

DESERT EAGLE

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Precise measurements
ensure mission success

Division of Airmen
DESERT EAGLE

Volume 9, Issue 48

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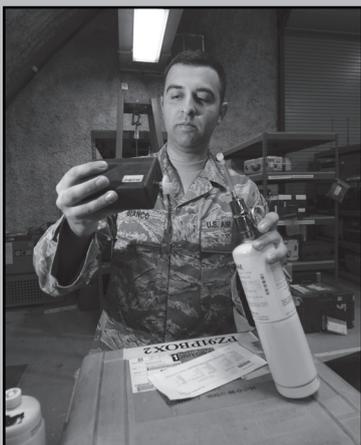
Staff Sgt. Robert Barney

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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.



Senior Airman Brian Bianco, 379th Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron precision measurement equipment laboratory journeyman, calibrates a multi-gas detector, which monitors oxygen and gas levels inside aircraft fuel tanks, in Southwest Asia, Tuesday. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Jason Edwards)

To know, do your job

By Lt. Col. Richard Williamson
816th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron
commander

“To know and do your job.” Very simple words with deep, resounding meaning; this phrase is the model for my professional career. The subtle but piercing message is individual responsibility. It is our collective individual responsibility to know what is expected of us and to strive to be the very best we can while accomplishing those expectations.

The first task is to know your job. How many folks out there can succinctly state their individual job requirement? What are your boss' expectations of you? What do your daily accomplishments do to feed the bigger mission of your flight, squadron, detachment, shop, etc.? How many folks just use word of mouth to delineate what they are supposed to do? Would anybody notice if you weren't there? I hope so. You should be actively seeking out those expectations so that you may meet and exceed them.

The second piece is to do your job. Not doing just the minimum but all that is asked and more. Are you striving to be the best you can be at whatever you do? Are you helping those around you? I've found that a positive attitude is contagious and can make even the most painful tasks fun to accomplish with co-workers. How can you improve the performance of your work area? How can you, as an individual cog in this huge machine called the Air Force improve efficiency and performance? How can

your efforts help the mission of the 379 AEW and the base? These are questions each one of us should internalize and ask ourselves over and over.

This simple message may seem easy to understand. I'm sure most of us are already living by these simple words, but are your co-workers and your subordinates? Your challenge, as an integral part of the Grand Slam Wing, is to motivate those around you -- not just those under your command or supervision but your peers as well -- to embrace this way of life, to live by this creed.

Our Air Force today is very different from the post-Cold War Air Force I entered in 1991. We are a force actively engaged in a global struggle against enemies both foreign and domestic. We are fortunate in this deployed environment to see almost immediate effects of our efforts. Everything we do supports our global mission to defeat terrorism and to support societies that reject this tactic of fear and destruction. I don't need to remind you that we are combat tested warriors, we are Airmen.

Being a part of today's Air Force is without a doubt very exciting. I challenge all of you to get out there and attack your daily routine. Know your job and find out how you can help others. Do your job with the pride, professionalism and passion that is in every one of you. You are the ones with the positive attitudes and the contagious smiles that make it fun and rewarding to come to work. The future of the Air Force and the future of this nation are in your hands.



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@aub.afcent.af.mil.

ACC commander tours base

Left, Senior Airman Shea Coleman, 379th Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron, shows an F-15 Eagle Heads-Up Display to Commander of Air Combat Command, Gen. William Fraser III, during a visit, Nov. 22, in Southwest Asia. ACC senior leaders were visiting with deployed service members as part of a U.S. Central Command area of responsibility tour.



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

Stars to entertain at Memorial Plaza Dec. 6

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. (AFNS) -- Kid Rock and his band are coming to entertain, here, in Southwest Asia Dec. 6.

Kid Rock and the Twisted Brown Trucker Band will bring their unique blend of Southern rock, soul, country, heavy metal and hip hop music to Memorial Plaza at 7:30 p.m. as part of Tour for the Troops 2009, formerly known as Operation Season's Greetings.

Joining them will be comedian Carlos Mencia, singer and songwriter Jessie James, and members of the Band of the Air Force Reserve.

Kid Rock, known for his patriotism and fervent support of American troops, has been overseas four previous times to entertain the troops. This will be the first time he will be bringing his full band. Kid Rock has sold more than 25 million albums in the United States since releasing his first album in 1990. His 2007 album "Rock and Roll Jesus" went triple platinum in the United States and sold more than 5 million copies around the world. It produced the hit single "All Summer Long," a worldwide smash hit that charted No. 1 in eight different countries across Europe and in Australia.

"We're extremely excited about Kid Rock bringing his band and full production show to the troops for the very first time," said Chief Master Sgt. Jay Willis, Band of the U.S. Air Force Reserve deputy director and tour producer. "Kid Rock is a favorite among our young servicemembers, and he's eager to meet with them and put on a show they won't soon forget."

Mr. Mencia is the star of the hit show "Mind of Mencia," seen on Comedy Central, and is a huge hit with live audiences as he brings his unique and cutting edge comedy to sold-out venues across the country.

Ms. James is one of the hottest new artists on MTV and is quickly making a name for herself on both the pop and country music scenes with hit songs like "Wanted," "My Cowboy" and "Blue Jeans."

Performing as the opening act for the tour will be the Reserve band playing well-known pop and contemporary favorites.



U.S. Air Force photo/Master Sgt. Greg Kunkle

Kid Rock takes the stage before performing for troops at the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing's Memorial Plaza in 2007. Kid Rock performed as part of the United Service Organization's holiday tour.



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

Senior Airman Micah Blanton, 379th Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron precision measurement equipment laboratory journeyman, calibrates a stores management system test set in Southwest Asia, Tuesday. The 379 EMXS PMEL, the only PMEL shop in the Air Forces Central Command area of responsibility, supports more than 15,000 different types of equipment. Airman Blanton is deployed from Shaw Air Force Base, S.C. in support of operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

PMEL masters of time, space

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

Why would anyone be concerned about five millionths of a second?

For the 379th Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron precision measurement equipment laboratory, it could mean the difference between mission success and mission failure.

The shop's mission is to provide customers with reliable, safe and accurate equipment that meets or exceeds expectations for mission support by calibrating and repairing measurement and diagnostic equipment.

PMEL supports more than

15,700 different types of equipment such as spectrum analyzers, torque wrenches and pressure gauges by thoroughly fine-tuning them to meet its four criteria of accuracy, reliability, traceability and safety, said Master Sgt. Patrick Nutt, 379 EMXS PMEL flight chief, deployed from Langley Air Force Base, Va.

The 379 EMXS PMEL is the only PMEL shop in the Air Forces Central Command area of responsibility. They not only calibrate the equipment used here on base, but throughout the AOR to include joint and Coalition forces as well, Sergeant Nutt said. This is the reason they receive, on average, approximately 50 items a day, which adds up to

more than 1,500 maintenance actions per month. With a crew of only 20 technicians, they must work 24/7 to keep up with the demand.

Adding to their already monumental task of supporting the entire AOR, the PMEL shop has a goal to turn equipment within two days, said Tech. Sgt. Kevin Stewart, 379 EMXS PMEL shift supervisor, deployed from McGuire AFB, N.J. This is five days quicker than the seven-day AF standard; however, the 379 EMXS PMEL shop does this because they know missions throughout the AOR are depending on that equipment to get the mission accomplished.

"We are providing next

day turn-around, which is amazing for such a small shop in a deployed environment," Sergeant Nutt said.

The PMEL shop here has also sustained an equipment availability rate of 96 percent, which means 15,072 of the 15,700 items that they are responsible for maintaining are available for use, Sergeant Nutt said. Again, they are going above and beyond as the AF standard is 94 percent availability.

The types of calibrations they perform typically fall into two categories, which is how their shop is subdivided, Sergeant Stewart said.

The first category is electrical standards, which deals with voltage, current and

resistance-type measurements or the wave-form generation and analysis section, Sergeant Nutt said. Here they test oscilloscopes, spectrum analyzers, power meters, signal generators, and similar equipment. Basically, anything that creates or measures a sine wave is calibrated and maintained in this section. Equipment used to test munitions typically falls into this category, as well.

The second category and section deals with the physical dimensional sciences, to include pressure, torque, tension, weight, optics and temperature. This is also the section of PMEL most people are familiar with and that provides their heaviest workload, which is adjusting torque wrenches and pressure gauges, Sergeant Stewart said.

Some of the equipment they handle is so sensitive that the adjustments must be done

in temperature controlled climates, Sergeant Nutt said. Controlling the climate in their shop can be especially challenging for PMEL during the summer months when the humidity and temperatures reach extremes. The humidity can also have adverse effects on the shop's instrumentation and tools. To combat this, their building is currently being rebuilt and refurbished to include a temperature-controlled clean room within the building.

"Having this room is important because we have to keep the level of humidity high enough to prevent static electricity discharge and low enough to prevent corrosion, plus it will help keep out all of the dust, which is another large problem here," Sergeant Stewart said.

Making sure all of the equipment they are responsible for is working

exactly as it is designed to can be especially important for mission success.

"Calibrating a weapon system properly can be the difference between hitting a target and not hitting it at all," Sergeant Stewart said.

"If we don't do our job, they can't do their job -- it's just that simple," Sergeant Nutt said.

The equipment PMEL calibrates is also essential to mission safety. For example, technicians calibrate the equipment used to gauge aircrafts' tire pressure, Sergeant Nutt said. "When thousands of pounds are landing on those tires, an inaccurate measurement could cause a major problem."

Also, to ensure equipment is up to standards, the 379 EMXS PMEL has its own quality assurance team, Sergeant Nutt said. These highly-trained members are

selected from within the lab and are responsible for ensuring the items certified by PMEL technicians are safe, accurate, reliable and traceable.

"Traceability ensures that measurements made at any Air Force PMEL can be duplicated at any other PMEL throughout the world," Sergeant Nutt said.

The PMEL QA team also monitors the laboratory environment to include lighting, cleanliness, positive airflow, temperature and humidity.

Having an in-house QA is important to the PMEL team here because making sure they provide perfectly working equipment to those who need them is how they contribute to the fight and mission success -- calibrating and repairing equipment, ensuring that they are not even five millionths of a second off.



Senior Airman Logan Albano, 379th Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron precision measurement equipment laboratory journeyman, troubleshoots a 197 F-15 weapons system tester in Southwest Asia, Tuesday. Airman Albano is deployed from Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, N.C. in support of operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

Reservist keeps in touch with students

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

Master Sgt. Linda Adams has been an elementary school teacher for the past four years.

After just one day on the job in the current school year, however, she departed on a four-month deployment to Southwest Asia with her Air Force Reserve unit from Keesler Air Force Base, Miss.

"I was able to say 'hi' to my new class and then I was off," Sergeant Adams, 746th Aircraft Maintenance Unit support section NCO in charge, said.

But this teacher has bridged the distance by keeping up with her students online. Sergeant Adams' school, Kate Shepard Elementary in Mobile, Ala., maintains a blog site where students can write to and speak with local officials.

"They talk to different people like congressmen or school superintendents," Sergeant Adams said, "It's a good way for them to learn writing skills and work on their communication skills."

When Sergeant Adams left for her deployment, the school invited her to join the site.

"We are so excited that Ms. Adams is sharing her experiences with our students," said Kate Shepard Elementary

Principal (Dr.) Michelle Dumas.

"Communicating through the blog allows students to utilize technology and expand their global awareness."

Since her arrival in Southwest Asia, Sergeant Adams said students have been sending her e-mails, pictures and letters. "I try my best to answer all of them," she said.

Some students have told her about relatives that serve in the armed forces. For those who don't have military family members, Sergeant Adams has taken the opportunity to not only help with academic questions, but also to educate her students about the Air Force and its mission.

"The boys will ask questions like, 'what kind of gun do you have?' or 'do you drive a tank?'," she said.

"They think of the Air Force and they think of planes, so I'm always asked if I'm a pilot. I tell the kids not everyone is a pilot, and I talk to them about my job as an aircraft mechanic along with other careers in the Air Force."

Sergeant Adams said her students also often ask about life in Southwest Asia. "They've asked about the country, what it looks like, and what they have here," she said. "I tell them there are malls, sports and music here just like at home. I sent a picture of me riding a camel and they were real excited about that."

Previously, Sergeant Adams taught fifth-grade students. This year, she was assigned to a kindergarten class and only had a brief time with her new pupils before deploying.

"Knowing I had to deploy, I didn't even tell them I was their teacher because I didn't want to worry them," she said. "They had more important things to think about than their teacher being gone for four months." However, she recently sent her new class a video of herself reading a storybook to them.

"The school's principal asked me to interact with them while here because when I come home, they won't be new students anymore," she said, "I don't want them to wonder who I am when I walk in."

In the meantime, her former and other students are enjoying the opportunity to communicate with Sergeant Adams.

"We have learned a lot about Ms. Adams' job in the Air Force by talking to her on the blog," said Rueben, a fourth grade student. "I have learned that not everyone in the Air Force is a pilot and carries a gun."

"We love to keep in touch with Ms. Adams on the blog because we really miss her," said Ebony, another fourth grader. "Our entire school is proud of her defending our country, but we can't wait for her to come back home to teaching."



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

Master Sgt. Linda Adams, 379th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron consolidated tool kit NCOIC, updates her blog, Tuesday, which allows her to stay in touch with her students while deployed. In addition to being an Air Force reservist, Sergeant Adams is a teacher at Kate Shepard Elementary in Mobile, Ala. She is deployed from Keesler Air Force Base, Miss. in support of operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

Spc. Lakeisha Hubbard

31st Air Defense Artillery Brigade
Human Resource Specialist

Home station: Ft. Sill, Oklahoma

Arrived in AOR: August

Deployment goals: To improve my physical fitness and earn more college credits in my job field.

Best part of the deployment: Opportunities for self-improvement.

Hobbies: Reading, dancing and singing.

Best Army memory: I would say that my best service moment was when my brigade touched ground in Southwest Asia. Although I am not in the line of fire, I feel proud to serve here with my unit and give back to my country.

Nominated by Sgt. Brittney Slaughter: "Specialist Hubbard has shown great professionalism, initiative, and ingenuity as the 31st ADA Brigade S-1 Clerk. She volunteered for this deployment knowing that she would have one of the most important jobs here, which is the accountability of our 31st ADA BDE personnel. She takes her job very seriously and takes great pride in her work. She has more than proved that she was the right person for this job and I'm glad to have her at part of our S-1 team."



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



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

Tech. Sgt. Jeremy Roberts

379th Expeditionary Medical Group
Bioenvironmental Engineering Craftsman

Home station: Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio

Arrived in AOR: July

Deployment goals: Get into shape.

Best part of the deployment: Learning new things in my career field.

Hobbies: Watching Iowa football on Saturday.

Best Air Force memory: When the first two Airmen who I wrote below-the-zone packages for both received BTZ.

Nominated by Tech. Sgt. Kevin Borth: "Sergeant Roberts excelled as an F-16 Fighting Falcon crew chief on the up-front, fast-paced flightline. Lessons learned in his previous AFSC have directly translated into a Bioenvironmental Engineer Craftsman who truly appreciates the occupational demands and dangers faced by Airmen who make the mission happen. Years of maintenance experience with hazardous materials, loud noise, extreme environmental temperatures and powerful machines have honed a keen eye for safety while conducting workplace health risk assessments."

Staff. Sgt. Marvin Rottenberg

379th Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron
Wheel and Tire Centralized Repair Facility NCOIC

Home station: Ramstein Air Base, Germany

Arrived in AOR: September

Deployment goals: Improve the Wheel and Tire process and increase the CRF's capability for future rotations, make sure my people have everything they need to accomplish the mission and make it through the rotation successfully.

Best part of the deployment: Additional pay. I hope to have my bills taken care of by the time I get home.

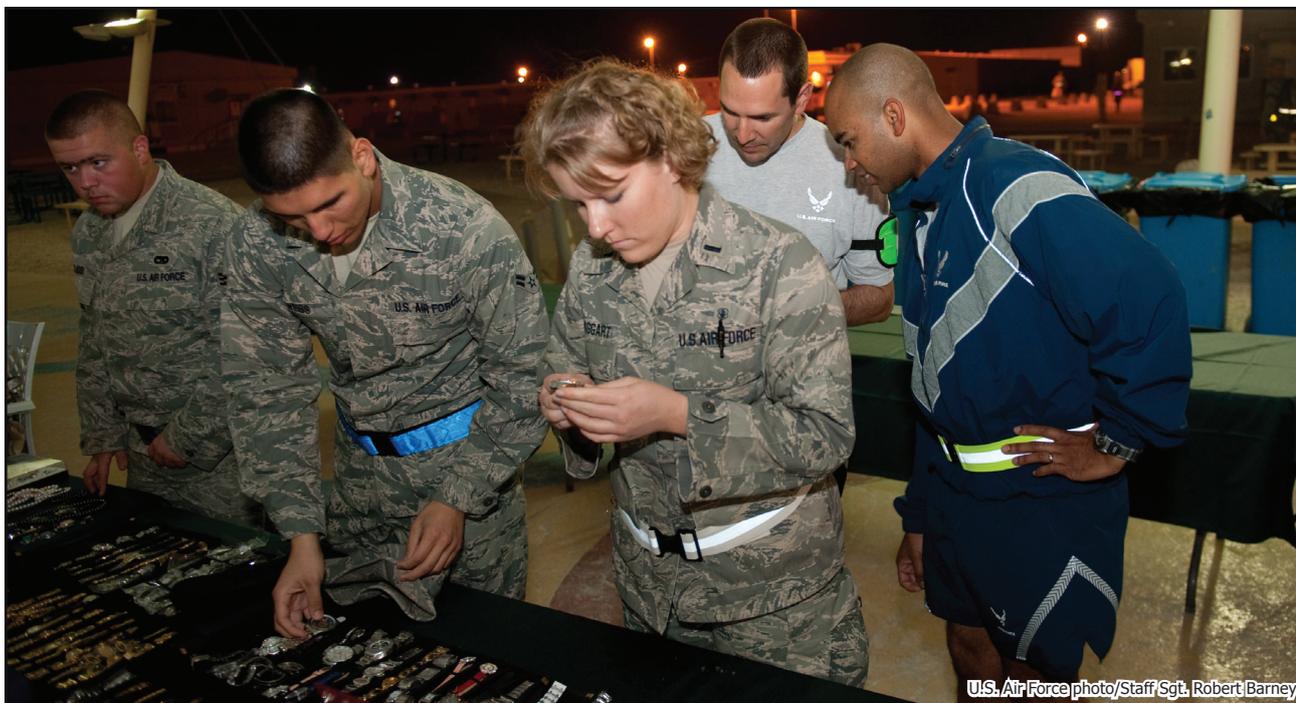
Hobbies: Touring the world on my Harley.

Best Air Force memory: I have a few. First was the day my wife and I were married on the beach. Second was the day I received orders to Germany. The final was the day I found out I was accepted for cross-training into Airborne Battle Management Systems.

Nominated by Senior Master Sgt. Lawrence Walker: "Sergeant Rottenberg has tireless energy. He constantly looks to improve his work center not only for himself and co-workers but for future rotations. His improvement ideas total more than \$700,000, which include new equipment that will reduce overall man hours and increase Wheel and Tire productivity more than 40 percent."



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



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

Above, Airmen shop at an on-base Bazaar, Nov. 24, in Southwest Asia. The 379th Expeditionary Force Support Squadron hosted a Bazaar to give Airmen more convenient access to local vendors that are normally off-base.



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

Senior Airman Scott Alberts, 379th Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron wheel and tire shop, separates a tire from its wheel during refurbishment, Nov. 20, in Southwest Asia. The wheel and tire shop refurbishes and maintains wheels and tires for a variety of aircraft operating throughout Southwest Asia.



Tech. Sgt. Zachary Pate, 64th Expeditionary Dining Facility Tuesday. Sergeant of operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.



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

Airmann 1st Class Brandon Brown, 379th Expeditionary Communications Squadron small computers technician, installs a new video card on a computer, Wednesday. The 379 ECS small computers section changes hardware in personal computers and supports client support administrators with software issues.



U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Kyle Ray

Airmann Support Squadron, unloads supplies at the Desert Pate is deployed from Buckley AFB, Colo., in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.



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

Capt. Michelle Parrack, 379th Air Expeditionary Wing protocol officer, salutes a departing distinguished visitor, Monday. The protocol office is responsible for the planning, coordination and logistical support of all 379 AEW distinguished visitors. Captain Parrack is deployed from NAS Fort Worth, Texas in support of operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

Clothing donation brings comfort in emergencies

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

People are often asked to volunteer their time and goods to help those less fortunate. Sometimes what is asked for strikes a personal note and spurs the potential volunteer into action.

This was the case for 1st Sgt. Julio Martinez of the 379th Expeditionary Operations Group, Army Priority Air Transport, Europe Flight Detachment, deployed from Ramstein Air Base, Germany.

"I saw the notification in the Daily Dispatch that the Emergency Leave Clothing Locker was looking for clothing donations; it brought back some memories that are near and dear to me," Sergeant Martinez said.

Two years ago, while stationed overseas, the first sergeant received a frightening phone call; his father had been involved in a fatal motorcycle accident on his way to work. Sergeant Martinez immediately flew home on emergency leave.

"My Dad who had always been, and still is, my role model, retired in 2005 with 23 years of service in the U.S. Army -- you can imagine how confused and desperate I felt when I received the news," Sergeant Martinez said.

When Sergeant Martinez read the news brief requesting civilian clothes for this cause, he remembered the feeling of agony he had felt on his trip back home after his father's accident. He decided this was a chance for him to help people who may be experiencing those same feelings, with just the simple gesture of clean clothes to wear home.

"I know that a set of cleans clothes may seem like a little thing considering



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

Senior Airman Robert Harms, 379th Expeditionary Mission Support Group Personnel Support for Contingency Operations reception control center representative, 1st Sgt. Julio Martinez, 379th Expeditionary Operations Group, Army Priority Air Transport, Europe Flight Detachment, and Senior Airman Stephanie Nash, 379 EFSS PERSCO reception control representative, unpack a donation of clothes at PERSCO, Wednesday. The clothes were donated by various organizations on Ramstein Air Base, Germany, 1st Sgt. Martinez' home station, for use by deployed servicemembers traveling home on emergency leave.

the circumstances servicemembers are going through while preparing for emergency leave; however, if getting clean clothes relieves their worries just a little, then the effort is definitely worth it," Sergeant Martinez said.

That night, he wrote an e-mail to his rear detachment commander and to the Family Support Group leader at Ramstein and asked them if they could place a couple of boxes in their work area to collect clothes for this effort.

When Army Sgt. Joseph Wichowski, U.S. Army Priority Air Transport, Europe Flight Detachment rear detachment commander, received an e-mail from Sergeant Martinez, he

immediately wanted to help his fellow servicemembers going through a difficult time. Sergeant Wichowski worked with the Family Support Group Leader Enza Martinez and, together, they sent messages to everyone they knew in the area -- collecting, packaging and sending three large boxes of clothes through the Military Postal Service Agency. The boxes arrived here in less than two weeks.

"I can honestly say, if a [servicemember] is ever in need, there is always another [servicemember] who is willing to help," Sergeant Wichowski said. "This is just a small privilege of being a servicemember supporting and defending our great country."

"I was pretty impressed with the support and care from everyone back home," Sergeant Martinez said.

On Nov. 25, Sergeant Martinez delivered the boxes to the 379th Expeditionary Mission Support Group Personnel Support for Contingency Operations.

"Servicemembers come through here on emergency leave after being downrange, under a large amount of stress, and this is just one less thing they have to worry about," said Senior Master Sgt. Lisa Casteel, PERSCO team chief, deployed from Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. "It is great to see servicemembers step up and support their fellow servicemembers -- with heart, empathy and respect."

GRAND SLAM FLASHBACK: NOVEMBER 1944



Activities of the 379th Bombardment Group centered mainly on strategic bombings of Germany's oil industry this month.

Of the 17 missions the group participated in, 12 raids were flown on oil refineries. The remainder of the missions was divided among two tactical missions, three-marshalling yard attacks, two airdrome bombings, and one mission on which bombs were dropped through the clouds on an industrial city.

Due to heavy cloud conditions, the group made extensive use of scouting forces who reported the weather over a given target in advance. A total of 688 aircraft from the 379th bombed enemy targets during the month, with an average of 40 aircraft for each mission flown. The group listed eight crews and one gunner who bailed out of aircraft as missing in action.

The 379th also celebrated the second anniversary of its existence.

Article provided courtesy of the 379 AEW History Office.

This Week's Caption Contest

Photo No. 151

The winner is...

"I know the keys are in here somewhere."

- Master Sgt. Christine Schiefer,
Air Force Forces A4, Air Trans

Honorable mention:

"Has anyone seen my contact?"

- Daniel Burruss,
379th Expeditionary Security Forces
Squadron



Photo No. 152 (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.

‘Repeat after me...’

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

Capt. Bruce Rolando, 332nd Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, officiates the reenlistment of his son, Staff Sgt. Joshua Rolando, 455th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron, in Southwest Asia, Nov. 21, 2009. The father-son pair met up while on a TDY to the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing from their respective deployments. Captain Rolando is deployed from Grand Forks Air Force Base, N.D. while Sergeant Rolando is deployed from RAF Lakenheath, England.

Father re-enlists son on flightline

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

Military service can be one of many bonds parents and children share. Few parents, however, get to reaffirm that bond with their child while both are in the middle of a military deployment.

Staff Sgt. Joshua Rolando was re-enlisted by his father, Capt. Bruce Rolando, in front of a B-1B Lancer on the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing flightline, Nov. 21.

The Rolandos were in Southwest Asia on temporary duty from separate deployments. Captain Rolando is deployed to Balad Air Base, Iraq, as part of the 332nd Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, while Sergeant Rolando is deployed to

the 455th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan.

Knowing they would only see each other here for two days, Captain Rolando wanted to take this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to re-enlist his son.

“My sole purpose, besides meeting with my counterparts, was to come re-enlist my son,” Captain Rolando, deployed from Grand Forks Air Force Base, N.D., said.

Military service is a tradition in the Rolando family. Captain Rolando’s father served in the Air Force and he himself has served nearly 30 years, first as active-duty and later transitioning to the Air Force Reserve. He met Sergeant Rolando’s mother at Grand Forks, where she was an Airman as well. In 2001,

already at 20 years of service, Captain Rolando received his commission through the Reserve Deserving Airman Commissioning Program.

“I was very excited,” Captain Rolando said of his son’s decision to join. “He was a star athlete in junior high and high school and excellent academically. One day he said ‘what do you think of me joining the Air Force?’ Both his mother and I said ‘when?’”

Sergeant Rolando recalled what led him to join the Air Force. “I wasn’t too motivated to go to school at the time,” he said. “I was working at a bar and I could have continued to do that while trying to squeeze school in, but instead I decided to join the Air Force and actually do something and have my schooling taken care of.”



Capt. Bruce Rolando, 332nd Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, looks over the shoulder of his son, Staff Sgt. Joshua Rolando, 455th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron, while signing reenlistment paperwork following a ceremony in Southwest Asia, Nov. 21.

During his first term in the Air Force, Sergeant Rolando has excelled. Taking after his mother, he was an Honor Graduate in basic training, was promoted to Senior Airman Below-the-Zone and passed the test for Staff Sergeant on his

first try. He is deployed to Bagram from Royal Air Force Lakenheath, England.

"I can't say how proud I am," Captain Rolando said of his son's accomplishments. "Joshua actually beat [his mother] in putting on staff by about

Squadron Officer College offers new distance learning courses

MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, Ala. (AFNS) -- Squadron Officer College instructors will be offering four new distance learning courses, based on selected competencies from the Air Force Competency List, to company grade officers beginning in 2010.

Basing the courses on Air Force competencies is important, said Dr. Norm Wagner, a Squadron Officer College faculty member and Company Grade Officer Leadership Development Program coordinator.

"That makes these courses relevant to these officers," he said. "Although targeting Air Force company grade officers, all courses will eventually be open to Air Force active-duty, Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard officers as well as officers from other services."

Doctor Wagner said Leadership Development Program personnel hope to

have the courses under way by the end of January, and the first classes will be small in number.

"We will be developing new processes in the first course, but once that is done and we find the mistakes and fix them, we will be able to open the courses up to everyone," he said.

Doctor Wagner said the four courses are titled Foundations of Officership, Flight Commander, Expeditionary Leadership and Organizational Leadership. They are self-paced, and students have up to six months to complete them. He said most students will probably take the courses that fit the needs of their career field.

The new program is important for the continuing education of company grade officers, said Lt. Col. Robert Hamilton, the Squadron Officer College Academic Affairs vice dean.

"[Courses] provide an outlet for docu-

30 days. He definitely gets his brains from his mother's side of the family."

As the 332 ESFS chief of logistics during his deployment, Captain Rolando found his son's job in logistics a fortuitous circumstance.

"He's been able to help a lot," Captain Rolando said. "Any time I have a computer issue, I go to him."

Out on the flightline, Captain Rolando said a few words to the gathered well-wishers. "Re-enlisting someone is not something I do all the time," he said. "It's a joyful occasion and a solemn occasion; it's joyful to me and to the troop because they're doing four more years of something they know and love. By the same token, it's solemn because they know they may be put into harm's way for four more years. But I know that [Sergeant Rolando] is 100 percent prepared."

After administering the oath to his son, the Rolandos signed the re-enlistment paperwork and then received a tour of the B-1 from the aircraft's crew chief.

"It was awesome," Sergeant Rolando said. "I work mainly with fighters or the heavies transporting our gear; I've never seen a bomber up close before."

Having committed himself to four more years of life in the Air Force, Sergeant Rolando said he is going to continue his education and follow in his father's footsteps and join the officer corps.

"I really like the Air Force and I want to have more of a leadership role," he said. "My plan is to apply to [Officer Training School] and hopefully by the time I'm done, Dad will be saluting me."

mented professional continuing education, and also provide knowledge applicable to the day-to-day job of CGOs," he said. "Since Air Force officers are CGOs for an extended period of time, this provides an opportunity to stay in the educational mindset between their regular professional military education."

Capt. Peter Axt, the Squadron Officer College director of operations for the Distance Learning Program, said as a young captain he would have enthusiastically taken an opportunity like this to receive additional education. He said information concerning the program will be available on the Squadron Officer College Web site at www.au.af.mil/au/soc/cgolp.html.

"We will have a registration site within the regular SOC site," he said. "Watch the SOC Web site for the exact starting dates for the program. We will post that information by the first of the year."



VICTORY CHAPEL

Open seven days a week,
24 hours a day,
'And overtime on Sundays'

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

Earth Religions

Wednesday

2 p.m., CC Ministry Center

Jewish

Friday

9 p.m., Multi-purpose room

Muslim

Buddhist

Orthodox

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

Current chapel classes

The 379th Air Expeditionary Wing Victory Chapel is now offering the following classes:

Sundays

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults:

Have you considered becoming Catholic? Are you already Catholic but want to know more about what the Church believes? Have you begun the RCIA process at an earlier time? Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Stephen Voyt will lead RCIA classes for those interested in making this faith journey, 9 a.m., Chapel Conference Room.

The Truth Project: This DVD-based small group study is designed to equip participants with a comprehensive biblical worldview. Practically and personally, participants will be reintroduced to the truth claims of God. Twelve, one-hour lessons detailing God's design for living out the Christian worldview in daily life. 6:30-8 p.m., CC Ministry Center.

Living Water Bible Study: An open discussion about God and life's most important issues. 1-2 a.m., Chapel Conference Room.

Mondays

Financial Peace University: How to get out of debt, stay out of debt and build wealth in a Godly manner. 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m., CAOC.

Boundaries Study: 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., Civil Engineer Conference Room (Building 8811).

Women's Study: Attendees will view and discuss the "Stepping Up" video series. 7:30-8:30 p.m., Chapel Multi-Purpose Room.

Tuesdays

NOOMA Video Series: A series of short films that explore the world from a perspective of Jesus. 4:30 p.m., Victory Chapel.

Christian Discipleship Bible Study: Learn how to be an intimate follower of Christ. Through the use of scripture study, Bible memory, and prayer participants can learn and have lessons to teach others. 7:30-9 p.m. CC Ministry Center (Building 10006).

Spiritual Discipline (Men's Study): Spiritual disciplines can be described as

behaviors that facilitate spiritual growth. Spiritual disciplines, then, are spiritual exercises that one engages in habitually which brings one closer to God and thus becomes more godly in character and behavior. 7:30 p.m., Chapel Multi-Purpose room.

Catholic Bible Study: "Ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ" -- St. Jerome. Vatican II called upon Catholics to know the Bible more profoundly so they may know Jesus, the Word of the Father. As the Year of St. Paul concludes, participants will delve into the Word of God. 8 p.m., Chapel Conference Room.

Wednesdays

Financial Peace University: 1-2 a.m. in the CC Ministry Center, 8-9 p.m. in the CC Ministry Center and Chapel Multi-Purpose Room and 6:30 p.m. in the CAOC AFFOR small conference room.

Latter Day Saints Men and Women's Study Group: 7-8 p.m., CC Ministry Center.

The Five Love Languages: Are you and your spouse speaking the same language? Participants will study Dr. Gary Chapman's book and learn the key to understanding each other's unique needs. 7-8 p.m., CAOC AFFOR large conference room.

Thursdays

Wild at Heart Study (Men): John Eldredge helps men rediscover their masculine heart, Wild at Heart, a guide to understanding Christian manhood and Christian men, offers a refreshing new look at manhood. 7-8:30 p.m., Chapel Multi-Purpose Room.

Church of Christ Bible Study: Study of the book of Revelation. 7:30-8:30, Chapel Conference Room.

Fridays

The Case For Christ: Video study based on Lee Strobel's book. 4:30-5:30 p.m., Victory Chapel Multi-Purpose Room.

Saturdays

No classes scheduled.

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

Hanukkah Celebration

The Jewish holiday celebration of Hanukkah will begin Dec. 11 at 5 p.m. and continue every evening through Dec. 18 in the Victory Chapel multi-purpose room. For more information, contact the chapel at 437-8811.

Community Joy Night

A Community Joy Night, which includes a night of music and preaching, will be held every Friday at 7:15 p.m. in Victory Chapel. For more information, contact the chapel at 437-8811.

379 ELRS Arming Requirements

The following items must be presented to the 379th Expeditionary Logistics and Readiness Squadron Armory to be issued a firearm and ammunition: current AF Form 522 (Weapon Qualification Card), DD Form 2760 (Qualification to possess firearm or ammo), a copy of CED orders and an authorization letter to bear firearms signed by an authorizing official. For more information, contact the Armory at 437-5125 or 437-6082.

U.S. Currency in AOR reduced

The Air Force Central Command commander recently signed a memo reducing U.S. currency in the AFCENT area of responsibility. To ensure compliance, check cashing limits with the 379th Expeditionary Comptroller Squadron are reduced to \$100 per month. In addition, Airmen may receive up to \$100 in U.S. currency per month as a debit from their EagleCash card. These actions reduce fraud and risk to servicemembers. If you have any questions, contact Finance at 437-7086.

Medical Appointments Trial Basis

In an effort to enhance customer service, the 379th Expeditionary Medical Group has begun to offer a limited number of primary care appointments on a trial basis. Same-day only appointments can be made by calling 437-4216 and are available Monday through Saturday from 7:20 a.m. to 5 p.m. Appointments should only be made for urgent care, not routine or follow-up care. As a reminder, patients can continue to be seen on a walk-in basis at the clinic, 24/7.

H1N1 Vaccine Now Available

The 379th Expeditionary Medical Group is offering H1N1 vaccines to all military servicemembers, to include Coalition, joint forces, civilians and contractors.

The vaccine is mandatory for military servicemembers. The vaccine is available 24/7 at the medical clinic on a walk-in basis. For more information, call 437-4234.

Uniform Disposal

The proper disposal of military uniforms is a force protection issue. The 379 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.

New Base Organization

The Southwest Asia FreeThought Association is a private organization comprised of atheists, agnostics, secular humanists, freethinkers and other non-religious individuals. Meetings are held weekly. For times, locations or more information, e-mail Tech Sgt. Richard Hamelin or call 437-5111.

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.

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.

Right Start and Right Finish

The mandatory Right Start and Right Finish briefings have been moved back to the CC Theater on Fridays. Right Start begins at 6:45 a.m. and Right Finish at 5 p.m.

Ranks of the Royal Air Force



Leading Aircraftman/Aircraftwoman
Comparable to Airman



Senior Aircraftman/Aircraftwoman
Comparable to Airman 1st Class



Senior Aircraftman/Aircraftwoman (Technician)
No equivalent



Junior Technician
Comparable to Senior Airman



Corporal
Comparable to Staff Sergeant



Sergeant
Comparable to Technical Sergeant



Chief Technician
Comparable to Master Sergeant



Flight Sergeant
Comparable to Senior Master Sergeant



Warrant Officer
Comparable to Chief Master Sergeant



Pilot Officer
Comparable to Second Lieutenant



Flying Officer
Comparable to First Lieutenant



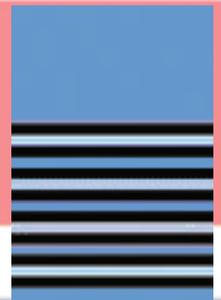
Flight Lieutenant
Comparable to Captain



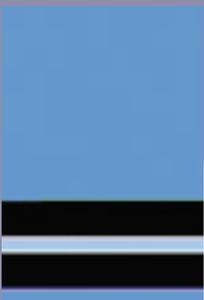
Squadron Leader
Comparable to Major



Wing Commander
Comparable to Lieutenant Colonel



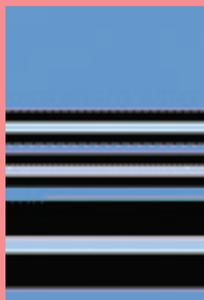
Group Captain
Comparable to Colonel



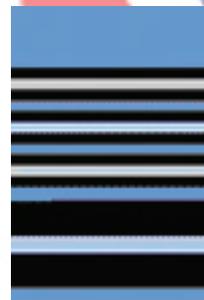
Air Commodore
Comparable to Brigadier General



Air Vice Marshal
Comparable to Major General



Air Marshal
Comparable to Lieutenant General



Air Chief Marshal
Comparable to General



Marshal of the Royal Air Force
Comparable to Air Force Chief of Staff