmen improve base for Soldiers in northern Iraq

By Airman 1st Class Jason Ridder
332nd AEW Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE MAREZ, Iraq — In the northern Iraqi city of Mosul, Airmen from the 332d Air Expeditionary Wing are using their construction expertise to help the U.S. and Iraqi governments and the U.S. Army.

The 557th Expeditionary RED HORSE Squadron is deployed in support of the Army’s 555th Combat Support Brigade (Maneuver Enhancement) here. RED HORSE stands for Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy Operations Repair Squadron Engineer.

“Red Horse is a heavy construction outfit that directly supports combat air power worldwide,” said Senior Master Sgt. Brian Richardson, RED HORSE airfields manager. “They provide air component commanders a dedicated, flexible airfield and base heavy construction and repair capability, along with many special capabilities that allow commanders to move and support missions as the air order of battle dictates.”

In Mosul, RED HORSE Airmen are helping the Army with transition of battlespace.

“Transition of battlespace is returning

American-occupied real estate back to the Iraqi government,” Sergeant Richardson said. “With the closure of Forward Operating Base Courage, the troops stationed there are redeploying to Marez. The 557th ERHS is developing real estate and constructing facilities to support these additional troops.”

Normally, a RED HORSE team works from scratch. They move into an area where there is nothing and construct facilities, install utilities and build an airfield to support combat operations.

At Marez, with the exception of a few facilities, the RED HORSE Airmen have inherited existing facilities and are renovating them. The team is working closely with



Courtesy photo

Chief Master Sgt. Layton Clark speaks with a structures team while they take a break from working on a 7,200-square-foot building for the U.S. State Department at Forward Operating Base Marez, Iraq. Chief Clark is the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing command chief.

the Army host unit.

“Working with the Army is great,” Sergeant Richardson said. “If there was ever a prime example of joint operations, this is it. The Army and Air Force (are) working and living side by side to get the job done.”

CROWS gets Airmen out of the turret

By Staff Sgt. Kristina Barrett
506th AEG Public Affairs

A new weapon system in the Air Force arsenal takes Airmen out of the gun turret and into the safety of a fully up-armored humvee.

The 506th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron operates the only Common Remote Operated Weapon Station in the Air Force inventory. As one of three security forces squadrons in Iraq with an outside the wire combat patrol mission, CROWS offers an additional capability to the unit.

The CROWS sensor unit includes a daylight video camera, a thermal imager for night operations, and a laser rangefinder and is furnished with a fully integrated fire control system that provides ballistic correction. CROWS is a stabilized gunner-operated weapon system, which allows the gunner to engage targets from inside a moving vehicle. It mounts to the M1116 up-armored High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle, commonly known as a "humvee." It provides the ability to remotely aim and fire a variety of weapons such as the M2 50 caliber machine gun, Mk19 40mm automatic grenade machine gun, M240B 7.62mm machine gun and M249 5.56-mm squad



Photos by Staff Sgt. Kristina Barrett

Senior Airman Jeffrey Oats loads ammunition into the M2 50 caliber machine gun mounted on the Common Remote Operated Weapon Station.

automatic weapon. The mount is capable of continuous 360 degree azimuth rotation and a minus 20 – 60 degree elevation movement.

"CROWS increases our situational awareness and allows us to see things we might never have known were there, especially at night," said 1st Lt. David Bolin security forces flight leader. "It's an asset on the types of mission we do here."

CROWS has accompanied Airmen on more than 25 combat missions. The range of the system exceeds that of the human

eye so it has the ability to aid the gunner in looking for threats that may not be immediately visible. It also allows the fire team to find things they may not have known were there. One such mission resulted in the seizure of a large weapons cache.

"On one mission, we were scanning the countryside looking for threats and spotted a bunker a substantial distance away," said Senior Airman Jeffrey Oats, security forces gunner. "When we approached the area, we came upon a cache of more than 100 pieces of unexploded ordnance."

Although the system is currently in use by the Army since early 2005, CROWS is still in the test phase for the Air Force, who is determining the role it could play in future operations. The 506th ESFS mission outside the base perimeter offers the chance to see CROWS in action.

The CROWS control group, which mounts inside the vehicle, is the gunner interface allowing operation from within the vehicle's ballistic protection. Its main components include a display unit, switch panel unit and a joystick-type hand controller system provides full remote control of the weapon system via on-screen menus.

"I believe this weapon system to be very useful for the military, Airman Oats said. "It increases our ability to observe and locate the enemy and eliminates the threat of sniper fire for the turret gunners."



Senior Airmen Jeffrey Oats and Keshia Snedeker assemble a M2 50 caliber machine gun attached to the Common Remote Operated Weapon Station.

Iraqi pilots will fly again

By Staff Sgt. Kristina Barrett
506th AEG Public Affairs

Pilots from the Iraqi Air Force are waiting patiently for a team of Airmen to arrive from Edwards Air Force Base, Calif. It's this team who can get them up in the air and flying again.

The mission of the Iraqi 3rd Squadron hinges on the work of the Air Force Flight Test Center, who sent a team of maintainers, engineers and pilots to Kirkuk to test the airworthiness of the Comp Air 7SLX, which was a gift to the IAF by the United Arab Emirates. The aircraft is a kit-built plane developed by an American company. Due to the many modifications of the aircraft, it was deemed unsafe to fly.

The aircraft was grounded in January after the Air Force flight test evaluation team determined the aircraft was unsafe in its present condition. Now, with the work accomplished by a 20 person team brought in from various bases and Air Force Specialty Codes, the aircraft is ready to fly again. The team was able to rebuild the aircraft and make it safe to fly. A successful first flight occurred April 25, which means the team will be returning to Kirkuk in May to fix the aircraft assigned here so the IAF can take to flight once again.

"Part of the mission here is surveillance and reconnaissance of the northern oil pipeline to protect it from attacks by insurgents and allows them to check for tampering and leaks," said Capt. Anthony Brim, Coalition Air Force Transition Team. "In addition, they will be able to assist the Iraqi Army in the search for insurgents."

Currently the squadron is undergoing a rigorous schedule of academics to prepare them for the transition into a fully functioning, independent Air Force. Captain Brim is teaching the Iraqis how to maintain an operational squadron. They are overhauling the squadron in much the same way the Edwards team is overhauling the aircraft.

"We completely reorganized the squadron. There was no hierarchy – no one in charge of maintenance, training or safety," Captain Brim said. "We were able to set up the squadron to mirror and the structure of a squadron in the Air Force and assign section and duty chiefs who are



Capt. Anthony Brim instructs pilots from the Iraqi Air Force 3rd Squadron here on the theory of forward looking infrared pods. Captain Brim is a member of the Coalition Air Force Transition Team and is assisting in developing the squadron's operational abilities.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Kristina Barrett

given the authority to make decisions."

Captain Brim's experience as an F-16 pilot allowed him to transform the squadron into a functioning unit. He started a daily schedule of operations – from training to inspections.

"I used the 'big hand' theory," he explained. "In the beginning I was the big hand guiding everything. I showed them the standards and what was expected and within the first month, the squadron had structure and they were operating on their own."

Now the squadron is operating on its own, while the captain and the major have taken on advisory roles.

"The Iraqis are making the decisions while the major and I inject our inputs to make their progress more efficient," the captain said.

The structure allows Captain Brim and Major Cain more time to focus on making them better pilots. Some of the topics the pilots are learning are how to employ certain tactics with their equipment. One day it may be forward-looking infrared pods and the next day electronics or avionics associated with their aircraft. Whatever the topic, the pilots have their heads in the books because they know their country is depending on them.

"The IAF members here, whether they are pilots or maintainers, are professionals. They are educated and know the change they are going through is for the good," he said. "They can see the long term and they are pushing for it – striving for it."

The change they are striving for is on the horizon, according to IAF Col. Ali. He doesn't want his complete name to be used

due to security concerns. He said there are people in the country who do not want to see a liberated Iraq and will kill people associated with the new government.

Colonel Ali, like the other 15 pilots in the squadron, served under Saddam Hussein. He said he wants to see his country rise again and be better than it was under the old regime.

"This is our country and we want to change it," he said. "We were a wealthy nation but Saddam made us poor. Now we have freedom and we want to rebuild our country."

Colonel Ali said that since Hussein didn't allow the country to prosper, Iraq needs to rebuild everything to a higher standard than before. He also said Iraq isn't ready to walk alone and the United States is still needed to help them.

"I know America helps rebuild countries and I know they can do that for us. I know what they did for Germany and Japan after World War II and I know they are trying to do the same thing with Iraq," he said. "I see the economies of both countries and see how they are prospering. I know we can be better because we are a wealthy country. We can come back better than before."

Col. Ali said he can't wait for the team from Edwards to get here. He also hopes for success for his country.

"We have to be positive and optimistic about our future and we must rebuild our infrastructure. Our government must be in one hand to go forward," he said. "It will take time to have peace in Iraq but Iraq and America must work as brothers to achieve this."

SEARGEANT CREATES WORKS OF ART

By Staff Sgt. Kristina Barrett
506th AEG Public Affairs

The pile of copper-coated steel rods were destined to be more than they appeared and will be much more than anyone thought possible. In the hands of the artist, the rods will form shapes limited only by imagination.

Using an acetylene gas welding set up and torch, Staff Sgt. Daniel Hamilton creates works of art using these steel rods. Working on a degree in welding in the 1970s, he started using his drawing talent to make non-traditional forms of artwork. His need to create started at a very young age.

"I've always had it in my blood," he said, referring to his artistic talent. "I flunked the second grade because I was too involved in drawing."

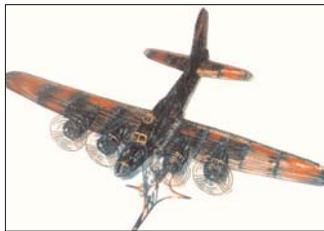
Sergeant Hamilton is an Air National Guard member deployed from the 140th Civil Engineer Squadron at Buckley Air Forces Base, Colo., and is currently assigned to the 506th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron. He's been in the Air National Guard for four years but served for more than 12 years in the United States Navy in both active duty and the Reserves.

He has never made his artwork a full-time job, it has always been a hobby but he's hoping that will change soon. While deployed here, he said the



Photo by Staff Sgt. Kristina Barrett

Staff Sgt. Daniel Hamilton spends his few hours of off time working on his art pieces. He creates wire art work in various sizes from palm-sized to life size. An average desk top piece takes between eight and 17 hours to complete. Sergeant Hamilton is assigned to the 506th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron here.



Staff Sgt. Daniel Hamilton created this B-17 Bomber, which has a 25 inch wing span and took 27 hours to build.



From Vintage to Modern Day Blue Angles: The aircraft on the left is an F4U Corsair, and has an 18 inch wingspan and took 20 hours to create. The jet on the right is an F/A-18 Hornet a Navy aircraft. The Hornet is 18 inches long in proportion, was also 18 hrs. to build. The blue color on the aircraft is a powder coating.

operations tempo makes it difficult to do his work because of the time involved and the lack of equipment here. However, he has had time to do some work while deployed.

"The time involved varies with the size of the piece," he said. "If I want to work here, I also have to improvise with the tools I use."

Normally he uses a jewelers torch, but something that small isn't available here. He uses three foot mild steel rods to create artwork small enough to fit in the palm of a hand to life-sized to pieces larger than life. For example, he's created a rocking chair for a dollhouse and a full size baby Statue of Liberty.

One of the pieces that stand out to him is the life-sized, fully functioning tenor saxophone. It

took 43 hours to construct and was a gift for President Bill Clinton during the Summit of the Eight meeting in Denver on June 21, 1997. Sergeant Hamilton received a thank you letter and Christmas cards from the White House for the remainder of the President's term in office.



Other works of art include "The Lone Sailor," which is a replica of a statue at the Navy Memorial in Washington, D.C. It includes five pieces and the sailor stands 6'3" tall. It took 300 hours to construct. He said an average desktop piece can take between eight and 17 hours.

Sergeant Hamilton's work can be viewed at www.blackforeststudios.com.

U.S. Marine Logo: This is a three dimensional wall hanging that's 8 inches tall and took, 11 hours to construct. This was built for a former Marine, who passes it from one family member to the other year after year on the anniversary of the birth of the Marine Corps on Nov. 10.

Teacher, advisor comes home

By Staff Sgt. Kristina Barrett
506th AEG Public Affairs

She grew up in the shadow of an oppressive dictator. When she was 18 she took her children and fled her homeland in search for a better life. Now she is back in her native land, praying for its rebirth.

Life has come full circle for Shawnim. This isn't her real name but for security reasons, she prefers to use a pseudonym.

Raised in Irbil, Iraq, she spent the summers at her grandparent's house in Kirkuk. She made the choice to come to America when a Lutheran church in Fargo, N.D. sponsored her and her family. She spent 5 years in nearby Moorhead, Minn., before moving to San Diego, Calif., where she stayed until her eventual return to Iraq in 2005.

"I always wanted to come back to Iraq but never thought I would be able to," Shawnim said. "It is amazing to me to be here doing something that I love."

Shawnim is the bilingual, bicultural advisor to the Iraqi Air Force, 3rd Squadron here. She is also an English, Arabic and Kurdish language teacher. She said that her return to Iraq wasn't without problems.

"I thought about my time here and the bad memories," she explained. "The first week I had flashbacks and it took me two months to be comfortable here."

At first she was scared to come to Iraq because of what was being reported in the mainstream media. After talking to a friend, who told her not to believe what was being reported on television, she decided to come back. Initially, she was supposed to be working in the city of Kirkuk, but came to the base instead.

"I thank God for the courage he gave me to come back to Iraq," she said. "My dream was to educate myself and come back to teach English and now I cannot believe I am here."

When she first moved to the United

States, Shawnim said she couldn't believe the freedoms people had. It was during the election of 1976 when she saw what it meant to be free.

"I remember seeing things on TV talking good and bad things about presidential nominee Jimmy Carter," she explained. "I couldn't believe there were people saying bad things about him because you would be killed for that in my country."

"Sometimes I think people in America have too much freedom because they abuse it and take advantage of it without appreciating that they have it," she added.

Shawnim has taken that freedom of speech and has brought it to her fellow countrymen. As the bicultural advisor to the IAF, she interacts daily with Iraqis who served in the military under Hussein and is slowly teaching them about the United States and what freedom means.

"Part of my lecture is how beautiful America is and what she has done for the world," she said. "I tell them how I succeeded in America and what they have done for me. They hear what I say and they want that for Iraq."

Shawnim said Saddam ruined Iraq in the eyes of the world because the world saw what he did so they think all Arabs are that way and that Arabs and Kurds are the same.

She said the United States should be proud of the work done here. She believes democracy is contagious and everyone will want to be a part of it once it takes hold in Iraq.

"The elections in Iraq will be a blueprint for democracy in all Middle Eastern countries," she said. "I hope the people will be brave and work toward freedom and democracy in their countries and enjoy freedom as we do in America."

"In addition, year by year, things will get better in Iraq. Soon the government will be strong but it's going to take a lot of struggle and a lot of work to get there but I know the people of Iraq can do it."



In his own words

By Staff Sgt. Kristina Barrett
506th AEG Public Affairs

Iraqi citizens are taking giant strides to make their lives better. One such person is Sattar Ali, a Kurdish citizen from Duhok, Iraq, who is working with the 506th Expeditionary Contracting Squadron here.

Mr. Ali has never lived outside of Iraq but did learn English in school. His brother in law was working with the 506th ECONS but had to go back to the U.S. because of a medical issue. Mr. Ali was able to take over for him. He said he's doing something he enjoys while helping out his country.

"I enjoy the job I do and I like meeting different people," he said. "Also, I get to help the American make Iraq a strong country."

Mr. Ali said the United States saved Iraq from Saddam Hussein but the change is something a few cannot accept. He believes the change is good.

"The transformation is good for us," he explained. "The situation in Iraq now is better than it has been in many, many years."

"I have faith in Iraq and its ability to move forward," he added.

Landcape/Nature



Above: Airman 1st Class Clinton Hammons' photo of a ladybug taking a rest on a native plant was a winner in the Landscape/Nature category of the AEF 9/10 Amateur Photo Contest. Airman Hammons is assigned to the 506th Expeditionary Communications Squadron and is deployed from Tinker Air Force Base, Okla.

Right : These photos received an Honorable Mention in the Landscape/Nature category:

Top: Photo by Master Sgt. Donald Bates, who is assigned to the 506th Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron and is deployed from Robins Air Force Base, Ga.

Middle: Photo by Staff Sgt. Jorge Romero, who is assigned to the 506th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron and is deployed from Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska.

Bottom: Photo by Lt. Col. (Dr.) Jacob Palma, who is assigned to the 506th Expeditionary Medical Squadron and is deployed from Brooks Air Force Base, Texas.



Personality



Above: Tech. Sgt. Jose Santiago's photo captures the relaxed posture of a long day in this winning photograph in the Personality category of the AEF 9/10 Amateur Photo Contest. Sergeant Santiago is assigned to the 727th Expeditionary Air Control Squadron and is deployed as a member of the Puerto Rico Air National Guard.



The following photos received an Honorable Mention in the Personality category:

Top: Photo by Staff Sgt. Ethan McCants, who is assigned to the 506th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron and is deployed from Moody Air Force Base, Ga.

Middle: Photo by Staff Sgt. William Bryce, who is assigned to the 506th ESFS and deployed from Langley Air Force Base, Va.

Bottom left: Photo by 1st Lt. Jacob Leck, who is assigned to the 506th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron and is deployed from Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho.



Photos from around the KRAB



Who is this masked man?

Col. Pete Hronek hams it up for photographer Airman 1st Class JoAnn White during an exercise at the 506th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron Fire Department. Colonel Hronek is the 506th Air Expeditionary Group Commander here.

Photo by Airman 1st Class JoAnn White



Burnin' up

Airmen from the 506th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron Fire Department put out a blaze during an exercise here.

Photo by Airman 1st Class JoAnn White



Drop and give me 20

Army Command Sergeant Major David Osborn shows how promotions are done in the Army for recent promotees at the 732nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron here.

Photo by Airman 1st Class JoAnn White



WINNER!

Staff Sgt. Pedro Achaval, 506th Expeditionary Communications Squadron, receives a gift card after he placed 3rd in the Sand Blaster Fitness Center's Arm Curl Competition.

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Dan Burke



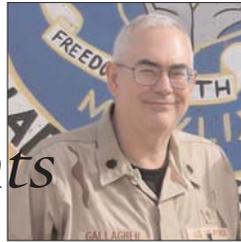
Posting of the colors

Members of the 506th Air Expeditionary Group Honor Guard post the colors at the monthly promotion and awards ceremony at the Clantina.

Photo by Airman 1st Class JoAnn White

Chaplain's Thoughts

By Chaplain Robert Gallagher



Spam – if you are talking about the strange meat-like substance that comes in the little cans, you will find reactions that range from “I love the stuff” to “My God, that’s gross.” If you are talking about “spam” as in messages that clog the internet and somehow sneak on to our computers, then just about everybody hates it.

In May of 1978, the first spam email was sent out by a salesman to every one on a West Coast network connection. Granted that was still a pretty small group in 1978 but even back before anyone could have imagined what the internet would become, it was obvious to at least one person that here was a tool with amazing potential.

“Potential” sounds like a good thing; it says this is the beginning, not the end; it hints at a capacity for future achievement.

The internet grew to become a highway for education, commerce, entertainment, rapid communication. It also became the route for identity theft and pornography; it can consume our time and isolate us from real human contact.

But this isn’t the computer geek column; this is the chaplain’s corner. As the people

here starting rotating home, there is a lot of potential in peoples lives.

Each moment of our life has potential but its never clear where the paths will lead and every path will bring it own problems. When we get

home some things will have changed there, maybe we will have changed. It could easily take a while to figure out if those changes are good or not; permanent or not.

Can we keep up the good habits and intentions we started here? Can we avoid or improve the things we promised ourselves to work on? There is the potential for things, for us, to be different. It could lead to wonderful things; it could lead to spam; possibly both.

KRAB Religious Schedule

Monday 11:30 a.m. — Catholic Mass (Freedom Chapel) 7 p.m. — Ladies Fellowship (Freedom Chapel) 7 p.m. — Catholic Fellowship Discussion Group (Hotel Charlie) 7:30 p.m. — Daniel Bible Study (Eagle’s Nest)	(Freedom Chapel) 11:30 a.m. — Catholic Mass (Freedom Chapel) 7 p.m. - Jewish Service (Bastogne Chapel) 7 p.m. — Gospel Choir Practice (Freedom Chapel)
Tuesday 7 p.m. — Protestant Praise Team (Freedom Chapel) 7 p.m. — Men’s Bible Study (Bastogne Chapel)	Saturday 7 p.m. — Catholic Mass (Freedom Chapel) 7 p.m. — Gospel Joy (Bastogne Chapel) 9:15 p.m. — Catholic Mass (DFAC)
Wednesday 11:30 a.m. — Catholic Mass (Freedom Chapel) 7 p.m. — Gospel Service Bible Study (Freedom Chapel) 7 p.m. — Bible Study (Bastogne Chapel)	Sunday 8 a.m. — Gospel Service (Freedom Chapel) 9 a.m. — Catholic Mass (Bastogne Chapel) 10 a.m. — Contemporary Worship Service (Freedom Chapel) 11 a.m. — General Protestant Service (Bastogne Chapel) 11:30 a.m. — Catholic Mass (Freedom Chapel)
Thursday 7 p.m. — Protestant Praise Team (Freedom Chapel) 7:30 p.m. — Praise Team (Bastogne Chapel) 8:30 p.m. — Common Ground Kirkuk (Freedom Chapel)	1 p.m. — Protestant Sunday School (Freedom Chapel) 1:30 p.m. — LDS Service (Bastogne Chapel) 7 p.m. — Contemporary with Communion Worship Service (Freedom Chapel)
Friday 7:30 a.m. — Common Ground Kirkuk	

The good news is that in this case people have the advantage over technology.

Whatever path we consider for our future, someone has traveled it before us. We can find experienced guides and people who can support our efforts to follow that new path.

It might be a chaplain, a mentor, a friend or a loved one. We will always make the most of our potential when we allow others to accompany us on our journey.

Salafi vs. Wahhabi Islam

By Maj. Matthew Ence
Middle East Foreign Affairs Officer

Salafi is a term most often used in the American media and in intelligence circles to refer to radical, violent Islamist groups like al-Qaeda or rigid conservative regimes governing countries such as Saudi Arabia or Afghanistan. In reality, the term has a much broader meaning and can apply to a wide spectrum of Islamist groups, violent and peaceful.

Salafi Islam is a form of Sunni Islam that seeks to return to the purest form of Islam; in essence Islam as practiced by Muhammad and

the first three generations of Muslims. This group of early Muslims are revered as the salafuun saalih , the righteous predecessors. Salafists seek to emulate them in every aspect of daily life.

The desire to follow exactly the example of the salafuun results in a very traditional, conservative brand of Islamic practice. Salafists reject any innovation or modernization that has entered into the religion since the days of the salafuun. This is expressed in con-

servative dress, particularly for women, conservative interpretation of the Qur’an, and a pious practice of Islam.

Wahhabism is just one of many sects that fall under the broad umbrella of Salafi Islam and is a relatively new movement, emerging in Arabia in the 18th century when followers of Muhammad ibn Abd al-Wahhab joined Muhammad ibn Saud in subjugating and uniting the various tribes of the Arabian Peninsula.



Culturegram

Did you know?

...the term wahhabi is not used by its adherents as it is considered a term of belittlement. They refer to themselves as muwahiduun, or “Unitarians”, upholding the unity of one God. ...as the muwahiduun spread throughout Arabia, they destroyed the tombs and shrines to discourage idol worship.

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.
 Salsa Lessons 8 p.m.

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

Thursdays
 Black Jack 8 p.m.
 Ping Pong 8:30 p.m.

Fridays
 May 12 Country Night 8 p.m.
 May 19 Bazaar 1 - 8 p.m.

Saturdays
 May 20 Bazaar 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 Progressive BINGO 8 p.m.
 Karaoke 9:30

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

Fitness Center Events

Mondays
 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.
 May 9 Squat Competition 8 p.m.
 May 16 Bench Press 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.
 May 11 Sit-up Competition 8 p.m.
 May 18 Military Press Competition 8 p.m.

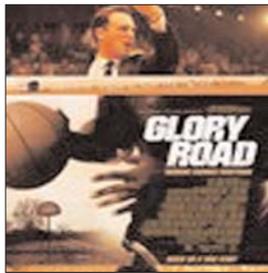
Fridays
 Ab Class - 5:30 a.m. Spin Class - 6:30 a.m.
 Boxing Basics 7:30 p.m.

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

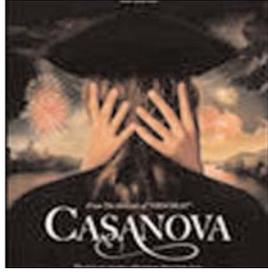
Sundays
 Spin Class 7:30 p.m.



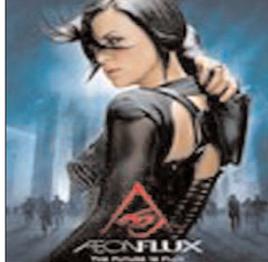
KRABusters Video



Monday, May 8
Glory Road



Tuesday, May 9
Underworld: Evolution



Wednesday, May 10
Fun with Dick and Jane

Thursday, May 11
Big Momma's House 2

Friday, May 12
The Sentinel

Saturday, May 13
Casanova

Sunday, May 14
Aeon Flux

Monday, May 15
Date Movie

Tuesday, May 16
The Ringer

Wednesday, May 17
Ice Age 2

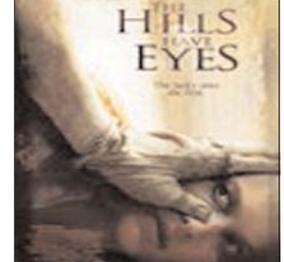
Thursday, May 18
King Kong

Friday, May 19
Munich

Saturday, May 20
Phat Girls

Sunday, May 21
The Hills Have Eyes

Movies shown at 8 p.m. in the KrabBusters Movie Tent





Who has the ball?

Jason Peters fights for the ball during a joint Air Force/Army soccer game. The rival services partnered up to play each other in combined team. Later the teams partnered again and took on the Turkish team.

Krab Cup Results

506th ESFS wins Krab Cup

The Krab Cup competition finale and picnic were held Sunday at Warrior Field.

The competition pitted squadron against squadron for the past 14 weeks. A variety of events were held, such as an all ranks PT test, volleyball, tug of war, kickball and ultimate frisbee.

We normally had approximately 200 to 300 people either participating or watching Krab Cup events," said Capt. Lee Comerford, 506th Expeditionary Services Squadron commander. "People were really getting in to it and enjoying themselves."

As squadrons jockeyed for the number one position, the overall winner was the 506th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron.

Each squadron who won an event received a plastic crab as an award. The overall winner received a trophy.

KRAB CUP RESULTS	
ESFS	68 pts.
ESVS	59 pts.
Group Staff	58 pts.
EOSS	55.5 pts.
EMEDS	43 pts.
ELRS	30 pts.
ECES	28 pts.
732 ECES	16 pts.
ECS	14 pts.