Volume 3, Number 18 | 386th Air Expeditionary Wing | June 9, 2006

Patrol keeps mission going, Airmen hydrated

Staff Sgt. Ryan Hansen
386th AEW/PA

Executing the mission and staying hydrated against the heat are constant battles being fought here daily.

One group of individuals doing their part to help with both is the daily drink patrol organized by the 386th Expeditionary Operations Group. For months now this volunteer team has been like clock work and selflessly delivered cold water and flavored drinks to troops on the flightline from 1:30 to 4 p.m. – the hottest time of the day.

"This is really about helping each other out," said Col. John McDonald, 386th Expeditionary Operations Group commander. "We're just trying to make sure everyone out there can get something cold to drink."

Originally started by the 386th EOG last summer, the daily runs have become very popular not only with the recipients on the flightline, but also to the people delivering the goods.

"Usually we have more volunteers than spots available," said Chief Master Sgt. Dave Niehaus, 386th EOG superintendent. "It's really a good deal for everyone."

The drink patrol is split between the leadership of the 386th EOG, 737th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron, 738th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron and the 386th Air Expeditionary Wing chapel. Each unit is responsible for a different day of the week and their group of volunteers make their rounds around the flightline.

"Getting out and delivering (drinks) to folks working on the flightline is all about the relationship of the mission and the people," said Lt. Col. David Gould, 737th EAS commander. "The mission is priority one – that's why we're here and we're going to do everything we can to ensure it is successful. We take out (drinks) to all the folks working on the flightline to ensure mission success by taking care of the people executing that mission. We take care of each other in order to get the job done."

Air Force/Staff Sgt. Ryan Hansen

Senior Airman Marrekus Wilkes, 386th Expeditionary Operations Group, hands drinks to Airman 1st Class Shawn Teaff and Senior Airman Doug Wells from the 386th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron on the flightline here Tuesday.

"Pushing the fluids helps push the mission," said Lt. Col. Lee Flint, 738th EAS commander. "Everyone who works on the flightline knows how difficult it is to do anything in this kind of heat. Working the patrol supports those who are making the mission happen. We really see a connection between helping out in this way and the mission success that we've had."

"The 120 degree temperatures here make for some very harsh conditions on the flightline as well as in other areas where people have to be in the sun during the heat of the day," said Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Eugene Schnipke, 386th Air Expeditionary Wing head chaplain. "(The patrol is) important to make sure they're hanging in there and this gives us an opportunity to help."

Airmen on the flightline are glad they do it regardless of who is bringing out the refreshing, replenishing drinks.

"It's very appreciated," said Staff Sgt. Tim Stahn, 386th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. "It's cool that ops and maintenance are working together on this because we're working together to accomplish the mission as well."

"It's not bad at all," said Airman 1st Class Aaron Bunch, 386th EAMXS. "It really provides some relief in the middle of the day and it's nice to have them doing it."

But the bottom line is keeping Airmen hydrated and pushing the mission through.

"It doesn't matter if they're from ops, maintenance, or a bus load of Soldiers, whatever," Colonel McDonald said, "we're just trying to do our part."

"This is just a great example of wingman taking care of each other," Chief Niehaus said. "I'm glad that we can be part of it."

Expectations

Lt. Col. Bob Monarch
386th EOSS commander

Everybody arriving at a deployment location is new sometime. Our wing commander, Col. Timothy Hale, was new once upon a time, the 386th Expeditionary Operations Group commander, Col. John McDonald, was new once — even our command chief, Chief Master Sgt. Brooke McLean, was new once (a long time ago). Every single one of you arrived here wondering what was going to be expected of you. I know this because every time I've deployed I've wondered the same thing, and I've deployed a lot.

Let me give you my insight to what I expect from a new guy. I'll also tell you what you can expect from a commander. I believe these insights are universal and should be passed on when your time comes to depart.

When you step off that airplane into the sweltering heat and dust known as Southwest Asia to begin your tour of duty supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom, I expect you to be competent, enthusiastic and committed. For the next 120 days (or more) I expect your heart and soul to be fully dedicated to the (U.S. Central Command) and 386th Air Expeditionary Wing mission. Whatever you do and wherever you're from, you are now HERE to be part of this undertaking. Let me explain exactly what I mean.

First, I expect you to come here with the knowledge to execute your part of the mission. You should be able to accomplish everything your rank, skill level, and (Air Force Specialty Code) indicates. There is a method to the madness of all the preparation and schooling you've received to date. I firmly believe everything you did at home station, from basic training to getting on the rotator, was geared to executing this wartime mission—everything! This is serious business and all our experience, knowledge, and ingenuity must be put to use.

Second comes effort. I expect 100%, full-out effort while you are here. This is a 120-day sprint! We have a joke in the 386th Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron — you are never "off," only in a "period of rest." I believe this is true. Unlike back home, I will not hesitate to get you out of bed and put you to work during your period of rest. Yes, everybody needs a break sometime but human endurance is far greater than we exhibit here week in and week out. This is a 24/7 operation with people in harm's way everyday. Each of you has a significant contribution to the fight. Unfortunately, the enemy votes and we need to surge accordingly. Sometimes, we can't do it without you at work. For 120 days we surge—you can rest at home.

The third expectation is commitment. We are in a long war. Since 9/11 the U.S. military has been continuously deployed throughout the world in the Global War on Terror. This may come as a surprise, but only 50 percent of today's Airmen have ever deployed. Yet many of you can't count your deployments on just one hand. It doesn't matter if it's your first or tenth deployment, you've got to stay committed to the goals of this war—to keep the terrorist from ever striking our homeland again!

So, after all that, what can you expect from your commander? All of the above! We are dedicated to the same principles. Commanders are here for at least 120 days, most for a year. Like your commander at home station, we have G-series orders, and like your commander at home station, we have a commitment to you. Our focus is different. I don't have to worry about weekend DUIs but I do have to worry about sending people into harm's way. Hopefully the results are the same-everybody goes home to their loved ones at the end of the (120th) day.

You know, it all boils down to those three phrases we, in the Air Force, repeat so often—Integrity First, Service Before Self, and Excellence in All We Do. If you bring those values to the fight, everything will be alright!

ROCK SLATE

386th Air Expeditionary Wing Editorial Staff

Col. Timothy L. Hale
386th Air Expeditionary Wing Commander

Capt. Tom Crosson
386th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs Chief

Staff Sgt. Ryan Hansen
386th Air Expeditionary Wing Rock Slate Editor

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The 386th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs staff prepares all editorial content for the "*Rock Slate*." The editor will edit or re-write material for clarity, brevity or to conform with the Associated Press Style Guide, local policy and Air Force style as required by Air Force Instruction 35-101.

Unless otherwise noted, all photographs are U.S. Air Force photos. The "*Rock Slate"* may use news and information from the American Forces Information Service, Air Force Print News and other sources.

Contributions for the "*Rock Slate*" can be made directly to the 386th AEW Public Affairs Office or through e-mail to: 386aew.pa@salem.af.mil.

The editor can be reached at 442-2312. Submit contributions by 4 p.m. Thursday, one week prior to publication.

The "*Rock Slate*" can be viewed electronically by clicking the "*Rock Slate*" link at http://intranet.salem.af.mil.

Namsadang-nori performances

(The Korean traditional special event)

▲ Date : 14. JUN. 2006 / 15:00

※ Door closes at 14:45

▲ Place : Rock Auditorium (Nearby Rock Chapel)

※ Only bottled water and popcorn allowed

▲ What is 「Namsadang-nori」 ?

Namsadang-nori is designated as national art form #3, and it is the post popular among Korean plays. Namsadang-nori is also the root of shows that are receiving favorable reviews such as Nanta and Samulnori.

Namsadang-nori is a total artistic performance package that has independent music, physical activity, mask dance and puppet plays such as Poongmool-nori, Buna(Flips, spinning dishes), Salpan(ground play), Dut-Bwe-Gi(mask dance), and Dul-mi(puppet play) that are linked together.

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.

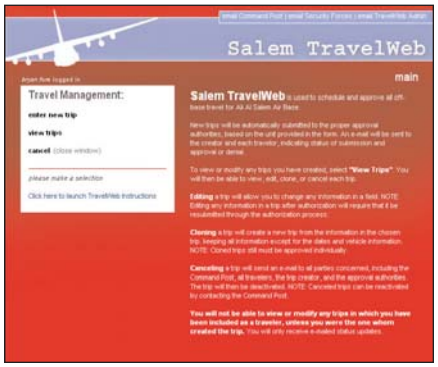
So if you are E-4 and below or you just want to stop by and say hello - feel free!!!!

If you have any questions, please contact council president Senior Airman Tanisha Jackson @ 442-7165.

Travel requests made easier

New intranet website designed to make life easier for travellers

Staff Sgt. Ryan Hansen
386th AEW/PA



Running through the wickets of traveling off-base just got easier thanks to a new website.

On June 2 the 386th Expeditionary Communi-cations Squadron unveiled TravelWeb to Airmen here. This new site makes off-base travel requests easier and faster.

"This is something we've been working on for quite a while," said Maj. Brett Scarborough, 386th ECS commander. "We tested this with the (386th Expeditionary) Mission Support Group to get feedback, and we think it's going to be a good thing."

The new site is focused on four things: faster request entry, faster travel approval, greater accountability and in-depth reporting.

"It's made to be user friendly," said Doug Fore, webmaster for the 386th ECS. "It's very similar to LeaveWeb and in fact it was used as the inspiration for this site."

Instead of filling out a traditional travel request memorandum as they had done in the past, travelers can now find the TravelWeb link from the base intranet page. From there they enter in the pertinent travel information and hit send.

"The online form is very quick as opposed to the memorandum template," Mr. Fore said. "After the request is completed it automatically generates an email to everyone involved with the request."

The request then goes to the first approval authority, usually a squadron commander, and then onto the group level for final approval. And leadership has a greater ability to track and review requests than they did in the past with TravelWeb.

"This system really improves accountability both at the unit level and for our Wing Operations Center controllers," Major Scarborough said. "At any point they can pull up a report and take a look at who is going to be traveling, what unit they're from, their time frame and pinpoint who we have on the road at any particular time."

Frequent travelers will also find advantages with TravelWeb.

"If a user has a recurring trip and they already have a request in for it, even if it's just a draft, they can clone that trip and it creates a new trip request from the previous information," Mr. Fore said. "So if a user takes the same trip everyday, they can clone it and put in the new dates and re-insert the vehicle info and it's ready to go."

The 386th ECS has also created a tutorial for first time users. It is available on the site and should answer any questions they may have about TravelWeb.

"The tutorial takes you step by step through the site," said Staff Sgt. Jeremiah Dotson, 386th ECS, who created the tutorial. "Hopefully it's good enough that it will take some of pressure and calls off of the helpdesk."

The site was developed over the past few months after a request was made by the 386th EMSG. Mr. Fore and Staff Sgt. James Delgado, a 386th ECS troop from the previous rotation, created the site together and worked closely with wing leadership to meet their needs.

"Sergeant James Delgado brought some phenomenal programming skills to the table," Mr. Fore said. "This system wouldn't be as robust as it is without his abilities."

Everyone fits into base force protection picture

Senior Master Sgt.
Bartholomew Gunderman
386th ESFS

With the arrival of every new day, our base is quickly developing into a more comfortable place to live and work.

New dormitories are taking personnel out of tents and moving them into climate controlled rooms, affording more privacy and vastly improved living conditions. Roadway construction will ease vehicular traffic granting access to facilities and will alleviate the difficulty of walking through loose gravel throughout the complex.

But inherent to the modernization of our facility comes important force protection challenges. These force protection challenges are not just the responsibility of the 386th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, but for all personnel who live, work and visit the "Rock."

Complacency in our work and living environment is one of those challenges and is a silent enemy and mind set which must be guarded against at all times. The battle against complacency can be won with education and awareness. Airmen should be reminded that we are in a hostile area and the enemy is constantly collecting intelligence from a variety of sources. Always be mindful that there are individuals in Southwest Asia who do not have the same ideals as we do and there are some who will take any opportunity to harm military personnel and obstruct our mission.

The possible introduction of an Improvised Explosive Devise, or IED, on to our base is a real and currently the largest physical threat we face on this air base.

Delivery means of an IED is only limited to the terrorist imagination. The most common types are the Suicide Born IED, or SBIED, and the Vehicle Born IED, or VBIED. Whereas, the SBIED is deterred with stringent force protection escort procedures of Third Country Nationals, the VBIED poses the greatest physical threat here.

The 386th ESFS do an outstanding job in deterring the introduction of this threat at the search pit, but it would be foolish to underestimate the ingenuity of the enemy.

So what can we do to ensure our base remains safe and free of this threat? First, Airmen must be aware of their surroundings and guard against complacency. Two areas where you can be the eyes of force protection are TCN accountability and unattended vehicles around facilities.

The 386th Air Expeditionary Wing Instruction 31-102, Security Escort Program, provides guidance for TCN escort requirements. With the exception of a small number of permanent TCN positions, all other TCNs must be escorted while on the installation. TCNs without escorts must be challenged immediately, their identification verified and escort requirement confirmed. Violations of TCN escort requirements are directed to the 386th ESFS Force Protection flight at 442-4114 or the 386th ESFS Base Defense Operations Center at 442-2511.

Wing guidance prohibits unattended vehicles from parking within 25 meters (82 feet) of an inhabited facility. Vehicles are permitted to temporarily stop and load or unload passengers, bags, and equipment but must be removed when completed. Suspicious vehicles should be treated as a VBIED and immediately reported to security forces. Other vehicles, such as government owned vehicles, contact the driver and advised him/her of the standoff requirement. Report any refusals or apathetic attitudes regarding your corrective actions to the 386th ESFS BDOC.

We are all part of the force protection picture. Our actions and non-actions affect the security and safety of all personnel assigned here now and in the future.

JUNE PROMOTIONS

The following members were promoted to their next rank June 1.

First Lieutenant
Matthew Andrews, 737th EAS
E. Dave Guerra, 386th AEW

Senior Master Sergeant
Carmen Smith, 386th EMSG

Master Sergeant
David Cotrell, 386th ELRS
David Lisle, 386th EMOS
James McElwee, 737th EAS
Keith Taylor, 70th MTD

Technical Sergeant
Ryan Brockman, 43d EECS
Gary Bubar, 386th ESFS
Naomi Dean, 386th ESFS
Torrey Kelley, 386th ECES
Aavram Powell, 70th MTD

Staff Sergeant
Evan Britton, 737th EAS
George Bullock, 586th ESFS
Michael Davis, 386th EAMXS
Raymond Mansfield, 386th ECS
Joshua Power, 586th ELRSM
Melissa Smith, 586th ESFS
Romain Stanley, 386th ELRS
Christina Winstead, 424th MTD

Senior Airman
Nitara Bland, 386th ESVS
Jeremy Callender, 586th ELRS
Matthew Coderre, 354th ELRS
Ryan Conley, 386th ESFS
Cassidy Eby, 386th ECES
Ryan Howard, 386th ESFS
Ralaun Kidd, 386th ESVS
James Kutz, 386th EAMXS
Sean Millhouse, 386th ELRS
Abigail Olivares, 386th ECES
Michael Wright, 386th ECS

Airman 1st Class
Chad Bradshaw, 586th ELRS
Jeremy Garcia, 386th ESFS
Jacob Graham, ESFS
Wilfredo Mateo, 586th ELRS
Jason Mills, 386th ESFS
Kassandra Naone, 386th ESFS
Dylan Schrack, 386tg ESFS
Branden Smith, 586th ELRS

Deployments offer TSP/SDP opportunities

Air Force News Service

Many don't think of starting a Thrift Savings Plan or Savings Deposit Program account while deployed, but special benefits available to those serving in a combat zone make it well worth the consideration.

"Whether you are a brand-new Airman, a mid-level NCO, or nearing the end of your career, these are great programs for us to take advantage of," said Lt. Gen. Gary North, 9th Air Force and U.S. Central Command Air Forces commander.

"I encourage everyone who recently arrived in theater to visit their deployed finance center to learn about the programs," he said.

According to the Air Force Personnel Center, those serving in a tax-free combat zone are allowed to contribute up to $44,000 annually.

"Since pay earned in a combat zone is exempt from federal income tax, the TSP contributions are also tax exempt," said Master Sgt. Robert Eeles, 379th Expeditionary Comptroller Squadron. "The amount accrued while in a tax-free environment will not be taxed once money is withdrawn, while the normally deferred amounts will be taxed."

Besides the advantages of contributing while deployed, the program has also recently undergone some other changes that make this a very advantageous time to open an account.

Beginning this year, the limits previously set on civilian and military employees no longer apply. They may now contribute the full amount allowed by the Internal Revenue Service annual elective deferral limit, which is $15,000 for 2006.

"TSP is a long-term retirement savings plan, which everyone should consider," said Janet Thomas, a human resources specialist at the Air Force Personnel Center located at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas. "It's a great supplement to military and civilian retirement plans."

Motivating

Air Force/Staff Sgt. Ryan Hansen

Motivational speaker, author and consultant Brian Tracy speaks to members of the 386th Air Expeditionary Wing at the Rock Auditorium Wednesday. Mr. Tracy is a leading authorities on the development of human potential and personal effectiveness. He was in the area on business and volunteered to talk to Airmen about leadership and thank them for their service.

TSP/SDP

- For more information, visit www.TSP.org, or contact the 386th Air Expeditionary Wing finance office at 442-2713.

Investing in TSP is not limited to stocks. People can choose safer government securities or invest in the new Lifecycle Funds.

Open seasons were eliminated July 1, 2005, so employees may start, change, stop or resume their TSP contributions at any time (except those in the 6-month non-contribution period following a financial hardship in-service withdrawal).

TSP offers investors the chance for lower taxes each year they contribute while not having to pay taxes on earnings until they reach retirement.

The five individual TSP funds are: the Government Securities Investment (G) Fund; the Common Stock Index Investment (C) Fund; the Fixed Income Index Investment (F) Fund; the Small Capitalization Stock Index Investment (S) Fund; and the International Stock Index Investment (I) Fund. Or participants may choose to invest in the new Lifecycle (L) Funds.

In addition to TSP, deployed servicemembers can also take advantage of the SDP.

The SDP is a government savings program that earns 10 percent annual interest, compounded quarterly, on amounts up to $10,000. Airmen on orders over 30 days supporting OIF can deposit upon their arrival to the AOR. Those assigned to Afghanistan or Kyrgyzstan must be on station for 30 days before making a deposit. Interest on the deposit continues to accrue for 90 days after members leave the theater.

Boots On the Ground

Get them in, Support them, Get them out

(Right) Tech. Sgt. Nathan Perry from the 386th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron air terminal operations center, briefs passengers outprocessing the U.S. Central Air Forces AOR here June 1. The 386th ELRS is one of the main unit's that supports the 386th Air Expeditionary Wing's mission of, "Boots On the Ground – Get them in, Support them, Get them out." They processed and transported 161 outbound passengers and inprocessed 50 passengers during this mission.

Capt. Timothy Wright, 386th ELRS installation deployment officer, dons body armor prior to leading a convoy of buses, taking servicemembers heading home to a local airport.

(Right) Master Sgt. Terry Wint, 386th ELRS NCOIC of logistic plans, assists passengers moving their baggage. He is part a 17 person team that accomplishes this 13-hour process at least once a week. (Below) Outprocessing passengers sort their baggage and present paperwork as they prepare for their journey out of the AOR to their home stations.

Photos By
Capt. Tom Crosson

CASF Takes Charge Fast

Spc. Michael R. Noggle
Third U.S. Army PAO/11th PAD

It hadn't been a week since the outgoing staff of the Contingency Aeromedical Staging Facility had departed and the new AEF rotation took their first mission the first week of May.

With capabilities to hold 28 personnel, a plane from Iraq approached late in the night and by morning more than 50 servicemembers were in need of medical attention.

Calling every available nurse and medical technician, the staff moved swiftly to treat patients and use available resources to stage the wounded.

"We hit the ground running and never hit a lapse," said Capt. Rob Stephens, CASF nurse. "Everyone knew what needed to be done and most of us have experience in handling these situations."

"It was baptism by fire the last rotation was gone and it was our show," said Lt. Col. Jennifer Cunningham, CASF commander. "We surpassed the records for the CASF since November 2003. We had field cots lined up in the aisles and had to overflow to another building."

Prior to this deployment, Stephens had been in this scenario before at the Ramstein Air Base, Germany. Receiving three to five missions a day, his crew would receive more than 80 patients from the area of operation.

"There's enough stuff that's happened where it would take a lot to surprise us," he said. "If something happens, those who have more experience know what to do."

Army/Spc. Michael Noggle

Capt. Rob Stephens, Contingency Aeromedical Staging Facility clinic nurse, and Senior Airman Christina Armstead, CASF medical technician, plan for incoming patients at the Rock June 1.

Located here the CASF serves to provide rapid transport of its patients. They coordinate medical evacuation for wounded servicemembers who need medical attention here locally or a channel overseas flight to Ramstein that leaves on the weekend.

"We have very limited capabilities, only basic medical care," Colonel Cunningham said. "We're going to do everything to get them comfortable, pain free and on the plane… Our mission is to transit these patients to more definitive care."

Patients can stay up to 72 hours before departing, however, most will stay between 12 to 14 hours to catch the channel flight, she said.

"Usually we will hear an event on the news," Colonel Cunningham said. "You can count four or five days and we will start to get the impact from the event here."

Airman Armstead prepares to stick an IV in a patient.

"The easiest part of the job is the medical care," Colonel Cunningham said. "It's the time when we had to load multiple patients on litters into the planes that is new to most of us."

Since its first week, the unit has treated battle and sporting event injuries of all services, civilians, contractors and Coalition Forces.

The staff from Scott Air Force Base, Ill., has 35 medical technicians, hospital administrators, flight surgeons and nurses of its staff. Many of whom are taking on new responsibilities in Southwest Asia.

Senior Airmen Tangenika Davenport, CASF patient flight coordinator, said her position is a little different from what she is accustomed to at Scott AFB as an administrator. At a moments notice she alerts the team if an inbound flight has changed times or patient numbers.

"Readiness is our job," she said. "We have to be ready and keep communication with everyone in the facility."

In the case of their first mission, Colonel Cunningham said the flight wasn't due in until 7 a.m. but came in at 3 a.m. with more passengers.

"I feel I am contributing to the war in Iraq," Airman Davenport said. "We are making a difference."

The unit has a few months remaining of its deployment and while movement has been slow at times there still remains an alert edge in the staff.

"We know how things can get around here," Captain Stephens said. "Our first week we got that expectation … I was impressed by the way everyone handled it."

386th Air Expeditionary Wing Rock Solid Warriors

Airman 1st Class Ryan Ellerman

738th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron
C-130 Loadmaster

Home unit, base: 39th Airlift Squadron, Dyess Air Force Base, Texas

How do you support the mission here? My job is to ensure the safe loading and transportation of mission essential troops and machinery. Not only do we carry troops into the fight, more importantly we carry them back out so that they may take some well deserved rest and relaxation. Once the Soldiers are into the theatre, we supply them with the bullets, tools, vehicles, medical supplies and food they need to complete their mission. We also transport important government officials and coalition troops, in doing so we are helping the Iraqis to develop their government. During flight I monitor aircraft systems and perform many other in flight duties. I also scan for threats to the airplane and crew on the descent into hostile airfields.

How many times have you deployed and what makes this one unique? This is my first deployment. It is also my first time out of the USA and I am learning about new cultures and countries. I have only been in the Air Force for one year and three months. Three of which have been here. Since I am new to my home squadron this deployment is allowing me to get to know many new people.

How does your job differ in a deployed environment versus home base? When we are home we are constantly training to do our airlift mission in the AOR. This includes training requirements for the aerial delivery of paratroops, heavy equipment and supplies. We also supply humanitarian airlift for natural disasters whenever the need arises.

Senior Airman Robert Pauley

424th Medium Truck Detachment
Vehicle Operator, Combat Trucker

Home unit, base: 48th Logistics Readiness Squadron, Royal Air Force Lakenheath, England

How do you support the mission here?By driving convoys into and out of Iraq delivering supplies and equipment to Forward Operating Bases. We deliver nearly everything the troops at the FOBs need to do their mission every day of the week.

How many times have you deployed and what makes this one unique? I have deployed two other times; once to Pakistan and once to Qatar. This mission is unique because we receive nearly six weeks of training at the Basic Combat Combat Course at Camp Bullis, Texas, before deploying to work side-by-side with the Army.

How does your job differ in a deployed environment versus home base? At home station, we normally only see a small slice of the pie, but here, when I pull away from a FOB after delivering supplies, I can see the whole pie. I know I have made sure the troops at the FOB now have the mission essential supplies to make it another week or two until we deliver there again. Additionally, back at RAF Lakenheath, the biggest danger is driving on the wrong side of the road, but here the smallest thing in the road could be the difference between life and death of anyone on our convoy.