

DESERT EAGLE

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Optometry solves
'on-sight' problems

DESERT EAGLE

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All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.

Commentaries and warriors of the week are scheduled according to a squadron rotation. Unit commanders and first sergeants are the points of contact for submissions.

For more information, call 436-0107.



Tech. Sgt. Sarah Fry, 379th Expeditionary Medical Group ophthalmologist, adjusts a pair of glasses to ensure a perfect fit in Southwest Asia, Monday. Sergeant Fry is deployed from the Wyoming Air National Guard. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Jason Edwards)

Mentoring easy as pie

By Master Sgt. Charlotte Derby
Combined Air and Space
Operations Center, Det 1, 609 Air
Communications Squadron

We are often told we need to find a mentor or be a mentor. It seems to be the word of the day lately. But mentoring is not done well if it's just another thing you have to put on your "to do" list.

Of course, there are times when you will sit down with an Airman or another young person -- we do have a role in the community -- and advise on the ways of the Air Force and the world. This is important but is only a fraction of the picture.

To illustrate, I read a story many years ago that talked about 'Mama pie.' Every child has some of his or her 'Mama pie' filled by people other than Mother. Mama herself can't and shouldn't be the whole pie. Aunts, grandparents, friends, neighbors, etc., all help to fill in the pie and make us who we are.

Mentoring is the same. You may have a person you consider your mentor (just like you have a mom) but there are many

others who provide mentoring along the way as well -- even if they have no idea they're mentors. Our lives are examples for all to see.

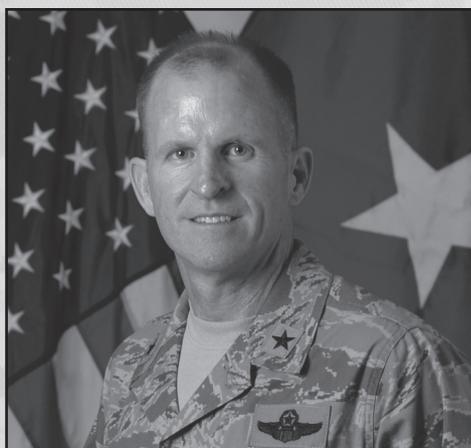
When you stop to pick up that stray piece of trash or to help provide directions to a new arrival, you are adding to the pie. When you take a deep breath and explain, calmly and patiently, how a piece of equipment works, you are adding to the pie.

We add to people's lives even if we are not interacting with them directly. A mentoring session may be more like an interview with a one-way mirror -- you may never know whose life you touch. It could be just sitting in the dining facility and listening, sharing your stories or listening to someone else's. It could be working hard, worrying where the spotlight is pointing, or it could be gently guiding another's behavior so he or she doesn't 'burn a bridge.'

Just as this is a small Air Force, it's a small world as well. You are a mentor to someone, somewhere, whether you realize it or not. Be sure to be a good one, because we are all affected. Add to the pie.

Base SNCO makes E-9 grade

Congratulations to Senior Master Sgt. Charles Meyer, Air Force Forces Special Staff, who was recently selected for promotion to the rank of Chief Master Sergeant in the 09E9 promotion cycle.



Commander's Action Line

- The Action Line is your direct link to Brig. Gen. Stephen Wilson, 379th Air Expeditionary Wing commander.
- Use it if you have questions or comments about the base that cannot be resolved by your chain of command or base agencies.
- Each question will be reviewed, answered and may be published on a case-by-case basis. E-mail 379aewactionline@auab.afcent.af.mil.

RAAF bids farewell, transfers to new locale

By Squadron Leader
Clarke McNamara
Royal Australian Air Force
No. 37 Squadron

The Royal Australian Air Force is transferring its C-130 Hercules base of operations to another undisclosed location in Southwest Asia in November. Australian forces currently spread throughout the area of responsibility will consolidate their operations to a single location by the end of the year.

“Our mission focus has shifted to support operations in Afghanistan,” Wing Commander Jack Foley, commander of the Australian C-130 here, said. “Our withdrawal from Iraq and new commitments to the [International Security Assistance Force], necessitated a review of our concept of operations.”

The review determined that consolidation would yield significant efficiency gains in logistic support as well as reduce fatigue on personnel and equipment.

“While we are sad to be leaving our great friends here at the [379th Air Expeditionary Wing], a team supporting our air operations will remain at



U.S. Air Force photos/Staff Sgt. Robert Barney

A Royal Australian Air Force honor guard from No. 37 Squadron renders honors to the last C-130J to take off on a mission from here, Thursday. The squadron is moving its operations to another location in Southwest Asia after six years of operating here. Members are deployed from RAAF Base Richmond, New South Wales, Australia in support of Operation Slipper, Australia’s military contribution to international campaigns against terrorism.

the [Combined Air and Space Operations Center] and we expect to see our friends around theatre,” Wing Commander Foley said.

The plan has rapidly come

together in recent months and was accelerated recently with the success in supporting ISAF during the recent 2009 Afghanistan elections.

The Australian C-130

detachment is drawn from the personnel of No. 37 Squadron at RAAF Richmond. They have been deployed here since 2003, contributing to Operation Catalyst in Iraq, and Operation Slipper and the ISAF in Afghanistan.

During the past six years, the Australian Aircraftmen have completed nearly 11,000 sorties, delivered 63 million pounds of cargo, carried 130,000 passengers and assisted wounded personnel during 2,300 Aeromedical Evacuation sorties.

“None of the mission milestones would have been possible without the fantastic level of support we get from [not only] our own support elements, but also our great friends at the 379 AEW,” Wing Commander Foley said.

“Everything from accommodation and messing to assisting with aircraft repairs has made this mission possible and incredibly successful.”



Royal Australian Air Force Sergeant Grahame Barling, No. 37 Squadron loadmaster, observes the engines on a C-130J prior to departure, Thursday, in Southwest Asia. Sergeant Barling is deployed from RAAF Base Richmond, New South Wales, Australia.



U.S. Air Force photos/Tech. Sgt. Jason Edwards

Lt. Col. (Dr.) Daniel Perala, 379th Expeditionary Medical Group optometrist, measures the pressure of a patient's eye using a Goldmann aplanation tonometer here, Monday. The optometry clinic provides anything from routine exams to emergency eye care. Doctor Perala is deployed from the Wyoming Air National Guard in support of operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

Optometry helps Airmen see eye to eye

By Senior Airman
Michael Matkin
379th Air Expeditionary
Wing Public Affairs

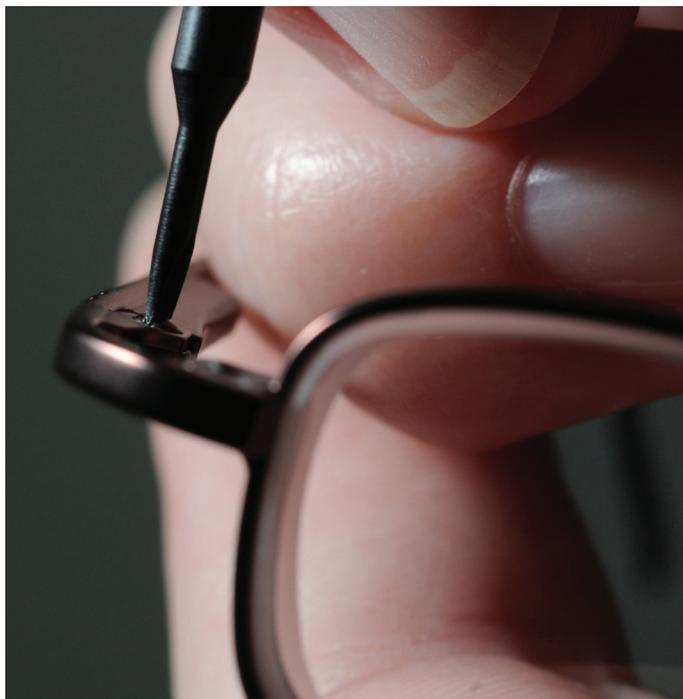
From basic training, military servicemembers are taught the importance of attention to detail. When cleaning and inspecting weapons, servicemembers ensure they are free from carbon and in good working order. If the optics on a weapon is dirty, scratched or otherwise in disrepair, the problem is immediately corrected to ensure the weapon can be zeroed in on target. It is often said that the body is also a weapon system and keeping it clean and in good working order is essential in keeping servicemembers in the fight.

Keeping the human weapon system optics clean, in good repair and zeroed in

is the mission of the 379th Expeditionary Medical Squadron optometry services.

"Having good eye care is essential for [servicemembers] in a deployed environment

so that we can keep them in the fight," said Lt. Col. (Dr.) Daniel Perala, 379 EMDG optometrist, deployed from the 153rd Airlift Wing, Wyoming Air National Guard.



Currently, the optometry service is able to provide some essential, non-routine eye treatment for eye infections, glaucoma and anterior uveitis, which is like arthritis of the eyes, Colonel Perala said. They can also perform ultrasounds and x-rays, and examine the eyes for more serious problems such as retinal detachment and embedded shrapnel. Additionally, this is the only eye clinic in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility certified for post-operation laser eye surgery care.

To help make the base's optometry clinic more established, there are plans to expand the clinic to a larger facility with a greater diagnostic and treatment capability.

"Having an expanded clinic here that can perform

advanced procedures is important so that we can meet the growing mission requirements,” Colonel Perala said. “Although there are some eye problems that a general physician can handle, such as eye infections, when more serious problems come up, we need to be able to care for them here instead of sending [servicemembers] to Germany.”

An essential step in moving forward to caring for all servicemembers is the clinic’s partnership with the nearby Army base which does not have an optometry clinic.

“We have a great relation-

ship with [the Army post] and we work closely together to ensure all servicemembers and coalition partners from both installations get the eye care they need,” Colonel Perala said.

The partnership with the Army post works well because the post is able to provide equipment and materials to the clinic here more quickly than they could get them from the continental U.S. For example, the Army post has a lab and is able to fabricate the glasses and have them to the servicemembers within a week for some prescriptions, which is

faster than delivery times at CONUS bases where it can take more than a month to get them, said Tech Sgt. Sarah Fry, 379 EMDG ophthalmic technician, also deployed from the 153 AW.

Also, with a functioning optometry clinic here, Army troops arriving from downrange to the nearby Army post for rest and relaxation are able to see the base’s optometrist. This ensures they are getting needed eye exams, new glasses or eye care before they go back downrange.

Servicemembers here who are in need of new gas mask inserts or standard

issued frames can re-order. However, to be able to re-order the last issued frames cannot be more than a year old, Sergeant Fry said.

Providing these services to the base population maintains base readiness by keeping everyone’s human weapon system vision ready and in the fight.

“Eye care is an essential part of our lives. You can’t perform your job if you can’t see what you are doing,” Sergeant Fry said.

For more information on ordering eyewear, contact the base optometry clinic at 437-0497.



Tech. Sgt. Sarah Fry, 379th Expeditionary Medical Group ophthalmologist, adjusts a pair of glasses to ensure a perfect fit here, Monday. Sergeant Fry is deployed from the Wyoming Air National Guard in support of operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

USPS releases dates for holiday mail

379th Air Expeditionary Wing
Public Affairs

The recommended mailing dates for holiday mail sent from servicemembers stationed in Southwest Asia to family and friends stateside have been released.

For Parcel Post or Space Available Mail, the latest date for ensuring delivery by Christmas is Nov. 20. For Priority and First Class letters or cards the latest date is Dec. 4.

The recommended dates are the same for mail being sent to Southwest Asia, with the exception of Parcel Airlift with a recommended date of Dec. 1.

Tips for military overseas mailing and packaging:

- If using a regular box, use one strong enough to protect the contents with no writing on the outside.
- Cushion contents with newspaper, bubble wrap, or Styrofoam. Pack tightly to avoid shifting.
- Package food items like cookies, fudge, candies, etc. securely in leak-proof containers.
- Use pressure-sensitive or nylon-reinforced packing tape.
- Do not use wrapping paper, string, masking tape, or cellophane tape outside the package.
- Print the complete servicemember's name (without rank), unit, and APO/FPO delivery



Senior Airman Jermaine Williams, 379th Expeditionary Communications Squadron mail clerk, sorts letter class mail at the base post office. Airman Williams ensures all the mail for the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing and its tenant units is delivered quickly and accurately. Airman Williams is deployed from Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Ga., in support of operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom.

address, and return address on one side only of the package.

- Place a return address label inside the package.
- Stuff fragile items with newspaper or packing material to avoid damage
- Remove batteries from toys and appliances. Wrap and place them next to the items inside.
- Purchase insurance and delivery

confirmation service for reassurance of package delivery.

All mail addressed to military Post Offices overseas is subject to certain conditions or restrictions regarding content, preparation and handling. APO and FPO addresses generally require customs forms. To get updated mailing restrictions by individual APO and FPO zip codes, go to www.usps.com.

Nation observes American Indian Heritage Month

By Master Sgt. Grayland Hilt
379th Air Expeditionary Wing
Equal Opportunity

In 1990, President George H. W. Bush approved a joint resolution designating November "National American Indian Heritage Month." Similar proclamations have been issued each year since 1994. The Department of Defense theme for this year's American Indian Heritage Month observance is "Understanding Native American Heritage Now and Then."

As we celebrate American Indian Heritage month throughout November, a few questions come to mind: What is the origin of such people? What people fall under the definition of American Indian? Which term is correct, American Indian or Native American?

We learned in grade school that Christopher Columbus mistakenly applied the name 'Indian' to the people he encountered when he arrived in what he believed was the "Indies," the



medieval name for Asia. The term 'Native American' was introduced in the 1960s as a way of eradicating confusion between the indigenous people of the Americas

and the indigenous people of India. The term 'American Indian' also served that purpose, but raised other problems: the use of 'Indian' in any form had begun to be seen by some as pejorative.

The term 'Native American' refers to any of the indigenous peoples of the Americas, specifically from Alaska to South America. There are 562 recognized tribes within the continental United States with a population of 1.9 million American Indian and Alaska Natives. According to the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute, the term 'American Indian' encompasses hundreds of different tribes and approximately 250 languages.

As we celebrate National American Indian Heritage Month, strive to learn more about the people, their culture and customs. Recognize the many contributions they have made to today's society. Truly commit to this month's theme of "Understanding Native American Heritage Now and Then."

Sgt. 1st Class Wesley Benjamin

379th Expeditionary Operations Group

Operations Sergeant, CENTCOM Distinguished Flight Detachment

Home station: Ramstein Air Base, Germany

Arrived in AOR: September

Deployment goals: To improve my physical condition and lose weight.

Best part of the deployment: Learning to do my job more effectively in a tactical environment.

Hobbies: Reading and bike riding.

Best Air Force memory: Being selected to be a member of the Army Priority Air Transport team.

Nominated by First Sergeant Julio Martinez: "Sergeant Benjamin is responsible for the planning, coordination and execution of executive airlift support. He has been critical in the planning and execution of 17 high-risk, high-profile missions resulting in more than 119 flight hours encompassing all of the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility. Additionally, he is also assigned as the detachment's vehicle control officer and detachment mail clerk."



U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Jason Edwards

Staff Sgt. Roldan Milian

379th Expeditionary Comptroller Squadron

Budget Analyst

Home station: Eglin Air Force Base, Fla.

Arrived in AOR: October

Deployment goals: Study for Graduate Management Admission Test, improve my physical and mental fitness, get to know people.

Best part of the deployment: Having the opportunity to work on the installation's budget. I feel like I have a considerable impact on the mission.

Hobbies: Softball, golf, history, politics.

Best Air Force memory: Serving at Sather Air Base, Baghdad.

Nominated by Senior Master Sgt. Durand Phillips: "Sergeant Milian is a hard-charging NCO who is unafraid of accepting challenging jobs and 'making it happen.' Since day one, he has been instrumental in keeping the squadron operational by troubleshooting various finance system issues. His relentless dedication for complete success has prevented a complete mission failure."



U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Jason Edwards

Airman 1st Class Michael White

37th Expeditionary Bomb Squadron

Intelligence Analyst

Home station: Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D.

Arrived in AOR: July

Deployment goals: Take the last class for my CCAF degree in Intelligence Communications and continue knocking out classes for my bachelor's degree.

Best part of the deployment: Working closely with 37th Expeditionary Bomb Squadron aviators and gaining further understanding of how the B-1B Lancer contributes to the big picture.

Hobbies: Skiing, hiking, playing sports, and camping with friends.

Best Air Force memory: Having three four-day weekends in a row because of a rash of blizzards that hit South Dakota in 2007.

Nominated by Capt. Scott Olson: "Airman White consistently exceeds expectations. On duty, he easily identifies and overcomes all obstacles to successful job completion as he expertly prepares crews for combat missions and debriefs them upon return. Most of all, he is confident in his abilities but always willing to learn more about how to support combat aviation. AIC White is a valuable asset for the 379 AEW and it has been an honor to work with him."



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman David Dobrydney



U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Jason Edwards

Master Sgt. Chyrle Wohlman, 379th Expeditionary Medical Group primary care and emergency services NCOIC, applies make-up to a simulated casualty prior to a basewide exercise Tuesday. Sergeant Wohlman is deployed from McGuire Air Force Base, N.J. in support of operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.



U.S.

Deployed servicemembers treat a simulated casualty during a basewide exercise Tuesday.



U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Robert Barney

Left, Royal Air Force personnel conduct a post attack inspection of a simulated attack vehicle during a basewide exercise, Tuesday. Senior Airman Gareth Shackleton and Jacobo are here. The 379th Air Expeditionary Airfield is in cooperation with the Royal Air Force during regular exercises to simulate potential real-world scenarios.

Right, Senior Airman Gareth Shackleton, 83rd Expeditionary Airfield fighter, responds to a simulated attack during a base defense exercise.



U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Jason Edwards

during a basewide ex-

Senior Aircraftmen
and Graham Jacobs
recovery in response
during a base defense
Senior Aircraftmen
Jacobs are assigned to the
Air Group, a tenant unit
Expeditionary Wing, in
tenant units, conducts
to train on a variety of
scenarios.

an Sherice Land, 379th
Engineer squadron fire-
to a simulated attack
se exercise Tuesday.



U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Jason Edwards

Deployed servicemembers transport simulated casualties during a basewide exercise Tuesday.



U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Robert Barney

Veterans Day 2009 offers base events

379th Air Expeditionary Wing
Public Affairs

Numerous base events have been scheduled in honor of Veterans Day. Servicemembers may choose to start the day by attending one of two events, both starting at 6 a.m. A Flag hoisting ceremony will be held at Memorial Plaza in the Coalition Compound and a Veterans Day 5K run will begin at the BPC fitness center.

At noon, a parade featuring unit-designed floats will circle the entire CC compound, beginning in the parking lot behind the Desert Eagle Lounge.

At 6 p.m., an Iron Chef™ competition will be held at Memorial Plaza. This is a cooking contest where individuals will be given a secret ingredient and then use that ingredient to create a dish. The dish must be prepared, cooked and served within an hour and then presented to a panel of

three judges. The dishes will be judged for originality, presentation and taste. The chef with the winning dish will be awarded the title of Iron Chef™.

At 4:30 p.m. the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing Commander Brig. Gen. Stephen W. Wilson will address servicemembers at a Retreat ceremony at Memorial Plaza in front of the flags.

A local band will end the day, with a performance at Memorial Plaza at 8 p.m.

New selective re-enlistment bonus list released

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFNS) -- Pentagon officials recently released the latest selective re-enlistment bonus list containing 91 Air Force specialties.

The revised listing places a greater emphasis on retaining Airmen with 17 months to six years of service, said Tech. Sgt. Christopher Dowlearn, the NCO in charge of Air Force re-enlistments at the Air Force Personnel Center.

“SRBs are a highly effective retention tool we use to address shortages in certain skill sets. We consider [SRBs] necessary to support the joint coalition fight and our

mission at home and abroad,” Sergeant Dowlearn said.

Officials added 10 Air Force specialty codes to the list and increased 31 AFSCs in at least one zone. Thirty AFSCs had a zone eliminated or decreased and two AFSCs were completely removed.

All increases and additions were effective Wednesday and all decreases and deletions will go into effect Dec. 4. Any re-enlistments or extensions of any length that have been completed prior to the official message release will remain valid.

Airmen who are eligible for re-enlistment and are affected by decreases

or removals should re-enlist before Dec. 4 to receive the previously approved bonus.

These bonuses do not apply to Air Force Reserve or National Guard personnel.

To determine eligibility for re-enlistment with an SRB entitlement, contact the career development element at your local military personnel section.

For a complete SRB listing, type “SRB” in the search box on AFPC’s secure “Ask” site. For more information about the SRB program, contact your local military personnel section or call the Total Force Service Center at (800) 525-0102 or DSN 665-5000.

Canine X-ray

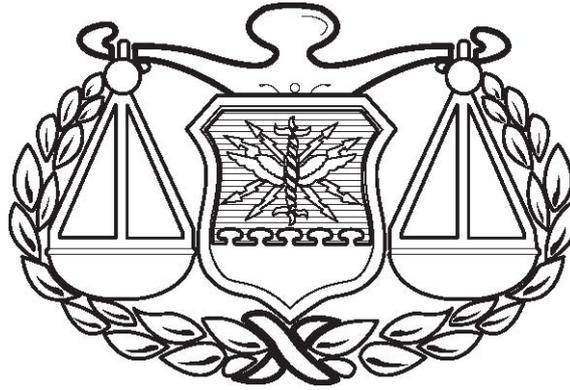


Left to right, Master Sgt. Kathleen Pasquini, 379th Expeditionary Medical Group medical operations flight chief, takes X-Rays of Ivar, a working dog, alongside his handler Ted Gray, and Sgt. Carly Roche, 719th Medical Detachment veterinary technician, here, Wednesday. Sergeant Pasquini is deployed from Keesler Air Force Base, Miss. Sergeant Roche is deployed from Ft. Sheridan, Ill. Both are deployed in support of operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

October's non-judicial punishments

Editor's Note: This list does not include actions from the month still under investigation or those disposed of through administrative actions such as LORs, UIFs etc.

- Two active-duty master sergeants from the 763rd Expeditionary Reconnaissance Squadron received Article 15s for being in the same sleeping quarters. This NJP action resulted in suspended reductions to the grade of technical sergeant, and reprimands.
- An active-duty technical sergeant from the 379th Expeditionary Force Support Squadron received an Article 15 for attempting to immigrate with 23 pornographic DVDs. This NJP action resulted in a suspended reduction to staff



- sergeant, restriction to base for 60 days, and a reprimand.
- An active-duty staff sergeant from 379th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron received an Article 15 for possessing pornography on a thumb drive found in his clothes by a laundry contractor. This NJP action resulted in a

- suspended reduction to senior airman, forfeiture of \$250 per month for two months, and a reprimand.
- An active-duty airman 1st class from the 379th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron received an Article 15 for sleeping on post. This NJP action resulted in a sus-

pending reduction to airman, forfeiture of \$250 per month for two months, and a reprimand.

Additionally, units are paying increasing attention to General Order 1-B violations for contraband received in the mail. Items seized within the last month include pornography and alcohol, some of which had been concealed in non-alcoholic product bottles.

Violating GO-1B in this manner not only subjects the recipient to Uniform Code of Military Justice action, but severely harms the relationship with the host nation. It is the responsibility of all to ensure that those who have the local address are aware of the GO-1B and customs limitations.

This Week's Caption Contest

Photo No. 148

The winner is...

"This is way more fun than video games!"
 - Senior Airman Rickey Carroll,
 379th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance
 Squadron



Photo No. 149 (next week's photo)

Do you have what it takes to make the base chuckle? Submit your made-up caption for the photo below to **379AEW.PA@auab.afcent.af.mil** by Wednesday. If your caption is the best (or second best), it will appear in the following week's paper.

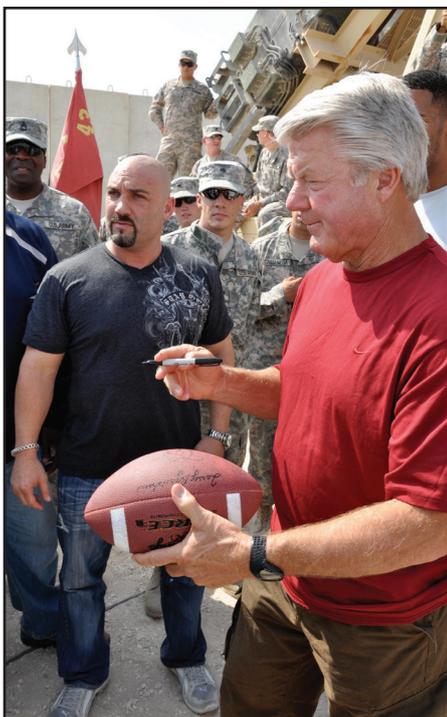
Can't come up with a caption but have a funnier photo than we've been using? Submit it to **379AEW.PA@auab.afcent.af.mil** and we may use it.

FOX football analysts wow troops



Photos by Patrick Lucero

Left to right in foreground, FOX NFL analysts Michael Strahan, Curt Menefee, and Jay Glazer get a close-up look of the B-1B Lancer during a tour of the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing, Thursday. Six football analysts were touring the U.S. Central Command's area of responsibility as part of an Armed Forces Entertainment-sponsored tour.



Right, FOX NFL analyst Jimmy Johnson signs a football before handing it off to Jay Glazer following a tour of the Army's 1-43 Air Defense Artillery Patriot site here, Thursday.

JSIVA top performers

The 379th Air Expeditionary Wing was evaluated Oct. 25-30 as part of a Joint Staff Integrated Vulnerability Assessment conducted by the Defense Threat Reduction Agency. A wide spectrum of base security and readiness programs, as well as contingency planning efforts, was assessed by the team of eight inspectors. All Department of Defense installations worldwide are required to be inspected once every three years; however, due to unforeseen circumstances, DTRA had not visited this installation since 2003.

Brig. Gen. Stephen Wilson, 379 AEW commander, and the JSIVA team recognized the below outstanding performers following this year's assessment:

379th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron

Capt. Peeter Pleaketamm
Master Sgt. Michael Henderlong

379th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron

Capt. Christopher Thompson
Senior Master Sgt. Anthony Johnson

379th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron

1st Lt. Dave Mattila

379th Expeditionary Communications Squadron

1st Lt. John Suter

379th Expeditionary Medical Group

Maj. Altino McKelvey
Tech. Sgt. Shawn Ingle
Staff Sgt. Robert Searle

379 AEW Force Protection
Master Sgt. Reginald Bailey
Tech. Sgt. Kevin Jones

Colonel remembers unique assignment

By Senior Airman David Dobrydney
379th Air Expeditionary Wing
Public Affairs

Before he was deployed to Southwest Asia as the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing Director of Staff, Col. Timothy Nelson received an assignment, and opportunity, few Airmen are provided.

In 1992, he was chosen to be a member of the acceptance committee for the then-new C-17 Globemaster III aircraft.

A first lieutenant at the time, Colonel Nelson was a logistics officer at Charleston Air Force Base, S.C., which was selected as the first base to receive the C-17. The committee was responsible for ensuring the new aircraft met Air Force needs and specifications as well as negotiating with the contractor to rectify any deficiencies. Specifically, Colonel Nelson worked on the manning document which would determine the number of personnel necessary for the maintenance of the aircraft.

“We hadn’t bought an aircraft like that in 20 years,” Colonel Nelson said, “so it was a challenge to develop that manning document. With all the new technology, logic would dictate that you wouldn’t need as many maintenance personnel because so much of this weapon system was computerized.”

The committee was also charged with validating the technical data for the C-17.

“When we fix an aircraft, we have that big binder of information, but where does that information come from?” Colonel Nelson said. “It’s the people at the beginning who develop all that data. The manufacturer gives it to us, but we had to verify that it actually worked that way. Every function, whether it was taking the landing gear up or replacing the engine, we ensured that information was valid.”

At the time, then-Lieutenant Nelson had been an active-duty member at Charleston as the committee began its preliminary work. However, he transitioned to a full-time position in the Air Force Reserve in January 1993 and continued to work alongside his active-duty counterparts to set up the aircraft maintenance units.

“At Charleston, a lot of the full-time mechanics are Air Reserve Technicians,” Colonel Nelson said. “That’s why we were intimately involved with the organization because once the active-duty maintenance organizations were set



Col. Timothy Nelson, 379th Air Expeditionary Wing director of staff, revisits the C-17 Globemaster III as it reaches its 17-year mark in the Air Force inventory. Colonel Nelson was a member of the acceptance committee for this airframe while serving as an active-duty first lieutenant in the early 1990s. The committee was responsible for ensuring the new aircraft met Air Force needs and specifications. Colonel Nelson is a member of the U.S. Air Force Reserve deployed from Andrews Air Force Base, Md. in support of operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

up, it rolled right over into setting up the reserve units.”

The first C-17 was delivered in the summer of 1993. A unique part of the acceptance process was that some features of the C-17 were still being designed even as aircraft were coming off the production line.

“That was great for the Air Force because as we accepted the aircraft and found flaws, we were able to negotiate to have them changed so the next plane that rolled out would have the upgrade,” Colonel Nelson said.

This continual improvement meant that the first 20 C-17 aircraft had different features. “You could tell when you looked at the interior of a C-17 that the loadmasters and mechanics had a part in its design,” Colonel Nelson said. “Every piece of equipment and every tool had a place inside.”

“It was exciting to actually sit across the table from the engineers who were looking for ways to improve the aircraft while we were accepting it.”

After the C-17 was accepted into the Air Force inventory, Colonel Nelson moved on to other pastures, working on 12 different airframes to date. Currently, at his home station of Andrews AFB, Md., he oversees a maintenance unit that works on KC-135 Stratotankers.

Colonel Nelson said his time on the

C-17 acceptance committee led to a change in the way he viewed subsequent airframes.

“I was fortunate to see a brand new aircraft and be a part of that process so early in my career,” he said. “In all the positions I’ve had since then, I’ve looked for ways to bring in new technology into the aerospace field.”

In Southwest Asia, Colonel Nelson has little direct role with the C-17 mission here, but he admits that the operations tempo is extremely demanding.

Since the beginning of 2009, the 816th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron, which manages the C-17 fleet here, has flown approximately 6,300 sorties, carrying nearly 101,000 passengers and more than 91,800 tons of cargo.

“The amount of missions we fly here [in Southwest Asia] equates approximately to flying every single C-17 in the Air Force inventory through here at least once a month,” Colonel Nelson said. “[The 816th] does a heroic job keeping the aircraft maintained and flying to support the airlift mission -- carrying food, clothing, equipment and personnel all throughout the AOR,” he said.

“It is a beautiful aircraft and it’s exceeding our expectations for reliability and load carrying, just as it was designed to do,” he said.



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**WORSHIP
SCHEDULE**

**Protestant
Saturday**

7:30 p.m., Contemporary, Chapel

Sunday

9:45 a.m., General Protestant,
CAOC 1st Floor conference room

9:45 a.m., Contemporary, Chapel

11:30 a.m., Traditional Service,
Chapel

Noon, Church of Christ,
BPC Fellowship

1:30 p.m., LDS Service, Chapel

4 p.m., Liturgical, Chapel

7 p.m., Church of Christ,
Multi-purpose room

7:30 p.m., Gospel, Chapel

Roman Catholic Mass

6 p.m., Monday-Friday
Blessed Sacrament Chapel

Saturday Mass

6 p.m., Mass, BPC Mall area

Sunday Masses

8 a.m., Mass, Victory Chapel

11 a.m., Mass, CAOC 1st floor
conference room

6 p.m., Mass, Victory Chapel

Jewish
Muslim
Buddhist
Orthodox

Earth Religions

See Chapel staff or call 437-8811 for
more information.

Finding perfect peace

By Chaplain (Maj.) Carol Yeager
379th Air Expeditionary Wing Chapel

As a chaplain I spend a lot of time talking with people. Sometimes we talk about the good things going on in their lives, other times we talk about the struggles they are facing. And it seems that no matter what we talk about a big factor in how the person views their circumstances is their attitude. We've all heard the example of the pessimist seeing a glass as half empty while the optimist sees it as half full.

Our attitude impacts our view of the world and our present circumstances. I'm not dismissing the difficulties of life. There are times when things are really bad -- loved ones die, relationships end, jobs are lost, and war and conflict rage on. During these times it is difficult to see the glass as half full. So how do we find peace in the midst of such troubles?

Let me share a little story with you. The author is anonymous but the words speak volumes about our attitude's effect on how we view our present circumstances.

There once was a king who offered a prize to the artist who would paint the best picture of peace. Many artists tried. The king looked at all the pictures. But there were only two he really liked, and he had to choose between them.

One picture was of a calm lake. The lake was a perfect mirror for peaceful towering mountains all around it. Overhead was a blue sky with fluffy white clouds. All who saw this picture thought that it was a perfect picture of peace.

The other picture had mountains, too. But these were rugged and bare. Above was an angry sky, from which rain fell



and in which lightning played. Down the side of the mountain tumbled a foaming waterfall. This did not look peaceful at all.

But when the king looked closely, he saw behind the waterfall a tiny bush growing in a crack in the rock. In the bush a mother bird had built her nest. There, in the midst of the rush of angry water, sat the mother bird on her nest - in perfect peace.

Which picture do you think won the prize? The king chose the second picture. Do you know why?

"Because," explained the king, "peace does not mean to be in a place where there is no noise, trouble, or hard work. Peace means to be in the midst of all those things and still be calm in your heart. That is the real meaning of peace."

The mother bird in the picture trusted that all things would work out in the end. She knew from experience that sooner or later the storm would be over and the sun would shine again. Therefore, she could sit quietly in her nest - in perfect peace.

No matter what you are going through today, remember the mother bird and may you find the faith that leads you to a place of peace as well.

Relax at Jack's Place

Jack's Place is a volunteer-run facility, monitored by chapel-core personnel, which provides U.S. and coalition servicemembers of all religions a quiet, wholesome place to relax, study, read and meet with friends while enjoying refreshments.

The building includes amenities such as a stocked game room, free select toi-

letries, magazine racks, snacks and a free book exchange.

Since Jack's Place is part of the chapel, there is also a variety of free religious reading materials. There are also computers for personal use.

For more information or to volunteer to work at Jack's Place, call the Victory Chapel at 437-8811.

Follow the happenings of the 'Grand Slam' Wing at <http://379aew.dodlive.mil>, on Facebook at '379th Air Expeditionary Wing' and on Twitter @379AEW

Great Desert Smoke-Out

The Great Desert Smoke-Out, adopted from the Great American Smoke-Out, will be held Nov. 19. The intent of this event is to have individuals quit the use of tobacco for at least one day, with a goal of quitting permanently. There will be information booths set up at the BPC Mall and Memorial Plaza throughout the day. To start the day, the 379 EMDG Mental Health Clinic and 379 EFSS are sponsoring a 'Kicking Butt' 5K Run at 6 a.m.

For information on the route or to sign-up, visit the BPC Fitness Center. For more information on the Great Desert Smoke-Out or to find out about tobacco cessation classes, e-mail Master Sgt. Lisa Ware or call the Mental Health Clinic at 437-8767.

Uniform Disposal

The proper disposal of military uniforms is a force protection issue. The 379th ELRS transit shipping point has established an unserviceable uniform disposal program. Four locations are available to drop off uniform outer garments; however, boots, PT gear or civilian clothing is not permitted. Uniforms can be taken directly to the TSP (Building 3718 near the wash rack). They can also be dropped off at collection boxes located by Jack's Place, the Coffee Beanery in the CC complex and outside of the BPC BX. For questions, contact TSP at 437-2352.

Civilian Clothing Needed

The Emergency Leave Clothing Locker is in need of civilian clothes for members arriving from downrange who are going home on emergency leave. Having clothing allows servicemembers to get home faster since they are not authorized to wear military uniforms on commercial flights. The following men's items are needed: pants and jeans, collared shirts with short or long sleeves. The following women's items are needed: pants or jeans, shirts that do not expose the abdomen or are low cut, sweaters and jackets in good condition, sweatshirts or pullovers in good condition. Conservative items only; no shorts will be accepted. Items may be dropped off at PERSCO in Bldg. 3979. For more information, contact Tech. Sgt. Thomas Harden at 437-3058.

Uniformity - Setting the Standard

Physical Training Uniform shorts – PTU shorts must be worn at the waistline (no sagging of shorts). Shorts will not be rolled-down. Spandex shorts or leggings

(navy blue or black) may be worn under PT shorts. Full-length leggings may be worn during cold weather periods, although full-length leggings may be worn to cover tattoos.

Friends of Bill

Friends of Bill (Alcoholics Anonymous) will be meeting Mondays at 6:30 p.m., Building 10006, in the Coalition Compound. For more information, contact Master Sgt. Lisa Ware at 437-8767 or Tech. Sgt. Jennifer Lyon at 437-7080.

Running Rules

Running on Enduring Freedom Road in Coalition Compound is prohibited. Runners and walkers should use the sidewalk along the trailers. Also, headphones are not authorized while running or walking on base roads. Always run against traffic, in single file. Runners must yield to vehicles at all times.

Off-Base Travel Reminder

In accordance with AUABI 10-6008, personnel may wear the duty uniform off-base when conducting official business. However, when traveling in uniform, uniform blouses must be removed upon departure from installation, and replaced upon arrival at destination; flight suits should be unzipped and folded at the waist upon departure and zipped upon arrival at destination; only the T-shirt should be visible. For more information, contact 379th Air Expeditionary Wing Force Protection at 436-0198.

Professional Development Courses

Professional Development courses are held every Wednesday and Friday at 8 a.m. and 7 p.m. at the Airmen Readiness Center. These classes are taught by senior enlisted leaders in an effort to provide personal and professional growth opportunities for deployed members. Pay grades of E-1 through O-3 are welcome to attend. For more information, to suggest a topic, or to volunteer to teach, call Master Sgt. Mandy Midgett at 436-4184.

Right Start and Right Finish

Due to the renovation in the CC Theater, Right Start briefings are being held in the BPC Theater on Fridays at 6:45 a.m. Right Finish briefings will remain in the CC Theater on Fridays, but the new start time is 5:45 p.m. For more information, contact Capt. Marcus Hampton at 436-0144.

**Safety Snapshot:
There aren't many
new accidents; don't
be a new victim**

Airmen assemble in a bunker during a base defense exercise following a simulated attack, Tuesday. Personnel assigned to the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing and other tenant units participate in exercises regularly to train on a variety of potential real-world scenarios.

