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386th Air Expeditionary Wing

June 30, 2006

## Team using its resources to spread goodwill

Staff Sgt. Ryan Hansen  
386th AEW/PA

Recently members of the 386th Expeditionary Communications and Services Squadrons, Rock Chapel and Rock Solid 56 teamed up to spread goodwill throughout the AOR.

When the 386th ESVS received new linens and supplies in early June for billeting and lodging on base, they prepared to discard the older stuff that was beyond their wear and tear standards. However, one of their troops had other ideas for the older linens.

"I didn't really want to see those old linens just be thrown into the garbage," said Tech Sgt. Anna Misner, who handles linens and supplies for the 386th ESVS. "So that week I went to the Rock Solid 56 meeting and asked the council president to help me find some way we could donate them to those in need."

The Rock Solid 56 is an on-base council for military members in grades E-5 and 6. The council president listened to the proposal and thought it was an awesome opportunity.

"The Rock Solid 56 council is always looking for community service projects to help out our military, allies and civilians of the countries we are serving in," said Tech Sgt. Andrew Dapkins, Rock Solid 56 president and postmaster for the 386th ECS. "So the next thing was to figure out how to get these items to the areas in need."

They quickly contacted the Rock Chapel to see if they could help find organizations where the linens could best be used. As it turned out, the chapel was just the place thanks to their large network of other chaplains and orphanages in the AOR.

"To date I have heard from chaplains in



Air Force/Staff Sgt. Ryan Hansen

**Tech. Sgt. Andrew Dapkins, postmaster with the 386th Expeditionary Communications Squadron and president of the Rock Solid 56, Tech. Sgt. Anna Misner, who manages linens and supplies for the 386th Expeditionary Services Squadron, and Master Sgt. Frank Guido, NCOIC of the Rock Chapel, stuff old linens into post office bags that will be shipped across the AOR.**

Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Iraq and Qatar," said Master Sgt. Frank Guido, NCOIC of the Rock Chapel. "The message must be getting around as I also received a request from a first sergeant in Iraq."

With plenty of supplies to provide and more than enough places in need, the final piece of the puzzle was getting the items there. This is where it helps to have the knowledge of a postmaster.

"I approached my leadership for approval to send these items via the military post service," Sergeant Dapkins said. "They agreed that this was a great morale issue and that it is well worth the effort."

So now all that's left is packing the linens into 70 pound mailbags. Each

Thursday at 4 p.m., members of the Rock Solid 56 and other volunteers will get together and start packing. So, what was once going to be thrown away and forgotten, may now very well be a much needed gift for some less fortunate people.

"We need to share with those who are less fortunate than us," Sergeant Guido said. "They might feel they hit the jackpot when they receive what we (we're going to) throw away."

"I enjoy helping others and believe that we can make a difference in this world," Sergeant Misner said. "We wouldn't be American if we didn't care."

"The goal of this process is to get items out to the people that are lacking some of the simplest of necessities," Sergeant Dapkins said.

# Passion, Pride, Professionalism

**Col. Timothy Hale**  
386th AEW commander

For the past year, I have given the same message to every gathering of warriors in the 386th Air Expeditionary Wing — I have asked every Airman in this wing to be **PASSIONATE** about the mission. Putting “Boots on the Ground” has been much more than a passing cliché. You have proven that fact daily. The overall statistics of this wing prove it — record setting maintenance capability rates in the harshest flying environment imaginable; pace-setting cargo and passenger movement numbers every month; long-haul convoys setting new standards for the Army units we are assigned to support, while doing a mission not doctrinally assigned to the Air Force; security forces members wearing a 386th AEW patch keeping the peace at the world’s largest detention facility, and writing the book on those operations. Each of you has done it not for the statistics, but simply because your nation told you there was a tough mission to be done. You simply did your duty. At least, that is what you tell me when I thank you for a job exceptionally well done. Because of your **PASSION**, you went out and “Got ‘er Done” every day so that our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines could take the fight to the enemy in Iraq, Afghanistan and the Horn Of Africa. The passion to finish this mission in the Global War on Terror is the fuel that I see driving the engine of unmatched performance and warfighting support. No commander could ask for more. I could not.

Your **PRIDE** has been evident in everything you do. Whether fixing and flying the oldest C-130s in the Air Force fleet, laying hundreds of yards of power lines throughout this base,



Hale

watching hundreds of Third Country National workers as a vital member of our Force Protection Program, or developing new and innovative methods to defeat improvised explosive devices, you have gone above and beyond every minimum standard to raise the bar of excellence. I know you will each return home proud of your accomplishments. You should. No commander could be more proud of the combat record of his Airmen. You have made me proud each day.

Your **PROFESSIONALISM** has set the theater standard. I have been approached by senior leaders of other services and branches of our government on many occasions about the “first class” demeanor and actions of our Airmen. The professionalism of our force is evident in the way you carry yourselves, salute smartly, and resolutely carry out our mission in the harshest of work conditions. The troops we move in and out of the combat zones note with thanks the extra mile our people go to bring a cool drink to the aircraft as it sits in the heat of the flightline on a summer day, then put on a tough game face and fly a perfect approach into an austere airstrip. Professionalism means going beyond the minimums. No warrior is victorious by subscribing to a minimum standard. Professional warriors win our nation’s wars by leading the way. I have never been privileged to work with a more professional group of warriors. I leave this wing confident that I will continue to read of your accomplishments — the warriors of the 386th Air Expeditionary Wing will continue to “Put them in...sustain them...and bring them home — Boots on the ground.”

God bless each of you and your families, and the members of our coalition as we continue to work shoulder to shoulder to bring peace and freedom to this region and the world. Airpower!!

“Eagle One is RTB ...”



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386th Air Expeditionary Wing  
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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>.



# Security forces earns anti-terrorism award

## Program is named best in CENTCOM

**Capt. Thomas Crosson**  
386th AEW/PA

U.S. Central Command officials announced on June 17 that the 386th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron Antiterrorism office was named as CENTCOM's best Antiterrorism Program Operational Unit.

The 386th ESFS team will go on to compete for the Department of Defense's top Antiterrorism Program honors later this month.

The 386th ESFS Antiterrorism Office is responsible for the overall force protection mission and antiterrorism mission for both the 386th Air Expeditionary Wing and the 5th Expeditionary Air Mobility Squadron at Kuwait

City International Airport.

The base is often touted by senior CENTAF officers as having one of the best force protection programs in the theatre. The 386th ESFS earned this status by integrating aggressive off-base patrols, listening and observation posts, host nation security coordination, joint and coalition security operations, base-wide random antiterrorism measures and a robust physical security program to make the base one of the hardest targets in the theatre.

Although the base Antiterrorism Office was recognized by CENTCOM as



being the best operational unit in their 27-country area of responsibility, the office's director was quick to point out, it was total team effort from the entire wing's past and present personnel who significantly contributed to this award. "Everyone (here on base) has a role to play in the defense of the base," said Senior Master Sgt. Bartholomew Gunderman, 386th ESFS Antiterrorism NCO. "All of the unit antiterrorism officers, past and present, played a significant part in winning this award."

Sergeant Gunderman went on to say that the unit antiterrorism officers are only one

part of the team that works tirelessly to defend the base. The force protection flight, security forces squadron, the wing intelligence flight and may other base agencies contribute to the wing's antiterrorism effort.

"The antiterrorism office can't take full credit for this award. This was team effort. My shop did the coordination, everyone else stepped up and got the job done," Sergeant Gunderman said.

Lt. Col. Dave Marttala, 386th ESFS commander, also praised the collective effort that contributed to the award.

"This award represents the spirit of excellence so evident among all elements of our wing, coalition and host nation partners — we're extremely proud of the teamwork that resulted in this accomplishment," he said.

# Wing says goodbye to boss with cookout

**Staff Sgt. Ryan Hansen**  
386th AEW/PA

Airmen from the 386th Air Expeditionary Wing said goodbye to their commander during a farewell cookout June 25 at the Rock Flex Recreation Center.

The facility was filled from end-to-end with people to thank Col. Timothy Hale for his dedication to the Air Force and the job he did while deployed here for one year.

"It's a great honor for me to come up here and thank our commander for his year of service," said Col. C.K. Hyde, 386th AEW vice commander. "He's been a great leader, one with vision and one that is passionate about his beliefs."

Colonel Hyde then presented the commander with a \$450 check to be donated in his name to the Air Force Enlisted Village fund.

"It's been an honor to serve with all of you," Colonel Hale said. "Thank you for doing the job our nation has asked us to do.



Air Force/Staff Sgt. Ryan Hansen

**Col. Timothy Hale, 386th Air Expeditionary Wing commander, accepts a check on behalf of the wing from Col. C.K. Hyde, 386th AEW vice commander, during a cookout June 25.**

You are making great sacrifices and I thank you for what you're doing."

The commander then spoke passionately about the group commanders, who are also getting ready to leave after a year of service as well.

"All of us that have been here for one year are truly blessed by the great families

and total support we have back home," he said. "(The group commanders) have made the same sacrifice I've made here."

Colonel Hale then reflected back on his career and some of the long lasting relationships he's built.

"The world is such a smaller place now, and our service is becoming smaller," he said. "I've seen some of you at other places and I've seen some of you up to three times in my year here. Thank you for your sacrifices."

The commander then left the attendees with a reminder of why everyone is here and to a standing ovation.

"The mission we do couldn't be more important — supporting Soldiers, Sailors Airmen and Marines up north — and no one is doing it better than all of you," Colonel Hale said. "And I thank you for what you are doing."

The colonel relinquishes command during a change-of-command ceremony July 4.

## Simply the Best



Air Force/Staff Sgt. Ryan Hansen

Master Sgt. Chris Cooper, a flight engineer with the 737th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron, prepares for a mission here June 19. Sergeant Cooper was recently named the Air Mobility Command's Staff Sgt. Henry E. "Red" Erwin Outstanding SNCO Enlisted Aircrew Member of the Year for 2006.

## Air Force leaders send their July 4 messages

*The following is from Secretary of the Air Force Michael W. Wynne and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley.*

"Happy Birthday, America! For 230 years, this nation and its people have represented freedom and democracy. We earned that reputation through courageous acts of patriotism by our founding fathers and through bravery on battlefields across the world. Today we mark not a resounding victory in a great battle, but instead the day when we stood up as a free and independent nation and told the world we would no longer live under tyrannical rule.

"This year, as you gather to celebrate the founding of our great nation, pause a moment to remember our heroes currently serving away from home, fighting to preserve the very same freedoms the patriots before us secured. Their efforts are helping us soar to a future bounded by limitless horizons.

"You, the men and women of America's Air Force, reflect the generations of patriots who, through their actions, displayed the values of integrity first, service before self and excellence in all we do. Thank you for your unyielding commitment, and have a happy and safe 4th of July!"

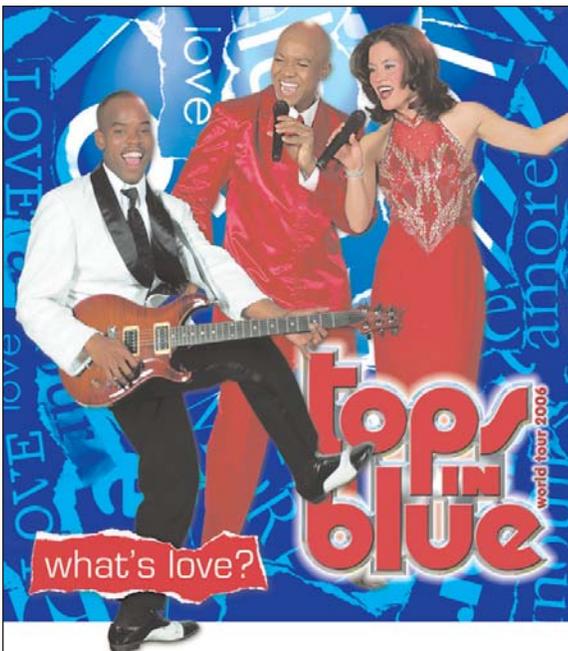


*The following is from 9th Air Force and U.S. Central Command Air Forces commander Lt. Gen. Gary L. North.*

"This week we will be celebrating America's 230th year as an independent nation. As we remember the past and honor those Soldiers who fought for our freedom, I often wonder what the common soldier thought when he heard that Congress had declared independence. The thought that comes to my mind, and many historians, is that those soldiers must have realized they were no longer fighting for their rights as English citizens but for the rights and privileges that come with being a free and independent nation.

Today's Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors and Marines are also fighting for independence. However, it is for the independence of two other nations, Iraq and Afghanistan. The people in both Iraq and Afghanistan are struggling to maintain their freedom from oppression and fear—the type of oppression and fear caused by terrorists. They have already defied the terrorists by forming a national government, holding public elections and continuing to rebuild their lives. This is a fight that they cannot win on their own. We must help them to create stable nations. This is a fight that we must win for both the people of Iraq and Afghanistan.

As we celebrate our independence, remember that we in 9th Air Force and U.S. CENTAF are fighting everyday for the freedom of other nations; you are spending this holiday away from home in the U.S. Central Command area of operations, and many others are supporting the warfighting effort from their home stations. You are the heroes of today like those Soldiers who fought for our independence 230 years ago. With tremendous pride and respect, I thank you."



Friday, July 1 • 7:30 p.m. • TBA

# Do your part with dress, appearance standards

All personnel are briefed on dress and appearance standards when arriving here with the 386th Air Expeditionary Wing.

Although many of you have served here before, many of the rules have changed.

Generally, our base does not have too many problems, but everyone needs a reminder now and then.

The following paragraphs highlight the most common violations.

## General Restrictions

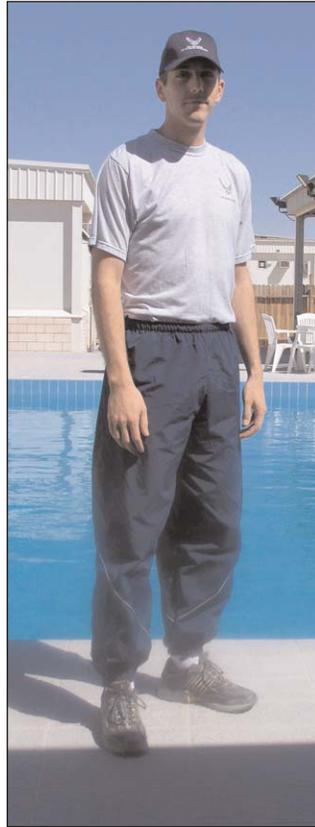
- Twenty-four quiet hours are in affect around all sleeping quarters including the pool and smoking areas.

- The opposite sex is not permitted in sleeping quarters.

- In DCUs and DFDUs, reflective belts are required to be worn around the waist during the hours of darkness and periods of limited visibility.

- Desert camouflage utility cap (eight point) is the primary cap. Desert camouflage floppy hat can also be worn. It must hang naturally and will be worn squarely on the head. The floppy hat will not be "rolled up" or modified from its original shape. The strap will not be used to suspend the hat on the back of the neck.

- Sunglasses and goggles can be worn around the neck with a black, brown, or desert tan strap. On other service's installations (Camp Arifjan, Kuwait Naval Base or the Logistics Support Area) comply with order of dress for that service. Glasses or goggles will not be hung from the uniforms or on identification card holders. If not on an approved strap, they will be stowed in your pocket or



The three photos above are examples of the proper to wear the Air Force physical training uniform here with the 386th Air Expeditionary Wing.

### Dress & Appearance

- For more information please visit the publications link on the base intranet site at: <https://intranet.salem.af.mil/>

hand carried.

- ID cards required to be carried at all times.

- No body piercings, except female earrings (may have one conservative set in).

- Male members will be shaven when wearing either uniform (exception: approved shaving waiver).

### Physical Training Uniform

- Official physical training shirts must be tucked in regardless of pant and short type.

- PT shirt can be untucked while working out at the fitness center or running tracks and must be tucked in upon

completion of working out.

- Cannot roll PT shirt sleeves up.

- Shorts will not hang below the bottom of the knee or higher than mid-thigh. The top of the shorts will not be "rolled over" to allow them to ride higher.

- No open-toed shoes except hand-carrying them to the pool, personal living areas, volleyball court, and the shower areas.

- White socks are the approved color with the PT uniform. Cannot wear shoes or boots without socks.

- Headphones are authorized while wearing the PT uniform within the confines of "The Rock".

- Hair must be neat and cannot hang loose below the collar; long hair must be tied

back when in the PT uniform.

- You may wear the DCU, floppy, or optional baseball style hats. The only approved baseball style hat is the blue baseball with Air Force symbol, with or without lettering.

### Pool Areas

Conservative swim suits are allowed. Females are allowed to wear bikinis.

Shower before entering the pool to remove body/artificial oils.

### Smoking

Smoke in designated areas only. Cigarette butts must be discarded in cigarette butt cans. Members will dispose of trash in approved receptacles. No smoking in the pool area.

# Cultural trips provide peek into local life

## Tours offer break from daily deployed routine

**Staff Sgt. Ryan Hansen**  
386th AEW/PA

Do you need a break from the daily deployed routine? Then sign up for a cultural awareness trip.

The 386th Expeditionary Services Squadron offers cultural awareness trips once a week that takes 24 people from base to various locations in the city. The tour shows attendees a little of the country and also offers a glimpse of what life is like here for the locals.

"I highly recommend these trips to everyone," said Senior Master Sgt. Pamphille, 386th ESVS superintendent, who manages the program. "Apart from getting a glimpse into Kuwait society's unique and intriguing way of life, it provides a relief from the everyday routine of life on the 'Rock'."

The 386th ESVS works hand-in-hand with the travel office at Camp Arifjan on every tour. Each week they put together a trip schedule and work with the wing to assign a command element team that will visit each site before the actual tour.

"We train the C2 team on reporting procedures and what their role is when they have command of the tour," Sergeant Pamphille said.

Airmen must attend Arab cultural awareness training in order to be eligible for one of the trips. The two-hour training course, taught by someone from the Army's host nation affairs office, is packed full of information on the local culture and talks about some of the similarities and differences between the Western way of life and here.

"(Interested individuals) can find out



Air Force/Staff Sgt. Ryan Hansen

**Airmen from the 386th Air Expeditionary Wing visit the gift shop at the Kuwaiti Towers during a cultural awareness trip recently. The 386th Expeditionary Services Squadron hosts weekly tours into the city.**

### Cultural Awareness Tours

- For more information please contact the 386th Expeditionary Services Squadron at 442-2558.

about the briefing schedule through their first sergeants or the Rock Flex Recreation Center," Sergeant Pamphille said.

The weekly tour goes to different tourist attractions around the city.

"We currently send tours off to the Kuwait Scientific Center, Kuwaiti Towers and the Grand Mosque," said Sergeant Pamphille said. "We are working on extending cultural trips to the shopping areas."

Participants are generally surprised and pleased with what they discover during their tour.

"It amazed me on how much the

Christian and the Muslim beliefs were very similar in so many ways," said Tech. Sgt. Dale Beeche, a vehicle management and analysis technician with the 386th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron, who attended the tour recently. "I think it is very important that all Airmen attend trips such as these."

"The ocean was beautiful and the city looked like most any other city in the U.S.," Senior Airman Joseph Terrell, a combat stress team member with the 386th Expeditionary Medical Group, who also attended the tour recently. "(The tour) really opens up your eyes to their culture and helps you to understand them better."

For more information on attending one of these events, please contact the 386th ESVS at 442-2558.

Mark the date...

**Wing Change of Command**

9:30 a.m. Tuesday, July 4  
At the Passenger Terminal

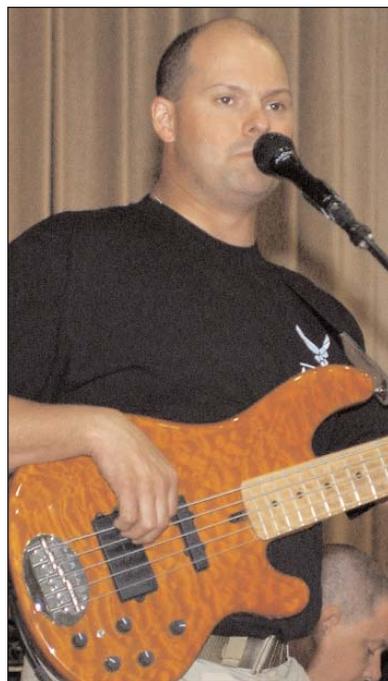
## ROCK BOTTOM AIRMAN COUNCIL

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.

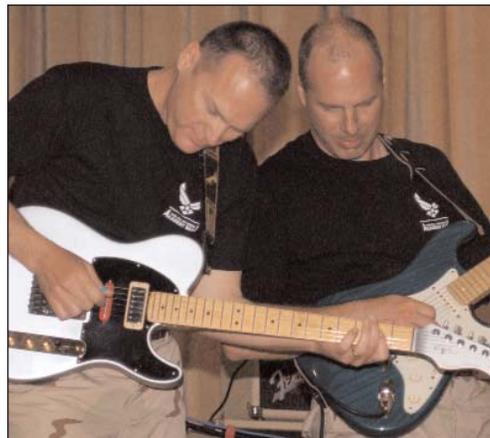
In the past the council has sponsored many fun filled events which numerous ranks of all military branches participated in.



# Wild Blue Country Band



*On June 24 the Air Force Academy's Wild Blue Country Band brought their incredible versatility and show-stopping professionalism to the "Rock." The band tours the world to support every Air Force mission, from community relations and recruiting to troop morale and support. They are one of nine Air Force Academy bands.*



*Photos by Staff Sgt. Jonathan Pomeroy*

# JASDF Performing Key Role

## First deployment to combat zone since inception

Staff Sgt. Ryan Hansen  
386 AEW/PA

Their uniforms may have a different print design and their aircraft may be painted another color, but make no mistake, the Japan Air Self-Defense Force is a proud member of the coalition team.

For the first time since their formation in 1954 the JASDF are actively deployed to a combat zone. They are here helping with humanitarian relief and reconstruction efforts in Iraq.

"I feel the responsibility of this valuable work for the world and am proud to take part in this operation," said Col. Atsushi Nishino, commander of the JASDF Iraq Reconstruction Support Airlift Wing. "(Our mission is crucial) because reconstruction and stabilizing Iraq is important for global stability and peace, not only in the Middle East."

Their primary mission here is to provide airlift support to the Japan Ground Self-Defense Forces in Samawah, Iraq. But with reconstruction well on its way in that area, the JGSDF will start withdrawing troops from there in July. However, the JASDF Iraq Reconstruction Support Airlift Wing plans to remain here and continue as part of the coalition.

"Doing this important mis-



Air Force/Staff Sgt. Ryan Hansen

**Maintenance personnel from the Japan Air Self-Defense Force's Iraq Reconstruction Support Airlift Wing tow one of their C-130s off the flightline and into a hangar.**

sion (here) with troops who have the same goals – stabilizing and reconstructing Iraq – is a wonderful thing," Colonel Nishino said.

At home the JASDF's mission is to preserve peace, stability and independence for their nation. But by performing this historic mission here in Southwest Asia, they are playing an important role along with other coalition forces by helping to win the hearts and minds of the Iraqi people.

"The JASDF partnership is key to the coalition victory in the Global War on Terrorism," said Col. Timothy Hale, 386th Air Expeditionary Wing commander. "Their support of their heroic humanitarian



**A JASDF security forces troop salutes and opens the gate to the flightline. There are about 200 JASDF personnel with the Iraq Reconstruction Support Airlift Wing here.**

missions demonstrates that the resolve to bring peace to this region is shared by dozens of nations, each bringing unique skills to the battle for the hearts of the

Iraqi people." The JASDF Iraq Reconstruction Support Airlift Wing includes about 200 troops on four month rotations. The first group

arrived here in December 2003 and started flying missions on March 3, 2004. Since then they have flown more than 325 sorties and carried more than 460 tons of cargo.

“I feel working with coalition forces contributes to rising reliability and understanding among (each other),” Colonel Nishino said.

The JASDF Iraq Reconstruction Support Airlift Wing is also responsible for moving cargo for humanitarian support activities from their homeland. They also transport Multi-National Force-Iraq members and other personnel around the theater when called upon.

To perform this wide-ranging mission the JASDF rely on a group of C-130s and a vast range of personnel with varied backgrounds and expertise. They include civil engineers, flight engineers, maintenance officers and technicians, medical, navigators, pilots, security forces and supply.

“We have several different kinds of servicemembers to accomplish and support our mission,” Colonel Nishino said.

Being co-located in a

deployed environment has given the JASDF and the Air Force quite a few opportunities to work together. The two units commonly share equipment, swap information and their personnel can often be seen participating in various wing activities.

“I appreciate (the Air Force’s) support,” Colonel Nishino said. “Like providing information, aircraft parts or letting us use some facilities like the (recreation) center or fitness center. This support helps us a lot with our safety and certain operational and welfare for my troops.”

And working side-by-side the Air Force for the first time since their inception has also been an opportunity to build long lasting relationships, or rekindle old ones, for both armed services branches.

“It has been a phenomenal experience to renew friendships with warriors from a nation I know well,” Colonel Hale said.

“As a commander at Yokota Air Base, Japan, a number of years ago, I grew to love the people and culture of Japan. It is a pleasure to work shoulder to shoulder to bring peace to this region



Aircrew from the JASDF load and pre-flight one of their C-130s before a mission into Iraq recently.

**JASDF Facts**

**Established:** July 1, 1954

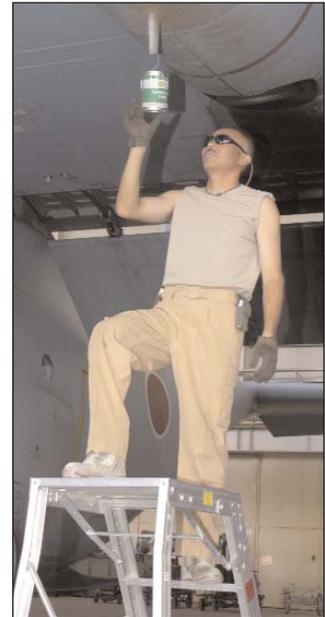
**Mission:** To preserve peace, stability and independence.

That is accomplished by:

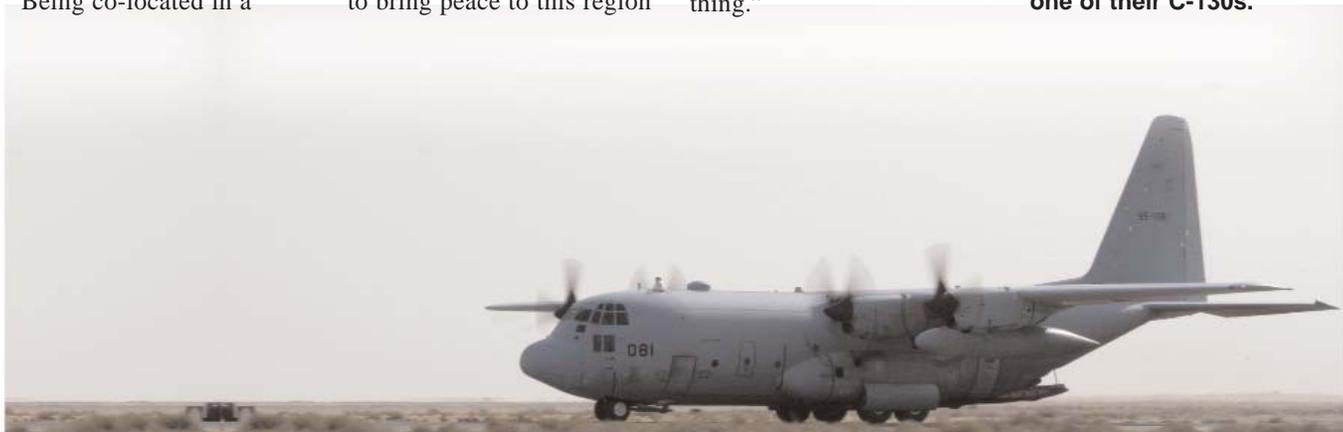
- Air defense
- Major disaster response
- Secure environment

**Personnel:** There are more than 47,000 self-defense officials and more than 3,500 administrative officials.

Information from JASDF Internet Site



A JASDF troop prepares to do routine maintenance on one of their C-130s.



# 386th Air Expeditionary Wing Rock Solid Warriors



**Senior Airman  
Eric Lawlor**

**586th Expeditionary Mission Support Group  
Detachment 1**

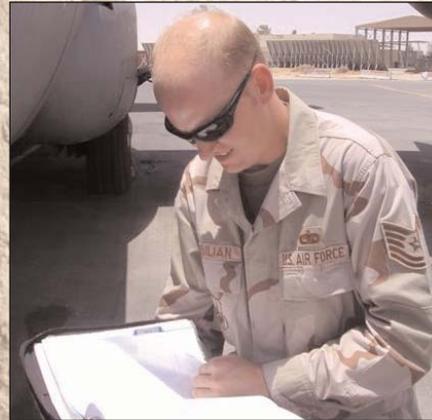
Services flight, fitness and recreation specialist

**Home unit, base:** 49th Services Squadron, Holloman Air Force Base, N.M.

**How do you support the mission here?** I support the mission by directly participating in one of the most vital camp functions; the safe delivery and re-supplying of water and ice for the entire camp. On a daily basis, I ensure the proper management of 90,000 gallons of drinking water and 25,000 pounds of ice for Camp Patriot. Additionally, I'm a fitness and Morale Welfare and Recreation specialist who coordinates, plans and executes many of the events here. I also host weekly MWR meetings and cultural awareness classes to allow military personnel to partake in trips to the city.

**How many times have you deployed and what makes this one unique?** This is my second deployment. My first deployment was to Rhein Main Air Base, Germany, where I served as a food service specialist at the flight kitchen. The uniqueness of this deployment is emphasized by my opportunity to serve along side my sister branches; as well as our Kuwaiti hosts.

**How does your job differ in a deployed environment versus home base?** This deployment has challenged my ability to adapt to a change from the norm. At home base I would be busy assisting customers as their exercise specialist or setting up fitness and intramural sports programs. Here the needs are different. I've been asked to fulfill a role that is outside of my normal duties; however, I've accepted the importance of this vital role and have given it my maximum effort.



**Tech. Sgt.  
Anthony Mobillian**

**386th Expeditionary Maintenance Group**

Quality assurance assessor and turboprop mechanic

**Home unit, base:** 43rd Maintenance Group, Pope Air Force Base, N.C.

**How do you support the mission here?** I support the mission by ensuring quality maintenance is performed in a safe and timely manner. If maintenance is performed right the first time every time then it increases our mission reliability rate allowing supplies, equipment and personnel to arrive and depart the AOR. People in Iraq depend on us to get mission critical supplies to them in a timely manner as well as getting their replacements in and them out.

**How many times have you deployed and what makes this one unique?** I have been deployed 13 times to the desert; eight of those times have been here. My first deployment here was in late 1997 and this place has changed a hundred fold in the last nine years. It has gone from two C-130's and a small maintenance package to over twenty C-130's and an entire base set up. This place is unique because of the dry climate while other places in the AOR are really humid.

**How does your job differ in a deployed environment versus home base?** My job here is very similar to my job at home. QA is the eyes and ears for the maintenance commander. Even though the mission is different we still set out each and every day to ensure maintenance is being performed in a safe and timely manner.