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386th Air Expeditionary Wing

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Fuel system saving Air Force time, money

Staff Sgt. Ryan Hansen

386th AEW/PA

Airmen here are refueling aircraft faster than ever before and doing it with less people thanks to the next generation of fuels mobility support equipment.

The new system is called Fuels Operational Readiness Capability Equipment, or FORCE. This equipment is making life easier here for the flight and saving the Air Force time and money.

“FORCE will become the standard in the AOR,” said Master Sgt. Stacy Baker, fuels management flight superintendent for the 386th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron. “It’s really making a big difference for us.”

The fuel management flight provides all refueling support for the 386th Air Expeditionary Wing as well as the Japanese Self Defense Force and Republic of Korea Air Force stationed here. They also supply all ground fuel support for the entire base.

“The ops tempo here is relatively high,” Sergeant Baker said, “so we’re glad to have the new system.”

FORCE has helped the flight cut their aircraft refueling time by almost half. With the old system it took a four person team, with four pieces of equipment, around 42 minutes to refill a C-17 Globemaster.



Air Force/Staff Sgt. Ryan Hansen

Senior Airman Zak Lancaster, Fuels Operational Readiness Capability Equipment operator with the 386th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron, watches the gauges on a new fueling system while refueling a C-17 Globemaster.

“With FORCE, we can do it with two people and two pieces of equipment in 24 minutes,” Sergeant Baker said. “The C-17 crews absolutely love it.”

The new system also lets the team refill two of their fuel trucks simultaneously. Before FORCE they could only do one at a time.

“After we empty a 6,000 gallon refueler I can go out to the FORCE equipment, fill it back up and be out at the next aircraft in 30 minutes,” said Tech. Sgt. Gregory Goode Sr., NCOIC of FORCE. “With the old system it would take us about 45 to 60 minutes, so we’re saving almost 30 minutes.”

FORCE also helps the flight when they refill fuel bladders.

“With FORCE we can receive fuel at about 600 to 700

gallons per minute,” Sergeant Goode said. “That’s very much faster than it used to be. The old equipment would maybe hit 400 gallons per minute, so we’re almost double that.”

The new fuels mobility support equipment could be compared to similar types of equipment the troops use back home. It pumps similar amounts of fuel at similar rates of capacity, however FORCE is mobile.

“With FORCE we have more flexibility,” Sergeant Baker said. “If the flightline layout were to change or the operations tempo increase and we needed to adjust, we can move it to meet the need.”

The equipment first arrived to the AOR in late 2005 and during the two subsequent rotations it was tested by the fuels

management flight. With the arrival of the latest rotation, FORCE’s testing is now complete. And the 25 Airmen of the flight are all glad to have FORCE on board.

“The new system pumps a lot faster, gets the aircraft off quicker and keeps the fuel trucks rolling faster,” said Senior Airman Zak Lancaster, FORCE operator. “It’s really a great system.”

In addition to all of the advantages FORCE brings to the current rotation, its affects may be felt by Airmen even further down the line. With its increased capability the number of deployed members to the unit should decrease.

“Our biggest savings is going to be with manpower positions,” Sergeant Baker said. “Obviously that has to be worked out with (U.S. Central Air Forces) and the AEF Center, but because of FORCE we’ll eventually be able to cut the numbers of people deploying here.”

Currently this is the only FORCE system in use anywhere in the world. But plans are in the works to build another one for Airman at the fuels technical school at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas.

“There’s a bit of a learning curve, but its real user friendly,” Airman Lancaster said.

“I really think it’s going to be a great system for us,” Sergeant Goode said.

Iron sharpens iron – A one year perspective

Maj. J. Brett Scarborough
386th ECS commander

I had the opportunity to attend a change of command ceremony for the 386th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron this past week and I walked away from the event with two observations. First, as a fellow airman, I could not help but feel very proud about the work accomplished under the tenure of Lt. Col. Brian Murphy. The outgoing commander correctly attributed those accomplishments to a team effort of highly competent civil engineers over the course of four AEF rotations. Second, these accomplishments are much larger than the work of one squadron, and in reality the entire 386th Air Expeditionary Wing can feel very proud about the significant progress and the contributions we've made towards combating terrorism and liberating the nation of Iraq. For almost one year, I've had the opportunity to observe our force up close, under pressure, with mission success or failure dependent upon our actions. With this perspective in mind, I offer some observations of my own.

The manner in which we achieve our objectives across the wing is inspiring. Each AEF rotation blends a diverse set of skill and experience into a single team – and we do this very effectively, overnight and on-the-fly every 120 days. Airmen from different major commands, disparate bases, and with varied home station missions pull together to accentuate strengths, compensate for weakness and execute the mission with extreme effectiveness. A common thread across each rotation – in fact, our entire Air Force – is the outstanding technical skills, professionalism, and dedication our enlisted force so unselfishly offers.

Regardless of the skill sets our Airmen bring to the fight, competence, or expertise, must be expressed in terms of excellence. And our Airmen are able to apply their expertise more effectively

when leadership accurately articulates the scope of the mission and the importance of the task at hand. Our Airmen can accomplish anything when properly prepared and empowered, and as a leader, I've experienced both success and setbacks which have solidly reinforced this fact.

The passing of the past year has reinforced that the character of a unit begins with the character of the individual. Character, or integrity, breeds and develops trust – it is essential. And trust makes leadership possible. Our Airmen possess a very sound strength of character and integrity. When a lapse in character occurs, our force will, more often than not, use the failure to strengthen both an individual's and the unit's integrity. It has been said often that what does not kill us makes us stronger ...

The vast majority of our force actually lives by our Core Values – integrity, service, and excellence. While deployed here I've observed that these values are not simply something our Airmen put on when they arise for work each day – they are something they live, both on- and off-duty. Again, when a breakdown in core values occurs, much more often than not, our force will adapt and become stronger as a result of the learning process.

A wise man once said, "as iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another." I've been both mentor and student, and I've learned much. A year in command of an expeditionary squadron has afforded me a rare opportunity to grow and develop professionally. I'm firmly persuaded that our Core Values are more than posters and propaganda – they are the foundation our force lives by daily. And I'm confident our success is a result of the technical skills, the professional leadership, and the strength of character embodied in our enlisted force, enabling us to operate as the most effective, efficient, and lethal Air Force in the world.



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Bats fly past 1,000 combat sortie marker

Unit's accomplishment done with only three aircraft in AOR at a time

1st Lt. Darrell Chase
43d EECS

The 43d Expeditionary Electronic Combat Squadron, deployed here from Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz., in unison with the 386th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron's Red Aircraft Maintenance Unit, reached a significant milestone May 8, when they completed their 1,000th Operation Iraqi Freedom combat sortie.

Since the squadron's first OIF deployment in March 2004, the 43d EECS has flown more than 6,770 mishap free combat hours providing electronic combat coverage to coalition troops operating in the OIF theatre of operations.

What makes this squadron's combat accomplishments much more impressive is the fact that the unit has never possessed more than three aircraft in theater at any one time to get the high priority mission accomplished.

Lt. Col. Paul Burrell, 43d EECS commander, said this milestone was one of many during the longest deployment in the unit's history.

"The Bats' one-thousandth combat sortie is a result of more than two years of outstanding professionalism, hard work and selflessness on the part of maintainers, support troops and aircrew," he said.

Colonel Burrell attributed the unit's success to the synergistic teamwork between the maintenance and operations profes-



Air Force/Staff Sgt. Ryan Hansen

Airmen from the 43d Expeditionary Electronic Combat Squadron and the 386th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron's Red Aircraft Maintenance Unit pose for a photo to celebrate their 1,000 combat sortie.

als deployed from the 55th Electronic Combat Group and 355th Maintenance Group, also from Davis-Monthan AFB.

Since October, the 43d EECS has maintained a 99 percent sortie effectiveness rate and 95 percent mission capable rate in support of the war on terrorism.

Despite the extreme weather conditions in Southwest Asia, the men and women of the Red AMU perform daily miracles with limited resources and personnel.

Staff Sgt. Patrick Sullivan a Red AMU combat systems craftsman on his third OIF deployment, is enthusiastic about his team's mission.

"The mission is highly rewarding

because every sortie we launch has the potential to save our troops lives" he said.

Sergeant Sullivan is one of four maintainers currently deployed to Southwest Asia who were part of the first contingent deployed to Tallil Air Base, Iraq in 2004.

The 43d EECS flies the EC-130H *Compass Call*, an airborne tactical weapon system which prevents successful enemy command and control communications and limits adversary coordination essential for enemy force management. The system also supports tactical air operations, and provides conventional and special operations support to friendly forces.

JAPANESE CLASS

Time : Every Tuesday and Friday
from 7 to 9 p.m.

Place : Learning Resources Center Classroom

Level : From the basis of Japanese

The first lesson will be held Tuesday, June 6

If interested contact
2LT Hirose
asc-ktaw115@asdf.mail.jda.go.jp or 442-8508(DSN)

ROCK BOTTOM AIRMAN COUNCIL

The Rock Bottom Airman Council meets every Tuesday at 1730 in the Rock Chapel sanctuary. The council consists of dedicated Airman trying to make everyone's deployment here an enjoyable one.

In the past the council has sponsored many fun filled events which numerous ranks of all military branches participated in.

So if you are E-4 and below or you just want to stop by and say hello - feel free!!!

If you have any questions, please contact the council president Senior Airman Tanisha Jackson @ 442-7185.

Maintenance team self-helps took kit shop

Capt. Tom Crosson
386th AEW/PA

Passion, pride and professionalism. Those are the three values our wing leaders impress upon us to strive for every day during our deployments here.

For 11, 386th Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron personnel, they've projected those values in their work center which resulted in a more user friendly and efficient workspace for the entire group.

When the Consolidated Tool Kit team arrived to start their tour of duty here in February, they were dissatisfied with the condition of their shop.

"There was parts and trash everywhere. There was no organization, no rationale for where things were stored," said Staff Sgt. William Taylor, CTK shop NCOIC. "Parts and equipment were tucked away everywhere in the building and in the CONEXES (shipping containers) outside. It became difficult to effectively store and keep track of the equipment we were working with every day."

So the Airmen responsible for accounting for and distributing the tools and equipment used everyday by flight line maintainers, set out on overhauling their facility. They disposed of the trash, furniture and equip-



Air Force/Capt. Tom Crosson

Col. John Meek, 386th Expeditionary Maintenance Group commander, talks with Airmen from the Consolidated Tool Kit shop.

ment that were no longer needed. They also rearranged all of the shelves, racks and other equipment in a more efficient system. Three months later, the fruits of their labor have yielded a facility that has become the gem of the EMXG and a source of pride for CTK team and for group leadership.

The CTK shop is the hub of all flightline maintenance operations. Before and after every shift, truckloads of aircraft maintainers visit the CTK shop to pick up or drop off the tools and equipment they'll need to keep a ramp full of C-130s flying.

Since every item in the shop's \$3.5 million inventory must be accounted for at all times, part

of the shop's processes includes an inventory of each took kit that leaves the facility, and signing out each piece of equipment to the maintainers. The longer it takes to inventory and sign out the equipment, the longer it takes to get the aircraft back in the air.

In order to facilitate quicker service for the maintainers going to and from the flightline, the CTK shop team gutted the equipment storage area. They moved the large racks of took kits and frequently-used equipment next to the service counter. They also tripled the size of the service counter, all in an effort to reduce their customer's wait time before they are issued tools.

"With our new customer service area, we can handle eight maintainers at a time instead of four," Sergeant Taylor said. "Now when the average truck load of six to 12 maintainers arrive at our shop, we get them equipped and back out the door seven minutes, well more than half the time it took before."

The team's hard work paid off again this week as Col. John Meek, 386th EMXG commander and Chief Master Sgt. Raymond Wolowicz, 386th EMXG superintendent paid a visit to the Consolidated Tool Kit shop to see their progress and to praise the team for a job well done.

"You all truly impressed me and the wing leadership on how far you have brought this facility," he told the shop. "You revamped this old facility and turned it into something useful."

There are still more self-help projects in store for the CTK facility. The 386th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron will replace the electrical wiring in the building in June. Once that is completed, the shop will go back to work to repaint the whole building. The group has also ordered new steel counters and shelving units replacing the make-shift wooden ones currently in place.

A Healthy Fear of Commitment!

• Unless you are a warranted Contracting Officer, federal law prohibits entering into contracts or making modifications to existing contracts on behalf of the government. An "unauthorized commitment" represents an agreement that is not binding solely because the government representative who made it lacked the authority to enter into a contract on behalf of the government.

• Endstate: Unless you are a Contracting Officer, do not buy anything for the Government, do not indicate to a vendor that an order will be forthcoming, and do not make adjustments to existing contracts. You may find you have caused an "unauthorized commitment," which is punishable by disciplinary action and/or forfeiture of pay!

If you have any questions, contact Tech. Sgt. Laura Sherman at 442-2085.

Got a Story to Tell?
Tell Us!!
Your Public Affairs Office is always on the
lookout for a great story to include in the
ROCK SLATE
Call 442-2312 to share your story!

Commander welcomes AEF 1/2 Airmen

Your sacrifices here are helping millions searching for peace

Lt. Gen. Gary L. North

9th Air Force and USCENTAF commander

As our CENTAF Air Expeditionary Force rotation completes its transition, I want to welcome the Airmen of AEF 1/2. Whether this is your first deployment, second, third, or beyond, the combined leadership and the CENTAF team look forward to your contributions to the long war against terrorism.

Your predecessors in AEF 9/10, and before them, have done an outstanding job during their rotation(s) and have set the conditions for your successes during your deployment. I know each of you have come prepared and trained for the mission and we look forward to the professionalism, dedication and innovation that you bring to the fight. Thank you for the preparation that has gotten you to the AOR, and thanks for putting service above self as you go about your duties in the AOR.

Much has been accomplished in the last three years. There is still much more to do. Each of you, and our Coalition partners, are having and will have a significant impact in bringing hope to people in need of our help. You are integral to bringing about peace and stability in Iraq, Afghanistan and the Horn of Africa. The peoples of these countries and regions are counting on us to stay the course.

As Muri al-Maliki, Iraq's Prime Minister, said recently, "Just as we did away with the tyrant and the days of oppression and despotism, we will do away with terrorism and sabotage and the factors of backwardness, poverty and ignorance."

You all are making great sacrifices to help millions of people you will never know, but you should know your selfless commitment is changing the lives of people and nations forever—for the better. But this struggle not only impacts the future of Iraq, Afghanistan and the countries in the Horn of Africa, but also the future safety of our families at home.



Courtesy CENTAF-FWD/PA

Lt. Gen. Gary L. North, 9th Air Force and USCENTAF commander, addresses Coalition troops recently during an award presentation at a forward-deployed location.

Together, we'll succeed. There is no acceptable alternative.

As you become immersed in the culture and work in the AOR, my challenge to you is to keep a clear focus on three things: the mission, mastering technology and self improvement.

Our priority is the mission, and Airmen today get the mission. You understand it. You're doing it 24/7 and nobody does it better. It takes professional airmen to make the mission happen ... day in and day out.

The combat zone is just that, a combat zone. I need you to have your "game face" on around the clock. Discipline and understanding and complying with the rules and the rules of engagement will support two key venues ... getting the mission done right and providing the basis for keeping you "in your lanes" as we go about the very dangerous business of performing our mission sets in the AOR.

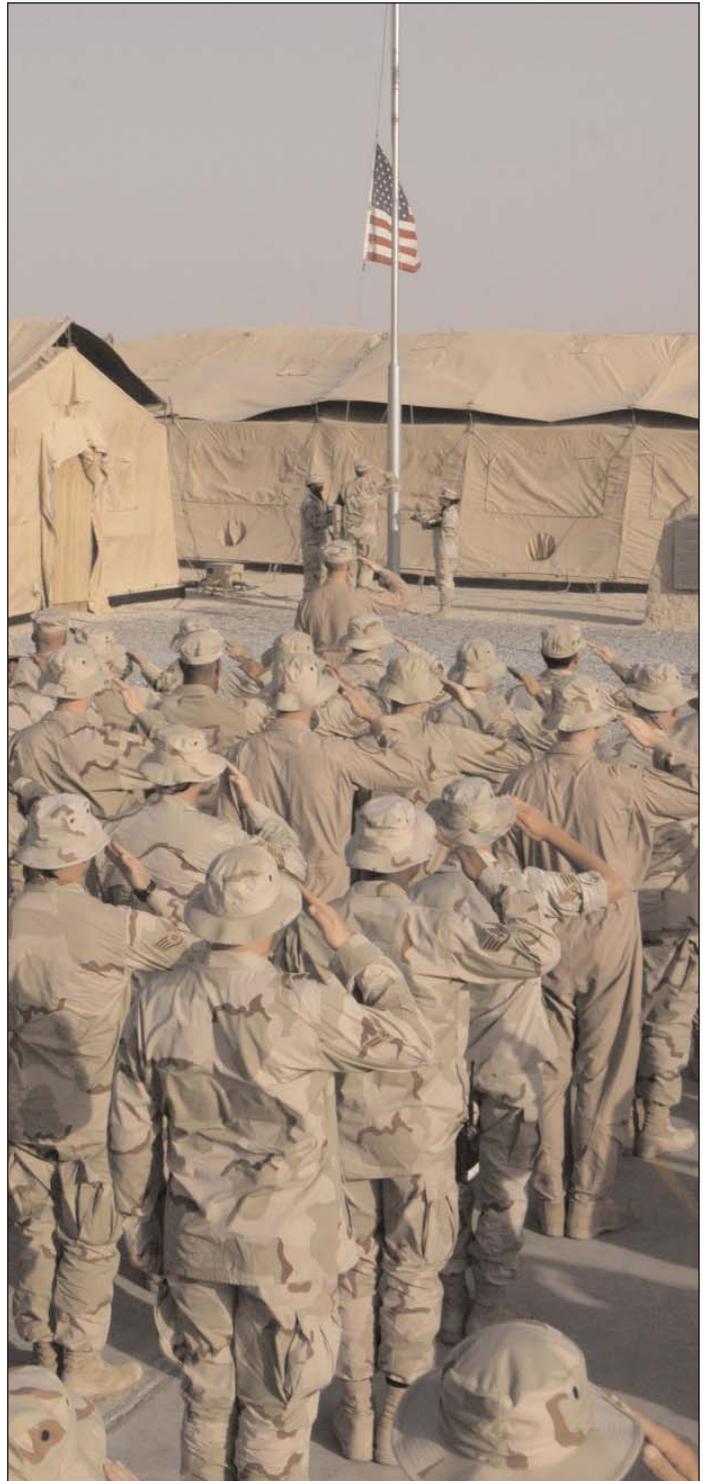
We are constantly leveraging new ways to increase our capability, efficiency and effectiveness. We are leveraging technology to accomplish our mission more effectively. We have seen some incredible advances in how to do the job better

and I'm confident there is still more innovation possible. Approach your tasks with this in mind. We need your "tip of the spear" look at our processes and procedures to continue to adapt and achieve the successes we need to win. The anti-Coalition forces change their tactics, techniques and procedures quickly ... we will, and must stay ahead of them.

Finally, set a few personal goals for yourself during your deployment. Learn about the culture of the Middle East, learn something about someone else's job, meet and get to know our Coalition partners and sister services, take an online class, keep working on getting in better shape. You will be a better Airman by the time you are welcoming in the next rotation.

Deployments, especially combat deployments, are never easy. Remember the support back home for you and your families is widespread and sincere. America is proud of you. Your CENTAF leadership team is proud to be serving alongside each of you in these very important times for our nation. Thank you for your dedication and service and for making our Air Force the finest Air Force in the world today!

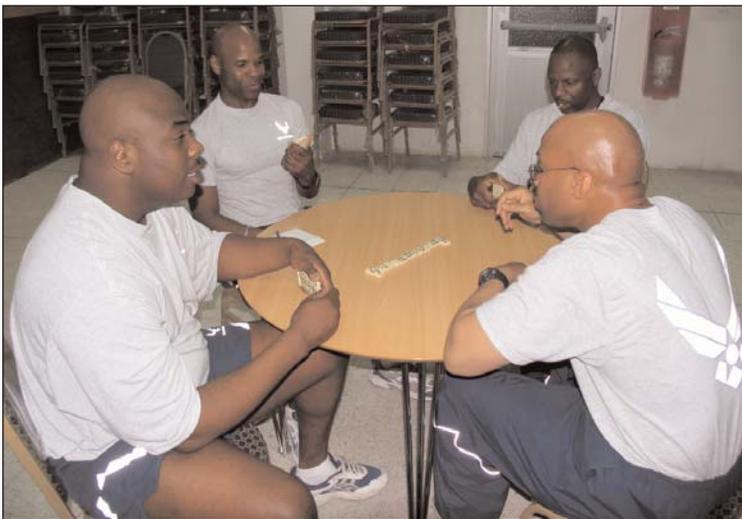
Memorial Day



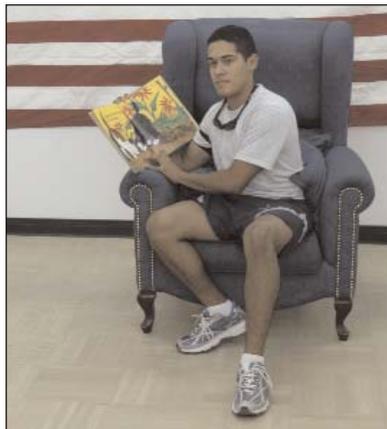
(Right) Airmen from the 386th Air Expeditionary Wing stand in formation and salute as the flag is lowered during a Memorial Day retreat ceremony Monday. (Top) Airman 1st Class Marlon Reeves, a force protection troop with the 386th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, spikes the ball over the net during a volleyball tournament here Sunday. (Above) Airman 1st Class Jackie MacDermott and Airman 1st Class Tasha Boatman, both with the 386th Expeditionary Services Squadron, battle each other in foosball during a Memorial Day tournament here Sunday.



(Above) Senior Airman Deanna Thornton and Capt. Rubin Nalda of the 386th Expeditionary Contingency Aeromedical Staging Facility take part in the cardboard boat race Sunday at the Rock Pool. (Below) Staff Sgt. Remero Green, 386th Expeditionary Services Squadron, Senior Master Sgt. Stanley Pamphille, 386th ESVS, Tech. Sgt. Jon Hammond, 386 Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron and Master Sgt. Eugene Core, 386th ECES participate in a dominos tournament here Sunday.



(Right) Airman 1st Class Gilbert Sanchez, a fireman with the 386th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron, reads a book for his little cousins back home during a Heart 2 Home recording here Sunday.



2006

Fire dogs claim boat race title

Senior Airman Karen Dykeman
386th ESFS/FP

The scent of Spring's opening bouquet of flowers was trampled on by the rich smell of blood, sweat and glory due to the triumphant win by the fire department at the Rock's Memorial Day Cardboard Boat Race Sunday.

Four groups huddled together at the Rock Pool to throw down their answer to the 386th Expeditionary Services Squadron's challenge: construct a boat using only cardboard and water bottles and build it strong enough to race it for two lengths of the base pool.

Under the angry sun, Staff Sgt. Tam Sanger from the 386th ESVS began the festivities with a small, poignant moment of silence and poem to honor those that have served, as supporters and sunbathers gathered around all four sides of the pool.

In the first heat teams from the 386th ESVS and the combined 386th Expeditionary Medical Group/386th Contingency Aeromedical Staging Facility team took their places at the edge of the pool.

It was a rocky start for both as they tried to maintain steadiness inside the boats. The horn sounded and boats slowly took off. The start was strong, but the services team flipped over immediately and never regained control. With the competition out of the race, the medics still needed to cross the finish line in order to place in the competition. They did so in 1:53:74 minutes.

The second heat began with the 386th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron's fire department team against the 386th Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron.

The fire dogs had trouble before the start and had to reengineer their craft. At the halfway point in the race, the OSS flipped unexpectedly into the water. They put a good struggle to get back in the boat and did so eventually, but not before the fire department took advantage of the situation and headed hard and fast for the finish line. To capture first place the fire dogs needed to beat the medics time, which they did, coming in at 1:39:09.

With their victory the fire department earned a \$60 pizza certificate while the combined 386th EMDG/CASF team finished second and got a \$50 pizza certificate. The 386th EOSS came in third place, but won first place in the decoration contest, while the services team was disqualified.

386th Air Expeditionary Wing Rock Solid Warriors



**Senior Airman
Charles Andre Moore**

***386th Expeditionary
Logistics Readiness Squadron***
Fuels Lab Technician

Home unit, base: 52nd Logistics Readiness Squadron, Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany

How do you support the mission here? Perform all fuel quality assurance control testing and insure JP-8 meets the stringent Air Force fuel standards before it hits the skin of the aircraft.

How many times have you deployed and what makes this one unique? This is my second deployment. This time I have a lot more responsibility and this base has more morale enhancing facilities ... and no incoming mortars!

How does your job differ in a deployed environment versus home base? The mission tempo here is quite a bit higher than Spangdahlem. Also being the only technician at this location, I have more on my shoulders. I rely on the experience of my section chief, Master Sgt. Stacy Baker, to get job done.



**Staff Sgt.
Romain Donell Stanley**

***386th Expeditionary
Maintenance Squadron***
Supply Technician

Home unit, base: 43d Logistics Readiness Squadron, Pope Air Force Base, N.C.

How do you support the mission here? I maintain five different readiness spares packages kits of C-130 aircraft parts. I ensure accountability, locate, and provide parts maintenance personnel for installation on the aircraft.

How many times have you deployed and what makes this one unique? This is my second deployment. This one is unique because I get to work directly for the base mission as opposed to my last deployment where I had to work bare base.

How does your job differ in a deployed environment versus home base? I work a similar job back home but the work load is not nearly as much. Maintaining five readiness spares packages kits from five different bases can get difficult at times, but I do okay for myself.