



ALI TIMES



May 19, 2006

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ALI TIMES

Vol. 4, Issue 20
May 19, 2006

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The content is edited, prepared and provided by the public affairs office of the 407th Air Expeditionary Group. All photographs are U.S. Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.

The *Ali Times* accepts stories, photographs and commentaries, which maybe submitted to the public affairs staff—located in the group headquarters building—or can be sent directly to the newspaper at

Ali.Times@tlab.centaf.af.mil

Deadline for publication is 7 p.m. Thursday before the week of publication.

For more information, call 445-2318, or e-mail the staff.

Front Page photo

Staff Sgt Joe Lankford, 407th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron pushes a baggage pallet onto a departing C-130 at the Air Terminal Operations Center. For more photos and details on the ATOC mission, see Pages 8 and 9. (Photo by Master Sgt. Andrew Gates).

Be ready for change

By Master Sgt. Danny Littleton

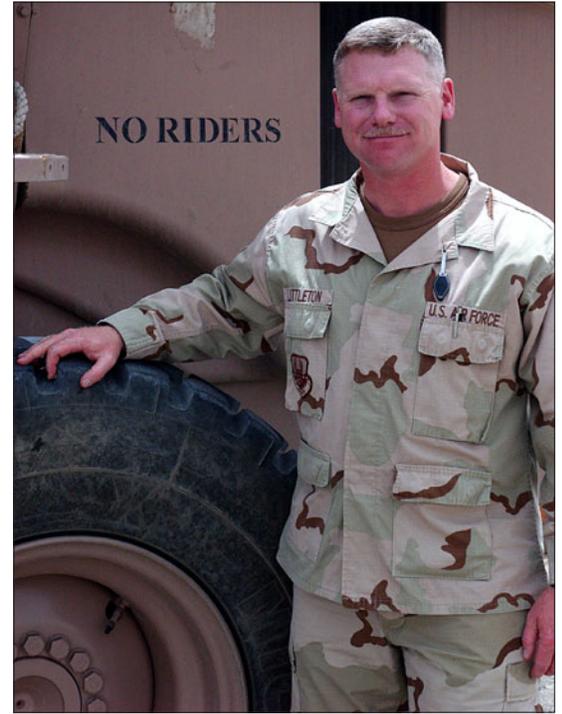
407th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron

Are you ready for a change? I'm sure your answer is "yes" if you are getting ready to redeploy back home. We have all heard the comments, "change is the only constant." That is a good description of the environment in which today's military forces exist. You never know exactly what will happen next or how it will affect your life. That is part of the excitement of being in the military.

You have the ability to change your destiny. For example, if you don't like the base you are currently assigned, you know that eventually you will get orders to move on to another base. You can identify your assignment preferences and influence where that next base will be. Visiting new countries and meeting new people are key reasons many of you signed up. I encourage you to be open to new experiences and enjoy the opportunity to visit much of the world that few civilians can only dream about.

Many people love the job they are doing, but you might be looking for something better. If you don't like your job, you can do something about it. You may be eligible to retrain into a new career field. You may be eligible to apply for a special duty assignment. Why not work hard and study so you can get promoted and move up to a supervisory position which will allow you to take on new challenges. You have unique opportunities that allow you to find your place in this diverse military family.

If you just got to Ali Base, you have just experienced one of the biggest changes you may ever have in your life.



Master Sgt. Danny Littleton

Your environment is likely much different than you are accustomed to. You may also be doing a different job than you would at home station. You are in a foreign country and making new friends on a daily basis. This may be what you expected, but chances are it is not anything like what you envisioned it to be.

Few people would have thought about being deployed to Iraq where they serve with coalition forces, eat in a nice dining facility where they serve Baskin-Robbins ice cream for free or where they could visit the birthplace of Abraham. Well, here you are. Right here in the midst of making history that your kids and grandkids will be reading about. What will happen next? How will it change your life? There is no way of knowing the outcome, but it will change our future, making this an exciting time to be in the military.

Ali Times Readers want to know...

With Memorial Day coming up, whom do you remember and honor on that day? Send your answers to Ali.Times@tlab.centaf.af.mil before 7 p.m. May 23. Selected answers will appear in the May 26 Ali Times.

Looking forward to great rotation

Greetings Ali Warriors,

You have joined a team of professionals focused on making a positive difference in preserving our nation's freedom. I cannot wait to meet and thank you for your tremendous commitment in serving here on the frontline in Iraq. I will provide a vision and direction for our AEF 1/2 rotation when we get our full cadre but wish to pass on some start-up energizers until we can get this mission moving forward together.

1. Get engaged with every detail of your MISSION.

"There are no secrets for success, it is the result of preparation, hard work, and learning from mistakes"

2. CARE about your Fellow Ali AIRMEN, Get to Know One Another "TEAM-Together Everyone Achieves More"

3. Live By a Professional Code,



Col. David Orr

be the Role Model.

"The Military Warrior's Greatest Ally is his/her Example"

4. Recognize the Moment.

"YOU are securing our liberty for

hundreds of millions of people in the world"

See you around Ali and on the Bedrock.

Colonel Dave "Iron" Orr

Deployment time seems over in a blink of an eye

By Chief Master Sgt. Charles Crisler

407th Air Expeditionary Group Chief Enlisted Manager

For those of us in the AEF 9/10 crowd, this has been a quick rotation. When we arrived last winter, we were ready to roll with ideas and objectives to improve the way we do things here; we've certainly been busy and have completed many projects.

Despite our accomplishments, there is still much more to be done, so it is a pleasure to welcome so many sharp AEF 1/2 Airmen. You are all showing an outstanding attitude and excitement, so I know you'll do well and make Ali Base even better. While you're doing that, I also want you to look for ways to make yourself better.

You can do this by setting personal goals and developing a plan to achieve them during your

time here. For example, you may want to improve your mile and a half run time, drop or gain a few pounds, or increase your overall fitness level. We have excellent facilities and a great fitness staff to help you do that.

Also, some of you may have educational goals in mind. Our education center is at your service with everything you need for upgrade training and continuing education. Many Airmen have taken and passed CLEP tests towards CCAF and/or bachelor degrees, and some have completed courses for their masters programs.

Whatever your desires are, please set goals and establish a plan to meet them. It's been extremely rewarding to witness so many who have not only contributed to our mission, but also met, and in some cases, surpassed personal



Chief Master Sgt Charles Crisler

milestones.

Now is the time to get started. If your rotation is anything like ours, it'll be over in the blink of an eye. Have a wonderful time!

Action Line: Commander addresses headphones on Airport Blvd, Prohibiting opposite sex gatherings on tent "porches"

The 407th Air Expeditionary Group Commander's Action Line is a two-way communication method between Col. David Orr, 407th AEG Commander, and the Airmen living and working at Ali Base, Iraq. Items addressed have been brought up to the commander as concerns.

Running with Headphones on Airport Boulevard: Running with headphones on Airport Boulevard was prohibited during the last rotation for safety concerns, but I wish to reopen this opportunity for our Ali Airmen. The 407th AEG has taken steps to minimize traffic on Airport Boulevard; I believe this makes running with headphones a safe option. I caution all personnel to remain alert for emergency response and mission essential vehicles and remain on the road shoulders to avoid delaying any responses. The use of headphones is still prohibited as you are transiting to Airport Boulevard from Bedrock. If this stipulation is

violated, we will lose this running enhancement.

Prohibition of Opposite Sex Gatherings in Tent "Porches": I was told that many Bedrock members want this decision revisited. Please accept the following "mission and people" considerations after 21 years and many temporary duty and deployment experiences.

Mission: Ali Airmen in favor of allowing gatherings on tent porches say it adds to camaraderie and esprit de corps to have informal social get-togethers in comfortable surroundings. I agree, and feel that our Services Squadron team provides a multitude of convenient locations for Airmen, regardless of their gender, to meet and enjoy one another's company. From a mission standpoint, I think there would be cases of fellow tent-mates being uncomfortable and opposed to these get-togethers.

People: We are all far from being

perfect human beings. I cannot tell you how many senior officers, senior NCOs, and other AF members I highly regarded who lost it all due to inappropriate relationships. I will also tell you I have handled several cases of Airmen who returned from temporary duty or deployments and then filed sexual assault charges. These terrible errors in judgment not only end Air Force careers, but also change the lives of everyone involved. While I trust a vast majority of our Airmen completely, the combination of all the emotional and physical factors associated with this deployment, together with allowing this "opposite sexes in tent porches" temptation to be realized is an unacceptable combination in my view. I would be happy to personally clarify my opinion if anyone should wish to discuss it further.

Meet the ELRS Commander



Lt. Col. Joseph D. Martin

Home unit: 96th Logistics Readiness Squadron, Eglin Air Force Base, Fla.

Hometown: San Diego, Calif.

Favorite sports team: San Diego Chargers

Currently reading: Dan Brown's "Angels and Demons"

Command philosophy: Take Pride in what you do

What do you look forward to doing most during your deployment? Making a difference and making it better

Wing refines dress, appearance guidance; removes requirement to salute in PT gear

Military members at Ali Base wearing the Air Force physical training uniform are no longer required to salute, according to recent guidance put out by the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing.

Other changes in the February 2006 revision of 332nd AEW instruction 36-2903 include further guidance for smoking and using tobacco in uniform, as well as incorporates the use of headphones while wearing the Air Force PT uniform.

Specific changes include:

Headphones may be worn in official PT uniform when inside the clearly defined confines of housing areas and away from areas of frequent vehicle traffic. Headphones are prohibited unless required to perform military duties when outside the confines of the identified boundaries of the housing area. However, headphones may also be worn with PT gear on an authorized running track while performing PT

Headphones may be worn with PT gear on an authorized running track while performing PT activities outside the housing area or at the base fitness facilities.

— 332 AEWI 36-2903, February 2006

activities outside the housing area or at the base fitness facilities. They may not be worn to and from the running track and base facilities when they are located outside the housing area.

Smoking and the use of smokeless products are permitted only in designated tobacco use areas indicated by covered areas and the presence of a butt can in the housing area and a butt can at the work center in commander-designated areas no closer than 25 feet to any facility. Personnel will not walk with any object in their

mouth, nor will they walk with a cigarette, pipe or cigar in their hand. Smoking and the use of smokeless products are prohibited in all Air Force facilities and Air Force vehicles.

Saluting is not required while wearing the PT uniform.

Personnel performing missions with a risk of encountering hostile fire or attack may embroider their blood type on the helmet band on the right side of their Kevlar helmet as viewed from the front.

The regulation also provides a variance to hospital personnel to wear layered clothing as an outer garment while inside the Contingency Aerospace Staging Facility and the Air Force Theater Hospital, and cold weather updates for the Air Force PT uniform, including different colored long-sleeved shirts and watch cap wear.

(All information pulled from 332 Air Expeditionary Wing Instruction 36-2903, dated Feb. 1, 2006)

Meet the ECS Commander



Maj. Steven Sweeney

Home unit: 34th Combat Communications Squadron, Tinker Air Force Base, Okla.

Hometown: Gloversville, N.Y.

Favorite sports team: Yankees, Spurs and Redskins

Currently reading: Tom Clancy's "Teeth of the Tiger"

Command philosophy: 5 F's....Flying, Fairness, Family, Fitness, and Fun

What do you look forward to doing most during your deployment? Doing the mission. The worst day in the field, doing the mission, beats the best day back in garrison training.

Firefighters respond to blazes

By Master Sgt. Andrew Gates

407th Air Expeditionary Group Public Affairs

Air Force firefighters at Ali Base responded to two fires May 11.

Early May 11, the 407th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron firefighters responded to a fire in a trailer on Perimeter Road. Later that day, they responded to a fire at the supply yard on Central Street.

The firefighters provide fire protection services to all assets on Ali Base. Neither fire involved Air Force assets.

“When we arrived at the first fire, the trailer was fully involved with heavy smoke and fire. Another trailer was right next to it,” said Senior Master Sgt. Daryl Cook, 407th ECES fire chief. “We were able to put out the fire quickly, so there was no visible damage to the trailer which wasn’t on fire.”

The department responded to this fire with six firefighting vehicles and two support vehicles, he said.

The second fire was later that morning.

“When we initially responded, we saw smoke and fire coming from the yard, but couldn’t determine what was burning,” said Sergeant Cook. “Once we were able to determine a pallet was burning, we attacked the fire from both inside the yard and



407th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron firefighters responded to this fire of a trailer on Perimeter Road on May 11. It was one of two fires the firefighters responded to that day. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Barry Hanson)

from over the barriers on 9th Street.”

Specific causes for both fires have yet to be determined.

Putting out both fires was a joint effort between rotating firefighters, said Sergeant Cook.

“Like most other units, we are in the middle of our rotation, so firefighters from 9 and 10 as well as 1 and 2 responded to the fires,” he said. “This operation was seamless and all the firefighters performed exceptionally well.”

Tips for preventing fires around Ali Base

Although the recent fires were not on Air Force property, Air Force members on Ali should remember some simple tips to prevent fires, especially in the living area.

Safety officials provided some information on the top 10 “infractions” during a recent fire protection inspection:

- No smoke detector or the detector was sitting in occupant’s personal area or no battery in detector.
- No air horn
- Plastic/vinyl curtains throughout a lot of tents

- Back exits blocked or obstructed by furniture
- Christmas lights hanging throughout the tent
- Surge protector used in conjunction with another surge protector
- Two-pronged extension cords used in conjunction with surge protector
- Microwaves and coffee pots inside tents/porches
- Fire extinguisher missing, inaccessible or unserviceable
- Back of tent tied up from the outside

From the CPIC:

CF raids insurgent safe haven

BAGHDAD, Iraq – Coalition Forces conducted a coordinated ground and air attack against an enemy safe haven in Yusifiyah May 14, killing more than 25 terrorists, detaining four, destroying three safe houses and a vehicle loaded with weapons and ammunition.

Upon initiating the attack in the afternoon, Coalition troops immediately killed two terrorists in response to hostile activity emanating from a suspected safe house and an associated vehicle. Once the threat was suppressed by an air strike on both the car - resulting in secondary explosions - and the structure, ground troops searched the targeted areas, found two dead terrorists, detained four suspects and provided medical treatment to three injured civilians.

One adult female and one teenage female were treated for wounds and then medically evacuated with their uninjured maternal escort via helicopter to the 10th Combat Support Hospital in Baghdad. Additionally, one girl was treated on-site for a superficial wound to the head. She required no further medical care and remained with her mother.

The terrorists fired at the departing helicopters including the transport carrying the injured civilian

Briefs off the wire from the Combined Press Information Center

females. The ground forces called in close air support to suppress the threat, and several sorties of fixed and rotary wing aircraft attacked enemy positions and killed approximately 20 terrorists.

During the fighting, terrorists in a truck tried to penetrate the security perimeter and were engaged by the ground troops. The three enemy who occupied the vehicle were killed; one was wearing a suicide vest and detonated it after he was shot by the ground troops, injuring no one and killing himself.

CRRB releases 151 detainees

BAGHDAD, Iraq – — Multi-National Force-Iraq released 151 male detainees from Coalition-run Theater Internment Facilities May 15.

The Iraqi-led Combined Review and Release Board reviewed their files and recommended release.

The CRRB was established in August 2004 and consists of members from the Ministries of Human Rights, Justice and Interior, as well as officers from the Multi-National Forces.

To date, the board has reviewed the cases of more than 38,500 detainees, recommending more than 19,400 individuals for release.

Center-contractor partnership benefits warfighter

by G. A. Volb

Ogden Air Logistics Center Public Affairs

HILL AIR FORCE BASE, Utah (AFPN) — In an ongoing effort to generate cost-effective support for the warfighter, Ogden Air Logistics Center officials signed a partnering agreement with BAE Systems May 11.

The agreement, established to make maximum use of the center's industrial and technical foundation while incorporating BAE Systems' commercial expertise, will improve support to the warfighter and may reduce overall costs in the long run.

The partnership, designed to be as flexible as possible in order to accept future workloads, is focused on the C-17 Globemaster III head-up display in the initial effort, with possible test program development down the road.

"Initially, the government and

the ALC will gain second source repair capability and help bring it more in line with workload requirements, while BAE Systems will have at its disposal extra workload capacity and access to skills and services it may not otherwise possess," said Kevin Forbes, 309th Electronic Maintenance Group industrial program manager.

There were other specific benefits to entering the partnership for both parties, said Charlie Johnson, C-17 program technical advisor with the 309th EMXG.

"BAE Systems is on the cutting edge of developing new technology with regard to aircraft sustainment," Mr. Johnson said. "The agreement gives us an inside track on future technological advances they make; plus we gain direct technical support and training that keeps our knowledge

base up to date."

BAE Systems, on the other hand, benefits from access to the ALC's skilled work force and extensive maintenance repair and manufacturing infrastructure.

"They'll have access to government facilities to test materials, equipment, models and computer software," Mr. Johnson said. "Our facilities are already covered by hazardous material licenses which will also save the contractor significant costs. In the end, program operating costs will be reduced by using shared facilities, equipment, information and other recourses.

"It's the warfighter who will gain the most from the partnership," he said.

"They'll gain from improved responsiveness, technology infusion, increased reliability and improved logistical support."

Pushing freight

ATOOC moves cargo, passengers into, out of Ali quickly

By Master Sgt. Andrew Gates

407th Air Expeditionary Group Public Affairs

In the heart of a combat environment, speed and accuracy are key – even more so when it comes to an aircraft. And though most cargo aircraft are relatively agile when in the air, they are not while ground bound.

One team’s mission at Ali Base is to make sure those aircraft stay on the ground for as short a time as necessary, and when they do take off, that the aircraft is packed with cargo.

That 12-person team, the Air Terminal Operations Center, works around the clock to move passengers and cargo on and off the C-17s and C-130s which transit Ali – moving more than 700 tons of cargo and 4,000 passengers each month, according to Staff Sgt. Gregory Steffers, 407th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron load planner.

“Our mission is to meet each aircraft and provide them with top service,” he said. “We expedite all downloading and uploading procedures and get these aircraft back in the air. When we have no planes on the ground, we prepare cargo to be moved



Above: Staff Sgt. Joe Lankford, 407th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron, uses a five-ton all-terrain forklift to preposition baggage for loading on an outbound C-130. Below: Traveling troops load onto a C-130 before cargo is loaded. (Photos by Master Sgt. Andrew Gates)

out, and transfer inbound cargo to distribution agencies.”

As a load planner, Sergeant Steffers makes sure that each aircraft is fully used. He starts with each aircraft’s configuration – the physical number of seats available and the cargo configuration. He also has to take into consideration the passengers and cargo “booked” by Air Mobility Command on the mission – certain “must-move” cargo. After he determines what is left, he can move any remaining cargo or passengers wait-



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Freight

Freight

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ing for the first available aircraft.

“My goal is to make sure each aircraft leaves here full,” he said.

The load planning aspect of the center is a highlight for another 407th ELRS member, Staff Sgt. Joe Lankford, deployed here from Altus Air Force Base, Okla.

“This is a great part of the job – I enjoy being in the middle of it all and solving problems,” he said.

The ATOC is in the middle of a spike of passenger moves, as nearly all the Air Force people at Ali will rotate within the next few weeks – although the Air Force moves will not put a big dent in the average 4,000 passengers the center moves monthly.

“We have a group of people who excel in their job – that makes it easy,” said Sergeant Steffers. “We do the same thing every day.”

One of those people is Senior Airman Randy Walgren, who, like Sergeant Lankford, is deployed from Altus.

“I help achieve the mission because of my attitude and knowledge,” he said. “A big impact is the other members of the team – everyone in the ATOC helps, because we work as a team. Our mission here is more challenging than at home because here we are making a direct contribution to the Global War on Terrorism. Being at Ali allows me to be more exposed to all the aspects of my job.”



Staff Sgt. Joe Lankford, left, and Staff Sgt. Elston Robinson, 407th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron, push a baggage pallet into the back of a C-130. (Photo by Master Sgt. Andrew Gates)

Sergeant Lankford agrees. “My home station is a training base and we help train loadmasters with cargo – here, we can see how the operation works. We load cargo and passengers with a purpose. This is real!”

Working a real mission, and getting exposed to all aspects of the job make it worthwhile to Sergeant Steffers, as well. “It’s not uncommon for the same person to check in cargo, build it onto a pallet and then load it on the aircraft – often,

these tasks are conducted by different work centers at home.”

Other differences between operations at Ali and at home are night operations, the occasional dust storms limiting visibility, and the heat – with temperatures climbing into the low 100’s during the day, often the three logistics specialists may “feel the burn” more than at home stations.

“It seems pretty warm when standing out on the ramp, and when working behind a running C-130, the temperatures double,” Sergeant Steffers jokes. “Well, it feels like they do, anyway.”

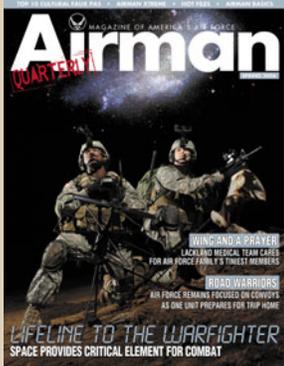
Despite those hot temperatures, the three feel very proud to be involved in operations at Ali, especially when considering the eventual impact – a democratic Iraq.

“Democracy seems to work for us,” said Sergeant Lankford. “I would like to see everyone with the same benefits as Americans.”

Airman Walgren is much more specific. “I am definitely eager to help build a democratic Iraq. There are too many good people in Iraq striving for help. I see how the people here live and I would never want anyone I know to live like that. I feel everyone has the right to vote and have freedom.”

With those ideals motivating them, they and other members of the ATOC team ensure that equipment and cargo quickly move in and out of the base – despite the heat, dust and darkness.

What’s new in Airman?



Read about how space-based capabilities are helping fight the Global War on Terrorism, travel alongside a joint convoy mission through Iraq, follow the struggles of the Air Force family’s tiniest members as they receive live-

saving care at the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Wilford Hall. These features and more highlight the first quarterly issue of Airman magazine, now available in print and online at <http://www.af.mil/news/airman/>.

The Heart of the Deal

Contracting officials coordinate with local agencies for services, supplies

By Master Sgt. Jon Hanson

407th Air Expeditionary Group Public Affairs

In a war environment, when military customers can't find the product or service they are looking for through supply channels they often turn to the 407th Air Expeditionary Group Contracting Office for help.

The contracting office is responsible for procuring commodities, commercial and construction services to support and sustain Ali Base in a legal, ethical and cost effective manner.

Six Air Force contingency contracting officers here manage more than 50 contracts worth almost \$23 million.

Active contracts include janitorial services for the Cadillacs, DV tents and portable restrooms. They also administer the laundry cleaning contract which provides a 24-hour turn around and provide oversight on the Italian Restaurant in Bedrock (the Air Force community at Ali).

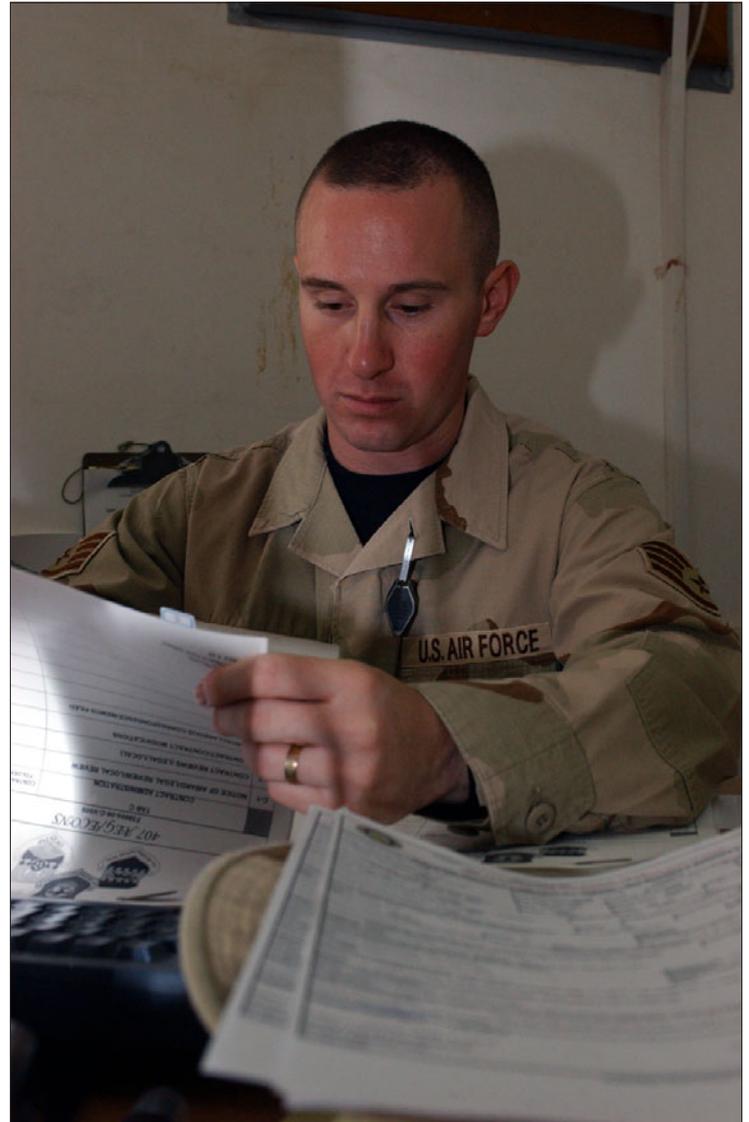
On-going construction contracts include paving the combined defense operations center parking lot and repairing concrete on the airfield and airport road.

Several completed projects include building sidewalks in Bedrock, putting in a drainage system in Bedrock and pouring foundations for several services facilities.

Contingency contracting officers are authorized to obligate hundreds of thousands of Air Force dollars via issuance of warrants from their respective commands and as such, part of their task is educating customers.

"Educating customers on the roles and responsibilities of contracting officers is a major challenge," said Capt. Gayle Barajas, 407th Air Expeditionary Group chief of contracting. "Air Force CCOs are trained to operate alone and are given complete authority over contracting actions within their designated warrant limits, regardless of their rank."

"The biggest challenge for me is that I am the lowest ranking contracting officer in this rotation. It has been a challenge training and educating senior non-commissioned officers and CGOs (company grade officers) on contracting matters," said Senior Airman Meljoelyn Gardner, 407th AEG CCO. "The



Staff Sgt. Troy Darling, 407th Air Expeditionary Group Contracting Office, goes over a contract. (Photo by Master Sgt. Jon Hanson)



Master Sgt. Jeffrey Stebbins, a contract inspector with 407th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron, watches a contractor excavate a drainage ditch. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Troy Darling)

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Contracts

Contracts

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individuals' lack of knowledge on CCO levels of authority leads them to question my actions. It is sometimes hard for these individuals to grasp that I am a warranted contingency contracting officer and I have the authority to obligate the government's funds.

"At my home station my title is contracting specialist and I administer contracts but do not have the authority to obligate the government's money," Airman Gardner said. "When I arrived at Ali Base, my title changed to contingency contracting officer. The U.S. government gave me a warrant up to \$100,000 to obligate the government's money."

Another challenge here is the language barrier.

"It is more difficult doing the job here because of the language barrier and cultural differences. In the operational community, we work quickly to complete projects; that was difficult for the local contractors to grasp," Captain Barajas said. "The vendor base is very limited in the local area; we have to write contracts so our local contractors understand the requirements and have the means to procure any materials needed to complete the project."

Airman Gardner agrees. "When you negotiate with contractors you have to spend more time and consideration to translate conversations and documents due to the language barrier. It is the CCO's responsibility to make sure



Senior Airman Meljoelyn Gardner, 407th Air Expeditionary Group Contracting Office, reviews a contract for clarity. (Photo by Master Sgt. Jon Hanson)

the contractor understands the contract he or she is signing since it is a legal and binding document. The CCOs use an interpreter and local vendor list to locate the product or service. Occasionally they have to print pictures so the vendor knows what is required."

The CCOs also run into problems when cultural differences come into play.

"Contractors here sometimes don't understand the concept of completely impartial contract awards," said Staff Sgt. Troy Darling. "Many contractors believe that if they are not awarded a con-

tract it is because you are upset with them."

Another limiting factor in awarding contracts is ensuring technical requirements are met, as U.S. standards are different than local ones.

"The local economy does not easily support technical requirements," Captain Barajas said. "The local labor base has a limited skilled labor base which led to longer periods of performance and intense project oversight by the 407th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron. All in all, if a local contractor successfully completes a project within the allotted time, we all win. It is our duty to ensure compliance as well as success."

The CCOs need to know exactly what the customer wants so they only procure what the customer needs.

The contracting office works with many Ali Base units but their biggest customer has been the 407th ECES.

"Contracting and civil engineering have to work well together and be willing to do what it takes to ensure projects are completed," Captain Barajas said. "We were very fortunate to have worked with an ECES unit that was driven to succeed just as we were. The relationship between contracting and the civil engineers was the best one that I have encountered in my 18 years of service. — this team went above and beyond to ensure a quality product was delivered each and every time."

TELL YOUR STORY

As a military member, you have a great story to tell. And the military has many ways to tell those stories. First, you can fill out a Hometown

News Release, a DD Form 2266 — just for deploying to Iraq and participating in Operation Iraqi Freedom. However, you can also fill out a HTNR for other events as well —including promotion or recognition while in theater (including all the monthly awards).

For events or situations which are a little more out of the ordinary —such as

the story on the next page —let public affairs know. U.S. Air Forces, Central Command has a number of programs to market these stories back home —including radio and television stations. If you can tell a really good (true) story, you might even get on national or international media.

Call public affairs at 444-2318.

In his father's boot steps

Retired general visits son, expeditionary communications squadron

By Master Sgt. Andrew Gates

407th Air Expeditionary Group Public Affairs

The former commander of an Air Force tactical communications group got a chance to see the latest advancements in the field, literally, during a May 14 stop at Ali Base's 407th Expeditionary Communications Squadron.

His tour guide: his son, who is assigned to the same tactical communications unit he commanded nearly 20 years ago.

Retired Brig. Gen. Randy Witt visited the 407th ECS while heading to Afghanistan. While here, he visited and got a tour from his son, Capt. Randolph Witt, deployed to Ali from the 3rd Combat Communications Group, Tinker Air Force Base, Okla. General Witt commanded the 3rd CCG from January 1986 to June 1988.

The retired general was going through the theater as a guest of the Army – his company has a contract for deployable cell phone technology in Afghanistan. General Witt was heading to Afghanistan to meet with his staff, and touch base with the Army team managing the contract.

"On the way, I decided to try to visit Ali to see my son," General Witt said.

"I wasn't expecting him to get here when he did,



Capt. Randolph Witt, 407th Expeditionary Communications Squadron, left, points out some of the improvements made in network server operations to his father, retired Brig. Gen. Randy Witt. (Photo by Master Sgt. Andrew Gates)

since we are in the middle of a rotation," Captain Witt said. "He sent me an e-mail from his Blackberry (May 14) that said he was on his way."

As part of the visit, Captain Witt gave his father a quick run down on the communications unit at Ali.

As commander of the 3rd CCG, General Witt was quite familiar with establishing communications in austere environments.

The 3rd CCG is one of the Air Force units responsible for deploying to a bare-base at the beginning of operations and establishing the initial command and control, computers and communication infrastructure, said Captain Witt.

As the contingency continues, the deployed communicators replace that initial – or tactical –

infrastructure with more permanent – or fixed – equipment.

"Fixed communications are much more easily supported," Captain Witt said.

The face of tactical communication has changed significantly over the past 20 years, General Witt said.

"All the equipment we used needed huge vans of support equipment," said General Witt. "Now, it's fair to say that all the communication equipment is commercialized off-the-shelf equipment. We've gone from military-developed to commercially-developed equipment."

Modern communicators still use a few pieces of equipment from the general's stint as commander of the 3rd CCS, he said, including a good deal of the equip-

ment combat communications units bring in to set up a new airfield.

Although the general left the 3rd CCG, or "3rd Herd," more than 20 years ago, he did leave a legacy which continues to this day. Originally, the unit's nickname came from its size, since it was the largest unit of its type at the time, said the captain.

"When we first got to Oklahoma, I saw a number of unit stickers with an owl," said Captain Witt. "It seemed a little strange to have a unit with the nickname '3rd Herd' and an owl for a mascot."

"The group logo was old – and the motto was "World-wise Comm," said General Witt. "I had never heard of a herd of owls, so we held a contest to develop a new logo – one involving a more appropriate mascot."

The eventual winner, a bull, was named after General Witt's given first name – Buford. The general also changed the group's motto to "Oldest. Biggest. Best."

This reunion is the first of two – the second within about a month as Captain Witt returns to Oklahoma and the 3rd Herd.

"I was sure happy to see my son doing a good job here," said General Witt. "It was a pleasure to meet the team who is here with him. It was great to meet my son in a forward deployed area like this."

Three on three basketball tournament

Army team wins b-ball tourney

An Army team took the top position during the Muscle Beach three on three basketball tournament at Bedrock May 16.

The winning team, from the 485th Combat Support Battalion were Sergeant First Class Sturns, Sergeant Peoples, Sergeant Louis and Specialist Thompson.

The runner ups came from the 407th Expeditionary Security Force Squadron, and included Senior Airman Tyler Eldred, Senior Airman Ricky McNair, Airman 1st Class Jeremy Rice and Airman 1st Class Tyrone Bullocks.



Airman 1st Class Tyrone Bullocks, 407th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, goes for a layup while Airman 1st Class Christopher Romero attempts to block.



Staff Sgt David Rogers, 407th ESPS, shoots, while Airman Bullocks blocks.



Airman Bullocks, from the second place team, catches some air during a shot. (Photos by Master Sgt. Andrew Gates)



Senior Airman David Ramos, 407th ESPS, pulls down a rebound, while Staff Sgt. Revius Norris, 407th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron (behind him) tries to strip it away.

Identify This

Do you know what this is?



If you can identify the object, e-mail the paper at Ali.Times@tlab.centaf.af.mil with "Identify This" in the subject block **by noon Monday**. Be specific! The winner will receive their choice of a cheap prize from the 407th Air Expeditionary Group Public Affairs prize closet. Congratulations to Airman 1st Class Harrison Roberts, 407th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, who identified the water bottle bottom in the May 12 Ali Times.



Team Ali members check for debris on the flight line during the weekly FOD walk. Senior Master Sgt. Darryl Cook found the golden bolt and won a T-shirt. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. John Hale)

407th AEG

Warrior of the Week



Staff Sergeant Robert Rzasa

Unit: 407th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron

Duty title: Environmental Control Journeyman

Home station: Fort Wayne ANG, Indiana

Why other warriors say he's a warrior: "Staff Sgt. Robert Rzasa stepped in to head up the Entomology and took an aggressive step toward the challenge when his supervisor was redeployed. SSgt Rzasa has spent endless hours fogging the portion of the base occupied by the Air Force and Navy thus decreasing the insect population and enhancing the living conditions. His determination to strive to be the best in his AFSC is admirable."

- Senior Master Sgt. Thomas Bellrose (Operations Chief) 407th ECES

Most memorable Air Force experience: "My engineering squadron was activated and sent to assist in relief efforts due to Hurricane Katrina. We rebuilt schools, opened businesses and helped build water and shower points for the victims and relief workers. The damage was catastrophic."

Hobbies: "Running, weight training, gun collecting."

Notes about my family: "My family has been very supportive throughout my military career. I plan on spending quality time with my soon-to-be wife, Kristi, and my girls Brook and Carly."

Serenity in the sand

faith-based services schedule

Worship is at the 407th Air Expeditionary Group **Oasis of Peace** chapel, and at the Army Post Chapel. The *Oasis* is open 24 hours a day for prayer and reflection.

For details on worship opportunities, or directions to worship locations, please call 445-2006.

Oasis = Air Force Chapel/Bedrock

OA = Oasis Annex

ARAC = Army Religious Activity Center

APC = Army Post Chapel

TCN = Third Country Nationals living area by DFAC

FRIDAY

1 p.m., Muslim prayer/
service: (TCN)

6 p.m., Roman Catholic
Mass: Oasis

6:30 p.m., Jewish Service:
ARAC

7:30 p.m., Gospel Choir
Rehearsal: APC

SATURDAY

6 p.m., Roman Catholic
Mass: Oasis

SUNDAY

8 a.m., Roman Catholic
Mass: Oasis

9:30 a.m., Traditional
Protestant Service: Oasis

10 a.m., Protestant Service:
APC

10 a.m., Latter Day Saints
Service: ARAC

10:30 a.m., Church of
Christ: ARAC

7 p.m., Contemporary
Worship Service: Oasis

MONDAY

6 p.m., Roman Catholic
Mass: Oasis

7:30 p.m., Back to the
Basics Bible Study: Oasis

7:30 p.m., Gospel Choir
Rehearsal: APC

TUESDAY

6 p.m., Roman Catholic
Mass: Oasis

7:30 p.m., Word of Faith
Bible Study: APC

8 p.m., Contemporary
Worship Rehearsal: Oasis

WEDNESDAY

6 p.m., Roman Catholic
Mass: Oasis

7 p.m., Catholic Choir
Practice: Oasis

7 p.m., Spanish Bible
Study: ARAC

7 p.m., Women's Bible
Study: Army Hospital

7:30 p.m., Protestant
Worship Service/Bible
Study: APC

THURSDAY

6 p.m., Roman Catholic
Mass: Oasis

6:30 p.m., Ladies Bible
Study: ARAC

7:30 p.m., Creationism
Study: Oasis

7:30 p.m., Men's Bible
Study: APC

CRICKET MOVIE THEATER

at the Hot Spot

Today's times and movie descriptions for the week

Old School (2003), 1 a.m., Luke Wilson, Vince Vaughn, Jeremy Piven, *comedy*; **Senior Trip** (1995), 3 a.m., Matt Frewer, Valerie Mahaffey, *comedy, sequel*; **Austin Powers in Goldmember** (2002), 5 a.m., Mike Myers, Seth Green, Michael Caine, *action adventure, comedy*; **Independence Day** (1996), 7 a.m., Will Smith, Bill Pullman, Jeff Goldblum, *action adventure, science fiction*; **XXX: State of the Union** (2005), 9 a.m., Ice Cube, Samuel L. Jackson, *action adventure*; **The Punisher** (2004), 11 a.m., Thomas Jane, John Travolta, *action adventure*; **Mission Impossible 2** (2000), 1 p.m., Tom Cruise, Dougray Scott, Ving Rhames *crime, gangster*; **The Skeleton Key** (2005), 3 p.m., Kate Hudson, John Hurt, *science fiction, thriller*; **Bulletproof Monk** (2003), 5 p.m., Chow Yun-Fat, Seann William Scott, *action, adventure, comedy*; **Road Trip** (2000), 7 p.m., Brreckin Meyer, Amy Smart, Seann William Scott, *comedy, teen*; **Amityville Horror** (2005), 9 p.m., Ryan Reynolds, Melissa George, *horror*; **Ali** (2001), 11 p.m., Will Smith, Jamie Foxx, *biopic*; **A Beautiful Mind** (2001), Russell Crowe, Jennifer Connelly, *drama, adaption*

Saturday

Underworld 1 a.m.
The Skeleton Key 3 a.m.
Road Trip 5 a.m.
Amityville Horror 7 a.m.
Mission Impossible 2 . 9 a.m.
Ali 11 a.m.
A Beautiful Mind 1 p.m.
XXX: State of Union ... 3 p.m.
Old School 5 p.m.
Goldmember 7 p.m.
Independence Day ... 9 p.m.
Punisher 11 p.m.

Sunday

Senior Trip 1 a.m.
Goldmember 3 a.m.
Independence Day ... 5 a.m.
XXX: State of Union ... 7 a.m.
Punisher 9 a.m.
Mission Impossible 2 11 a.m.
The Skeleton Key 1 p.m.
Road Trip 3 p.m.
Amityville Horror 5 p.m.
Ali 7 p.m.
A Beautiful Mind 9 p.m.
Old School 11 p.m.

Monday

The Skeleton Key 1 a.m.
Road Trip 3 a.m.
Amityville Horror 5 a.m.
Mission Impossible 2 . 7 a.m.
Ali 9 a.m.
A Beautiful Mind 11 a.m.
XXX: State of Union ... 1 p.m.
Old School 3 p.m.
Goldmember 5 p.m.
Independence Day ... 7 p.m.
Punisher 9 p.m.
Underworld 11 p.m.

Tuesday

Goldmember 1 a.m.
Independence Day 3 a.m.
XXX: State of Union ... 5 a.m.
Punisher 7 a.m.
Mission Impossible 2 . 9 a.m.
The Skeleton Key 11 a.m.
Road Trip 1 p.m.
Amityville Horror 3 p.m.
Ali 5 p.m.
A Beautiful Mind 7 p.m.
Underworld 9 p.m.
Senior Trip 11 p.m.

Wednesday

Road Trip 1 a.m.
Amityville Horror 3 a.m.
Mission Impossible 2 . 5 a.m.
Ali 7 a.m.
A Beautiful Mind 9 a.m.
XXX: State of Union . 11 a.m.
Old School 1 p.m.
Goldmember 3 p.m.
Independence Day 5 p.m.
Punisher 7 p.m.
The Skeleton Key 9 p.m.
Underworld 11 p.m.

Thursday

XXX: State of Union ... 1 a.m.
Punisher 3 a.m.
Mission Impossible 2 . 5 a.m.
The Skeleton Key 7 a.m.
Road Trip 9 a.m.
Amityville Horror 11 a.m.
Ali 1 p.m.
A Beautiful Mind 3 p.m.
Old School 5 p.m.
Senior Trip 7 p.m.
Goldmember 9 p.m.
Independence Day .. 11 p.m.



Bedrock and beyond...

activities to keep you fit, happy and hungry for more

Today

7:30 a.m., **Karate:** Muscle Beach (I)
5 p.m., **Spin:** Muscle Beach (I)
5:30 p.m., **Bench Your Weight competition:** Muscle Beach
7 p.m., **Dominoes:** ACC
7 p.m., **Toning:** HOP
7:30 p.m., **Step Aerobics:** Muscle Beach (D)
7:30 p.m., **Bingo and Variety Music Night:** Big Top
8 p.m., **Step Aerobics:** HOP

Saturday

2:30 p.m., **Yoga:** Muscle Beach (DVD)
6:30 p.m., **Spin:** HOP
7 p.m., **Absolute Abs:** Muscle Beach (I)
7:30 p.m., **Karaoke:** Big Top
7:30 p.m., **Hip Hop:** ACC

Sunday

8 a.m., **Tae-Bo:** Muscle Beach (DVD)
10 a.m., **Spin:** HOP
1 p.m., **3-Point shootout competition:** Basketball court
2 p.m., **Spin:** Muscle Beach (DVD)
6:30 p.m., **Singles Horseshoes:** Horseshoe pits
7 p.m., **Spin:** HOP
7 p.m., **Darts:** ACC

Monday

4:30 p.m., **Circuit Training:** Basketball Court (I)
5 p.m., **Spin:** Muscle Beach (I)
7 p.m., **Toning:** HOP
7 p.m., **Ping Pong:** ACC
7:30 p.m., **Step Aerobics:** Muscle Beach (DVD)

8:30 p.m., **5-card draw:** Hot Spot

8 p.m., **Step Aerobics:** HOP

Tuesday

5 a.m., **Step Aerobics:** Muscle Beach (I)
2 p.m., **Tae Bo:** Muscle Beach (DVD)
6:30 p.m., **Tae Bo:** HOP
7 p.m., **Absolute Abs:** Muscle Beach (I)
7 p.m., **Bench your Max competition:** Muscle Beach
7:30 p.m., **Tae Kwon Do:** HOP
8:30 p.m., **Foosball:** Hot Spot
8:30 p.m., **Salsa:** ACC

Wednesday

7:30 a.m., **Karate:** Muscle Beach (I)
5 p.m., **Spin:** Muscle Beach (I)
7 p.m., **Toning:** HOP
7 p.m., **Spades:** ACC
7:30 p.m., **Step Aerobics:** Muscle Beach (DVD)
8 p.m., **Step Aerobics:** HOP
8:30 p.m., **Ping Pong:** Hot Spot

Thursday

5 a.m., **Step Aerobics:** Muscle Beach (I)
4:30 p.m., **Circuit Training:** Basketball Court (I)
6 p.m., **4 on 4 Basketball Tourney:** Basketball Court
6:30 p.m., **Tae Bo:** HOP
7 p.m., **8/9-Ball:** ACC
7 p.m., **Absolute Abs:** Muscle Beach (I)
7:30 p.m., **Tae Kwon Do:** HOP
8 p.m., **Texas Hold'em:** Big Top

(I)—Instructor
(DVD)—DVD
TNY—Tournament
HOP—House of Pain, Army Fitness Center
ACC—Army Community Center

Call the 407th Expeditionary Services Squadron with ideas for activities at 445-2696; for information about the House of Pain, Army fitness center call 833-1709. For information about Army morale, welfare and recreation activities call 833-1745. The 407th ESVS also offers regular tours of the Ziggurat. Check with the Hot Spot staff for details.