

# Krab KRONICLE

Volume 4 Issue 5

506th Air Expeditionary Group, Kirkuk Air Base, Iraq

February 27, 2006

## Air show hometown greeting

Airmen who are deployed to the AOR during their hometown's air show have the opportunity to film a video message. Spots will be played during air shows featuring the Air Force Thunderbirds.

This opportunity is open to any Air Force member deployed from or consider one of the following locations their hometown or home base:

Thunderbird air show schedule:

Creech AFB, NV	Ft Smith, AR
Punta Gorda, FL	Maxwell AFB, AL
Tyndall AFB, FL	March ARB, CA
Langley AFB, VA	Robins AFB, GA
	Cannon AFB, NM

Call Public Affairs at 444-2075 or e-mail [506aegpa@krab.centaf.af.mil](mailto:506aegpa@krab.centaf.af.mil) to schedule an appointment or for more information.

## Shirt's Uniform Tips

(Ref: 506 AEGI 36-2903)

**Cold Weather Camouflage Parka (Gortex):** Gortex jackets are authorized with all utility uniforms at any time. The jacket may be worn with the official Air Force PT uniform as weather dictates

Rank will remain on the jacket at all times. Cloth rank, desert shade, is preferred; if not available, subdued BDU insignia maybe worn on the front tab of the jacket. All zippers/buttons will be secured.

**Cold Weather Camouflage Pants (Gortex):** Gortex pants may be worn with or without the Gortex parka during cold and inclement weather, or as mission dictates.

**Gortex Black Fleece:** The black fleece jacket and trousers were issued to serve as liners for the Gortex parka and trousers. The fleece liners will not be worn as an outer garment.

To complete a Hometown News Release, go to <http://intranet.krab.centaf.af.mil/aeg/Public%5Faffairs/DOCS/DD2266.htm>



Photo by Staff Sgt. Kristina Barrett

Staff Sgt. Alvin Gonzalez, 727th Expeditionary Air Control Squadron, Det. 1, works out on one of the new stationary bikes at the Sand Blaster Fitness Center. The fitness center recently received 24 pieces of new equipment.

## Fitness center gets new equipment

By Staff Sgt. Kristina Barrett  
506th AEG Public Affairs

It was out with the old and in with the new at the Sand Blaster Fitness Center with the replacement of 24 pieces of fitness equipment.

The fitness center replaced 8 treadmills, 8 cross-trainers, 1 stair-stepper, 2 stationary bikes and 5 recumbent bikes.

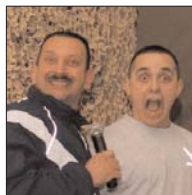
"The equipment was deteriorating," said Tech. Sgt. Dan Borca, fitness center NCOIC. "The belts on the treadmills were worn out and the condition of the other equipment was less than satisfactory."

Due the amount of dirt and mud on Kirkuk, the equipment was deteriorating quickly, according to Sergeant Borca.

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## What's Inside

### News



Who will be going on the the final round of KRAB Idol?

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### Feature



EACS keeps their eyes to the skies

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# General Buchanan bids farewell to Airmen

*9th Air Force and USCENTAF Commander sends message to war-fighting troops*

**By Lt. Gen. Walter E. Buchanan III**  
*9th Air Force/USCENTAF Commander*

As Sharon and I prepare to transition to the next chapter in our life, after almost 34 years in our Air Force, I can't help but take stock of the changes that have taken place during my career.

When I first joined the Air Force, the F-104, F-105 and F-100 were all frontline fighters; today we fly the F-15, F-16 and F-22. Then a flight of fighters would each drop six bombs to hit one target; today we drop one bomb to hit one target, and control the size of the weapon and its exact effect.

The science and technology of air and space power has changed exponentially. Today we're more efficient, accurate, responsive and lethal than at any previous point in history.

Through all that time, however, the one thing that has not changed has been the gold-  
en spirit of the individual American Airman.

The Airmen who make up today's Air Force are just as motivated, smart and dedicated as they ever were. As such, as I leave the active Air Force, I know the one thing I will miss the most is the people, the same Airmen that have literally carried me throughout my career. Because, first and foremost, we are a team – dedicated to each other and to accomplishing a mission on behalf of the American people.

I am proud to carry that spirit with me everywhere I go.

My time at Ninth Air Force and U.S. Central Command Air Forces has been the

apex of my Air Force career, and it has been an honor to lead our Airmen in combat. Together we have freed two countries from oppressive regimes and handed their future to their citizens.

Today, we are giving the people of Afghanistan and Iraq the opportunity to rebuild their

**Today, we are giving the people of Afghanistan and Iraq the opportunity to rebuild their nations and their futures. At the same time we continue the Global War on Terrorism as we secure the future, not only for others but for America and our own children as well.**

nations and their futures. At the same time we continue the Global War on Terrorism as we secure the future, not only for others but for America and our own children as well.

There is no more noble an effort than that, and I have never been more proud to be an Airman. Throughout my career, everything along the way has been in preparation for what we are doing now.

As I look back on almost 34 years, three tours in Europe, two remote tours, my wife and I raising our boys in the military environment – I would leave you with two thoughts.

First, appreciate and embrace what you have in our Air Force. During our time,



Sharon and I have met so many wonderful people and had tremendous opportunities at every step along the way. Yours is a noble profession. The experiences are what you make of them.

Second, be the kind of Airman you want your Airmen to be. The best possible form of leadership is leadership by example, and every Airman at every level has an opportunity to do that every single day.

Bottom line – be the kind of Airman you want your Airmen to be.

The future is going to be an exciting time to be an Airman in our Air Force. For all the changes that have occurred since I joined the Air Force, the speed of technology and development will only increase in the years to come. You are on the leading edge of a very exciting time. Sharon and I thank you for your support and friendship over the years.

We depart with such wonderful memories and will continue to do our part as a member of our "active" retired force.

We wish you nothing but clear skies in the years to come. May God bless your noble efforts.



**Col. Pete Hronek**  
Commander  
506th AEG

**Lt. Col. Dave Carrell**  
Deputy Commander  
506th AEG

**Staff Sgt. Kristina Barrett**  
Editor/Chief, Public Affairs  
**Airman 1st Class JoAnn White**  
Photographer

## Krab KRONICLE

Vol. 4, Issue 5 Feb. 27, 2006

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For more information, call 444-2075, or e-mail the editor/chief.



Photo by Airman 1st Class JoAnn White

## KRAB Idol semi-final winners

After the semi-final round of KRAB Idol, six contestants remain to go on to the finals. Capt. Aristides Jimenez, poses with the semi-finalists. Winners are: Cowboy Matt, Army Sgt. Dinard Edwards, Army Sgt. Robin Richardson, Staff Sgt. Dixie Brennan, Senior Airman Estevan Trujillo and Army Sgt. Dan Wills. The final KRAB Idol is scheduled for Friday, March 3 at 8 p.m. at the Clamtina.

## New and improved *Continued From Page 1*

“The equipment was very noisy and the belts were squeaking,” agreed Airman Jeff Huestis, also from Beale. “We tried to maintain them as best we could but the dirt was fighting against us.”

This is good news to Airmen who have made a vow to get fit on deployment. Most of the fitness center staff, all of whom are deployed from Beale Air Force Base, Calif., have received training on how to be personal trainers.

In addition, the staff can help people reach their fitness goals, such as weight loss. Staff Sgt. Doug Page not only runs the “Biggest Loser” program at the KRAB, he’s also a participant.

“I’ve been able to lose 13 pounds in just about 1 month,” Sergeant Page said. “This is a motivator for me because I am learning to be a personal trainer but how can I teach someone to be fit if I’m not fit myself.”

Flyers are available to those who want to start a self-directed program. They contain the basic guidelines for training and have specific topics to help people work on their target areas.

“This is a great opportunity for people to come down and see what we have to offer here,” he said. “If they are trying to get fit, we have cardio and strength training equipment to get them going.”

The Sand Blaster consists of two modular buildings in the cantonment area. One building holds cardiovascular training equipment, a room equipped with bikes for spin class and a room with mats, for the very popular “ab” class. The second building houses weight machines and weights to increase muscular fitness. The fitness center is able to accommodate all fitness regimens.

“The fitness center offers self-directed programs to motivate people to work out,”

Sergeant Borca explained. “We have a computer tracking system where people can log in how many miles they’ve done. Once they hit a milestone, they let one of the staff know and they receive a t-shirt.”

For the competitive spirit, the Sand Blaster has a variety of contests happening through the month, such as bench press, sit-ups and arm wrestling.

“We’d like to invite everyone to stop by the fitness center and see what we have to offer,” Sergeant Borca said. “We want everyone to meet and exceed their personal fitness goals. Also, help us maintain the quality of facility and exercise equipment we offer by putting away the weights and wiping the machine after each use.”

The Sand Blaster is open all day, every day. A schedule of events is available on Page 11 of the Krab Kronicle and is posted at the fitness center.



Photo by Airman 1st Class JoAnn White

### Final Honor for the fallen

Senior Airman Helen Ortiz, Master Sgt. Allan Perry and Senior Airman Christian Garcia-Alaniz, 506th Expeditionary Communications Squadron, perform a flag folding ceremony to honor a fellow communications Airman, Staff Sgt. Luis Melendez-Sanchez, who was killed in a helicopter crash in Djibouti supporting Operation Enduring Freedom.

## OPSEC

# Critical in today's, tomorrow's war

By Staff Sgt. Melissa Koskovich  
CENTAF-Fwd Public Affairs

The flames from the helicopter crash glow in the night. The souls on board pull themselves from the wreckage and take cover nearby. At another location, the rescue crew begins their journey to the site. The fate of this mission however, may not lie solely in the hands of the recovery crew; it could also depend on a simple phone call made 500 miles away.

“Operational Security is about keeping people alive, and making sure the mission succeeds,” said Lt. Col. Robert Ehlers, Information Warfare Division chief at the Combined Air Operations Center here. “Even the smallest piece of information given over the phone or through an e-mail could put the mission in danger.”

Not all information that needs to be protected is classified, he added.

“OPSEC is primarily about protecting unclassified, but sensitive information that could create operational risks,” said Staff Sgt. Christopher Wilson, CAOC OPSEC program manager. “This could be one piece of information or ten, pieced together from

different sources.”

Give the enemy little clues and they may be able to piece together the bigger picture of how we fight and win wars, said Colonel Ehlers.

“Even the smallest piece of information, like a flight time or a call sign, can tell the enemy something important about our operations, what our job here is, how we use combat equipment and what our tactics are,” he said.

Colonel Ehlers contends that while most people are educated on OPSEC, workplace complacency can sometimes get in the way.

“It might take a minute or two to find a secure phone or log on to a secure computer,” said Sergeant Wilson. “And after a long day, it might not seem worth it, but it is the right thing to do.”

If you have any doubt in your mind – go secure. Lives could depend on it.

“With very few exceptions, people can find a secure means of transmitting the information, whether it’s over a secure computer or phone system,” said Colonel Ehlers.

Disclosing information over unsecured phones and e-mail are not the only ways the enemy gathers sensitive information.

“Third Country Nationals are also a bit of a concern – the people who work at the dining facility, do the laundry and clean the cadillacs – they’re generally good people, but we can’t be sure they’re all good,” said Sergeant Wilson. “People need to be mindful of their surroundings and watch what they say.”

In addition, all sensitive information, including mailing labels, should be shredded, he said.

When individuals take the mission into their own hands and disregard OPSEC, the effects can be devastating, said Colonel Ehlers.

“There are neutral and unfriendly intelligence services listening to us all the time,” he continued. “We have to be aware that they’re out there, and remember that OPSEC is not just about mission success and saving lives in this war, it’s about mission success and saving lives in the next war as well.”

With good OPSEC, the rescue crew reaches the survivors of the helicopter crash, secures the site and begins the journey home. The mission was a success. Even though the sound on the phone was garbled, the right decision to “go secure” was made.

# HQ Air Force realigns similar to 'J-staff' model

by Staff Sgt. C. Todd Lopez  
Air Force Print News

**WASHINGTON** — The staff functions at Headquarters Air Force, major commands and warfighting headquarters will soon all share the same “A-staff” structure.

The Air Staff at Headquarters Air Force adopted an organizational structure that closely mirrors the Army’s “G-staff,” the Navy’s “N-staff” and the joint “J-staff.” The effort will help the Air Force optimize internal communications and communicate more efficiently with other services,

The affected Air Force functions will be re-named and re-aligned so similar functions at all levels are referred to by the same name. Those same functional groupings will closely match other services and the joint staff.

Changes at major commands and warfighter headquarters’ levels that have not yet adopted the A-staff structure will follow suit by May 1. Similar functions at all levels will be “re-mapped” to nine standardized A-staff areas of responsibility.

As part of the A-Staff structure, the Air Force assistant vice chief of staff will also serve as the director of staff. This title allows for better association with the joint staff and other services. Retaining the assistant vice chief of staff nomenclature is required to fulfill the representational role the person plays in dealing with attaches and communication to foreign contingents while representing the chief of staff.

Not all functions of the Air Staff will be affected by the reorganization. The reorganization will not change special staff offices assigned to the Secretary of the Air Force and will not filter down to the wing level.

**A-Staff** Realigning headquarters to improve communication within the Air Force and with our sister Services and joint headquarters

- A1** Manpower and Personnel
- A2** Intelligence
- A3** Air, Space and Information Operations
- A4** Logistics
- A5** Plans and Requirements
- A6** Communications
- A7** Installations and Mission Support
- A8** Strategic Plans and Programs
- A9** Analyses, Assessments and Lessons Learned

Air Force News Agency

## Around the Air Force

### Good Conduct Medal eliminated

**WASHINGTON** — The Air Force Uniform Board announced Feb. 6 that the Good Conduct Medal will no longer be awarded.

The medal was created in the 1960s. The military was using the draft and involved in the Vietnam War. The Air Force didn’t have any other method to recognize Airmen. Today, the Air Force Achievement Medal recognizes outstanding Airmanship.

When we looked at that history it was clear that the Good Conduct Medal has outlived its usefulness,” said Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Gerald R. Murray. “Today’s all-volunteer force is committed to serving honorably, and good conduct is what we expect from every Airman — officer and enlisted.”

“We live by our core values,” Chief Murray said. “When members of our service stray from those values, they do themselves and all Airmen a disservice. When that happens, commanders have the tools they need to evaluate the situation and the individual’s worthiness for continued service.”

It is the uniform, not the Good Conduct Medal, that represents what Airmen are all about.

Airmen who have previously earned the Good Conduct Medal are still authorized to wear it.

### Leaders approve uniform, boot design

**LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla.** —The new Air Force utility uniform has been approved.

The Air Force’s major command leaders OK’d the final design of the new wash-and-wear Airman Battle Uniform.

The final approval follows months of testing of a preliminary design intended to replace both the woodland and desert-pattern Battle Dress Uniform airmen now wear.

While Air Force leaders made minor adjustments, one thing that is not changing is the color scheme, a tan-and-green pixilated tiger stripe pattern. It replaced the blue-and-gray tiger stripe pattern that saw widespread negative reviews when it was tested in spring 2004.

Other design tweaks is the addition of a pocket on each sleeve, intended to allow easy access to small items while wearing body armor.

The blouse also will feature four sets of pockets, double the number initially planned, with the lower two meant to be accessible while wearing body armor.

Uniforms will be available in approximately 44 different sizes for men and women.

The cost of the uniform in its final design was not available, but early cost estimates were in the neighborhood of \$70.

In addition, new boot designs were approved. In final form, the boot will be made from no-shine muted blue-green suede that will match the uniform.

A final cost of the new boot wasn’t available, but initial estimates when the five contenders went out for consideration put the price around \$100 per pair. The boot will come in male and female sizes.

Two uniform design issues remain unresolved; T-shirt design and the regular duty hat.

The favored T-shirt design features synthetic moisture-wicking material. The problem is that aircrews and firefighters are allowed to wear only cotton T-shirts because the natural fabric is more flame resistant.

The Air Force will still have to decide if they’ll use both fabrics. The shirt will feature an emblem or words to let people know the wearer is in the Air Force.

The other item still to be settled is the shape of the regular duty hat.

# Northern Watchtower

*In the skies of Iraq, technology developed in the 1940s helps fight a 21st Century war.*

**Story and photos by  
Staff Sgt. Kristina Barrett  
506th AEG Public Affairs**

*From their unique vantage point high above Kirkuk Air Base, Iraq, two radar dishes search the sky. It's almost as if their slow cyclonic pace hypnotizes everything in its airspace to spill their deep dark secrets – friend or foe?*

*In the valley between the two radar sites, 37 Airmen work around the clock searching for threats and maintaining air superiority. The Kingpins, named so because they are in control of the skies, are using technology that's been around since World War II but has evolved into a field of microchips and computers. While the radars have been upgraded, the significant change lies in the receivers and their capability to process the information. The difference now is how that information gets used.*

*Complimenting the radar is a combination of off the shelf technology adapted for military use and next-generation computers.*

*The old and the new blend together to produce battlespace awareness for more than 180,864 square miles of Northern airspace. The information the Kingpins of Northern Iraq produce is used to make decisions at levels ranging from the cockpit of a fighter to that of the Joint Forces Air Component Commander.*



# Guard unit keeps an eye on the sky

## Battle for the skies

Supplied with data received from Ali Air Base, Iraq, the Airmen of the 727th Expeditionary Air Control Squadron provide command and control capabilities of more than 270,000 square miles of airspace for the Control and Reporting Center at Balad Air Base, Iraq. Captain Aristides Jimenez leads this group of vigilant warriors, the “Quijotes,” from the Puerto Rico Air National Guard. Simply put, “If it flies, we see it,” he said.

The sight picture is sent from the CRC back to Kirkuk, who then pushes the information out to aircrews, providing them battlespace awareness beyond their line of sight. The information is also supplied to the Combined Air Operations Center, providing coalition forces the entire air sight picture. In conjunction with Balad, the ACS operates ground-based mobile radar elements capable of executing air defense, offensive air operations and airspace control while exercising tactical control over air defense missions and providing air battle management, early warning and fighter control.

“We have the capability to connect to aircraft flying missions in Iraq. In Balad, they also have the capability to link to Army medium and high altitude surface-to-air missile units and may have authority for launch control and target assignment,” Captain Jimenez explained. “We can talk to anyone, anywhere and act as a link between ground forces and the aircraft. We are an important piece of the puzzle.”

Even though the squadron has the ability to talk directly with coalition aircraft, this aspect of their capabilities is controlled by the CRC at Balad, according to Master Sgt. Rafael Rodriguez, ground radio superintendent. “Because of our location and capabilities, we allow the uplink between the CAOC, ground and air forces and other deployed radar sites.”

Ground radio technicians Senior Airman Francisco Rivera and Staff Sgt. Javier Mercado maintain the equipment and they know how much is riding on the informa-

tion they provide. “Since we provide the ability for long-range communication, if Balad’s antennae can’t reach up to the Northern part of the country, they use us,” Sergeant Mercado said.

Special equipment allows the Airmen to link up with air and ground forces but it’s the radar that helps them see all. “We were able to achieve air superiority because of our radar capabilities,” Captain Jimenez said. “We have the long range capabilities to adapt and react to anything flying.”

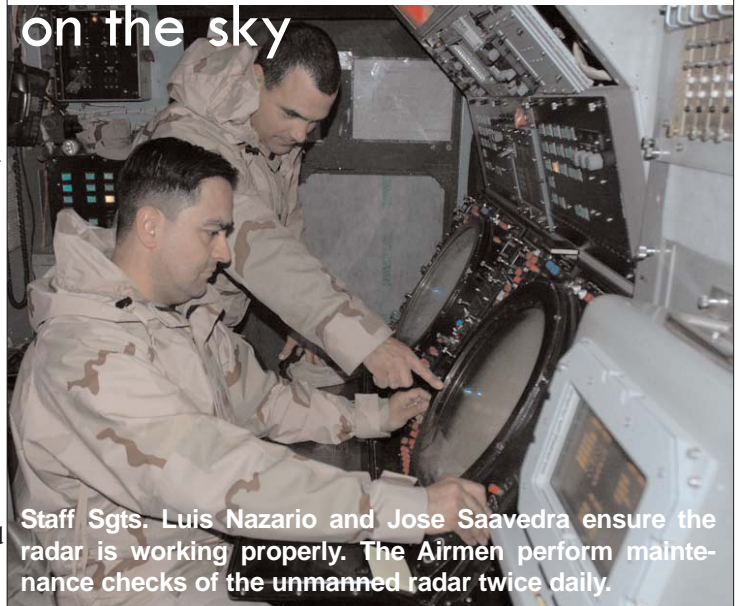
Senior Airman William Freytes, who is one of the unit’s electronic protection technicians, agrees. “We can jam radar coming from non-coalition forces but no one can jam us,” he explained. “We see them but they don’t see us. It’s my job to make sure they don’t.”

## Name and status

As an aircraft enters the radar’s territory it is interrogated and convinced to give up its aircraft identifier. This number classifies the aircraft and friend or foe. “We see everything that moves in our airspace. Even if an aircraft, such as a fighter, tries to hide under a larger aircraft, we can still see it,”

said Chief Master Sgt. Jose Hernandez, maintenance superintendent. “Our systems communicate electronically with the aircraft in the air and if those planes don’t identify themselves, we push that information forward and forces in Balad take action.”

What makes this possible is the Situational Awareness Data Link, or SADL, which is an enhanced position location reporting system modified for aircraft use and establishes a common secure tactical



Staff Sgts. Luis Nazario and Jose Saavedra ensure the radar is working properly. The Airmen perform maintenance checks of the unmanned radar twice daily.

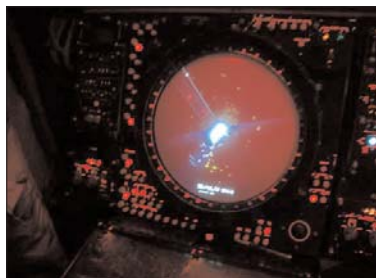
data link network. Military aircraft are equipped with a tactical data information link, which is primarily used by command and control and air-to-air assets. TADIL provides a picture of the air battlefield but have limited uses on the ground for close air support assets.

“Because air and ground forces don’t speak the same electrical language, SADL acts as a translator between the two,” said Staff Sgt. Antonio Acosta, digital maintenance technician. “In the theater of operations, the ground and air picture is combines so both know what is happening either above or below them.”

SADL equipped aircraft can create their own air-to-air network or join an existing ground network. Aircrews can view cockpit displays showing both airborne and ground activities.

All of the data produced by the 727th EACS makes its way to the 84th Radar Evaluation Squadron at Hill Air Force Base, Utah, which combines and analyzes the data. In turn, the 84th RADES helps the ACS improve their effectiveness by supplying information on aligning and adjusting the radar.

Providing mobile, combat-related air battle management, the unit brings to the fight the ability of surveillance, weapons control, tactical data links, accounting for forces and airspace deconfliction. This information goes a long way in determining how we fight. The 84th RADES uses the information to optimize and enhance current and future aerospace operations.



## Blips on the radar

Radar technology was used for the first time as early warning systems to detect enemy aircraft approaching ally forces. Before World War II, airspace control and deconfliction were rarely issues. The planes, airships and balloons of the day were few in number, slow and easy to identify. The introduction of air defense missile systems, cruise missiles, and unmanned aerial vehicles to the modern battlefield increased the Services' theater airspace control requirements. The modern challenges of joint air operations require a more complex and dynamic airspace control system.

The equipment in use by the squadron has both manned and remote capabilities. One relic left behind with the Cold War was the requirement the scopes be manned. Now the equipment allows the ability for remote operation. "We can operate the radar from this site or send the signal someplace else," said Staff Sgt Jose Saavedra, radar maintenance technician. For the mission here, the radar is sent remotely from the hilltop to the valley. "We are a target sitting on top of the hill."

Because of the radio frequency field generated by the radar, sometimes the threat may be headed toward the radar, something electronic protection technicians like Staff Sgt. Luis Nazario try to avoid. "We have jamming and decoy capabilities for threats trained on this site." Currently insurgents

operating in Iraq don't have this capability, but other countries do. "We have to be aware and we're the first to see threats either coming our way or coming into our airspace," he added.

Because the squadron is a 24/7 operation, remote operation also allows for fewer Airmen to man the site, increasing their ability for rapid redeployment to anywhere in the AOR. The facility at Kirkuk is a

"semi-fixed" home base, which means they can deploy with their radar and some equipment anywhere within 72 hours with the same capabilities as they have here.

The AN/TPS 75 Radar System, "Tipsy 75", is a mobile, tactical radar system capable of providing radar azimuth, range, height, and Identification Friend or Foe information for over 200-nautical-mile area. This deployable radar system is capable of providing long range radar data to support operations and control of tactical aircraft.

The radar receiver allows the operators to determine the range, direction and altitude of the threat, making identifying it a lot easier. From the radar's lofty position, the unit will be the first ones aware of a foe infiltrating Iraqi airspace. "When we see something we know where it's coming from by its position on the radar," Sergeant Nazario explained. "We are the eyes and ears of Northern Iraq."

The mobile ground radar set designed to conduct long-range search and altitude-finding operations simultaneously. The self-contained data gathering system operates independent of inclement weather and jamming. The system weighs about 8,400 pounds. The antenna operates from sea level to 10,000 feet in conditions that include winds up to 52 knots, ice as much as 1.2 radial inches in thickness, and heat up to 120 degrees Fahrenheit with 95 percent humidity.

Tear down and build up of the radar and its components can occur all within three hours. The unit has 83 pieces of tactical equipment and supplies all of their own power and maintenance in house. Master Sgt. Jose Banuchi manages the more than 2,000 parts the squadron must maintain. Due to their location, many parts have a long delivery time. "We pre-position parts at this location so we can ensure our downtime is kept to a minimum."

Keeping parts in stock and Airmen on site allows a 99 percent equipment and communications uptime rate.

"We're not just achieving it, we're maintaining it," Captain Jimenez said. "In the field conditions we are in and in a combat environment, we have exceeded the standards set by Air Combat Command. We are going above and beyond, which has been maintained by ACS units in Iraq for almost three years."

## Quijotes

Air Expeditionary Force rotation 9/10 marks the first time Air National Guard members have complete control over the skies in Iraq. The three sites are operated by a combination of Airmen from the 117th ACS, Georgia Air National Guard and the 141st ACS, Puerto Rico ANG. The deployed radar site in Ali is manned by eight Guardsmen, while the CRC in Balad is operated by more than 240. For the EACS unit here, 35 Airmen are from Puerto Rico and count just one member from the 117th and one member from the 109th Air Control Squadron, Utah Air National Guard.

"For us it's about coming here and doing a job and to make a statement," Captain Jimenez said. "We are not just in the Air Force – we represent the Air National Guard and we represent Puerto Rico. We are the Quijotes."

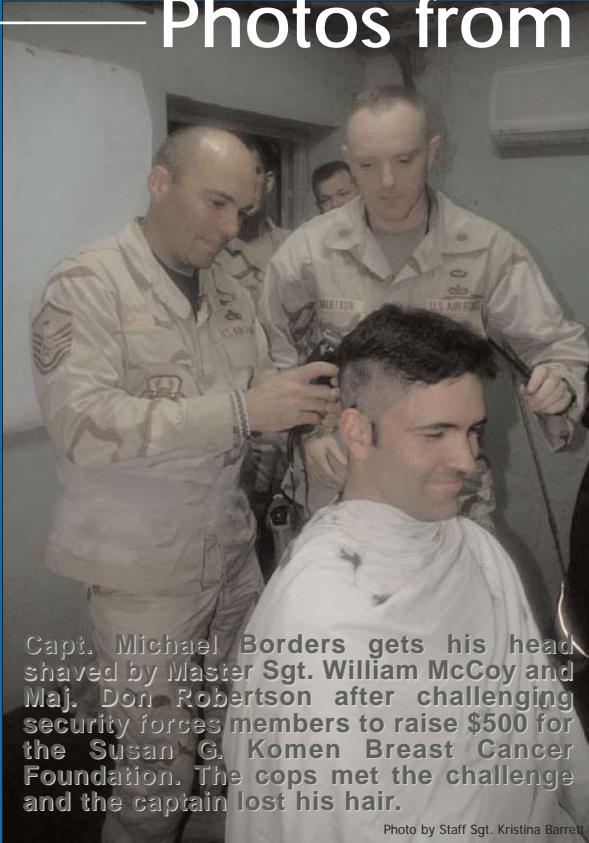
Quijote is a 14th Century Spanish hero. He is an altruist traveler who protects the innocent and fights the enemies of justice. Airmen of the 727th ACS are the Quijotes of Operation Iraqi Freedom, vanquishing the foes and keeping the skies clear while remaining ever vigilant.



**Master Sgt. Jose Banuchi adjust dials on the remote radio system.**

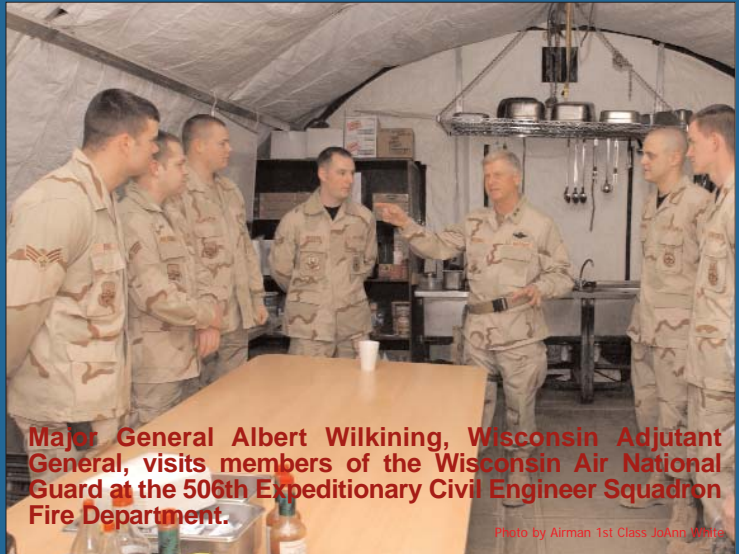


# Photos from around the KRAB



Capt. Michael Borders gets his head shaved by Master Sgt. William McCoy and Maj. Don Robertson after challenging security forces members to raise \$500 for the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. The cops met the challenge and the captain lost his hair.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Kristina Barrett



Major General Albert Wilking, Wisconsin Adjutant General, visits members of the Wisconsin Air National Guard at the 506th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron Fire Department.

Photo by Airman 1st Class JoAnn Smith



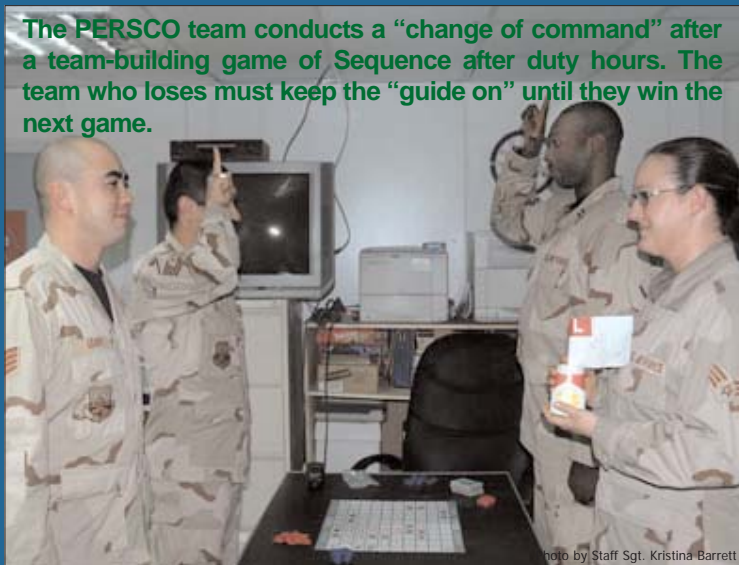
Staff Sgt. Robert Beck communicates with helicopters flying over the airfield. Sergeant Beck is an air traffic controller with the 506th Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Kristina Barrett



Master Sgt. Larry Nara of the safety office conducts radar speed control at Thomas Ave. Safety will be conducting radar surveillance at various locations throughout the installation to ensure speed limits are obeyed.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Kristina Barrett



The PERSCO team conducts a "change of command" after a team-building game of Sequence after duty hours. The team who loses must keep the "guide on" until they win the next game.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Kristina Barrett

# Chaplain's Thoughts



By Chaplain Jason Peters

How “Spiritually Fit” are you? At the KRAB, there is clearly an interest in “Spiritual Fitness.” Literally hundreds of Airmen and Soldiers gather each week in various venues to enhance their “Spiritual Fitness.” It’s just a small reflection of our culture’s interest in developing spiritually.

In fact, a recent Google search for the phrase “Spiritual Fitness” produced about 28,500 hits ranging from a Spiritual Fitness CD from a site that claims to be “inspired by herbs” to a store that retails T-shirts “designed especially for your mind, body and soul.” That’s a little outrageous, if you ask me!

Obviously, “Spiritual Fitness” is a popular concept, but what does it really mean? I think it has to do with the realization there is something else out there, there is another “reality.” That is why you may hear me say in one of my sermons I think we are living in “The Matrix.” Well, we may not really be living inside the “The Matrix,” but I do believe the reality we experience sensually is not all there is! There is another reality

we operate in — a spiritual reality! We all know there is something there, but we’re not quite sure who to trust or what to believe.

Of course, some people think “ignorance is bliss” and just disregard the whole concept

of a spiritual reality. You may remember that scene from “The Matrix” when Cypher knows that the steak he is eating isn’t real. He knows it’s bogus and the Matrix is telling him the steak is juicy and delicious, but he prefers to live in ignorance. Maybe you know some people like that.

Recent research indicates that genuine “Spiritual Fitness” is ultimately about connection — authentic connection with some-

thing greater than yourself and intimate connection with others! Personally, I believe one’s spiritual fitness level is directly related to their relationship with God, and with the brothers and sisters they share this terrestrial journey with. So, let me ask you again, how “Spiritually Fit” are you? This deployment may be the perfect time to significantly enhance your spiritual fitness — get connected!

KRAB Religious Schedule	
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
11:30 a.m. — Catholic Mass (Freedom Chapel)	11:30 a.m. — Catholic Mass (Freedom Chapel)
7 p.m. — Ladies Fellowship (Freedom Chapel)	7 p.m. — Gospel Choir Practice (Freedom Chapel)
7 p.m. — Catholic Fellowship Discussion Group (Hotel Charlie)	<b>Saturday</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	7 p.m. — Catholic Mass (Freedom Chapel)
7 p.m. — Protestant Praise Team (Freedom Chapel)	7 p.m. — Gospel Joy Night (Bastogne Chapel)
7 p.m. — Men’s Bible Study (Bastogne Chapel)	8:15 p.m. — Rosary/Catholic Mass (DFAC)
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Sunday</b>
11:30 a.m. — Catholic Mass (Freedom Chapel)	8 a.m. — Gospel Service (Freedom Chapel)
7 p.m. — Gospel Service Bible Study (Freedom Chapel)	9 a.m. — Catholic Mass (Bastogne Chapel)
7 p.m. — Bible Study (Bastogne Chapel)	10 a.m. — Contemporary Worship Service (Freedom Chapel)
<b>Thursday</b>	11 a.m. — General Protestant Service (Bastogne Chapel)
7 p.m. — Protestant Praise Team (Freedom Chapel)	11:30 a.m. — Catholic Mass (Freedom Chapel)
7:30 p.m. — Praise Team (Bastogne Chapel)	1 p.m. — Protestant Sunday School (Freedom Chapel)
8 p.m. — “Common Ground Kirkuk” Protestant Community (Freedom Chapel)	1:30 p.m. — LDS Service (Bastogne Chapel)
	7 p.m. — Contemporary with Communion Worship Services (Freedom Chapel)

# Sects of Islam: The Druze

By Capt. Matthew Ence  
Middle East Foreign Affairs Officer



While there are two main branches of Islam (Sunni and Shi’a), there are also dozens of smaller Islamic sects scattered throughout the Muslim world, one is the Druze.

It is estimated the Druze number at most only one million around the world, including Syria, Turkey and Jordan and Israel. They appear to have branched off the Shi’a theology around the 11th century and are influenced by both Christianity

and Classical Greek philosophy.

Most Muslims in the region do not consider the Druze to be Muslim and throughout their history they were routinely and brutally persecuted by other Muslim communities. Due to this persecution, the Druze have accepted the practice of taqiyya (takeeyah) in which they outwardly assume the tenets of the dominant Muslim religious beliefs while secretly adhering to the Druze faith.

In Israel, the Druze have served in the Israeli army since 1948. Several prominent Israeli spies have been Druze and they are widely regarded by Israeli society as the perfect example of an Israeli patriot.

Because of their secretive nature — they don’t accept converts and strongly discourage conversion to other faiths — little detail is known about their religious beliefs. They strongly emphasize the oneness of God

and place importance on prophets common to Christianity, Judaism and Islam.

They do not practice polygamy or use tobacco, alcohol or pork. Women are considered equal to men in all aspects and are regarded as spiritually superior to men. Druzi women figure prominently in religious leadership, in sharp contrast to the surrounding Christian and Muslim communities.

## Clamtina Events

### Mondays

Hearts 8 p.m.  
 Dominoes 8:15 p.m.

### Tuesdays

Feb. 28 Mardi Gras Party 8 p.m.  
 Texas Hold 'Em 8 p.m.  
 8-Ball/9-Ball 8:15 p.m.

### Wednesdays

Darts 7 p.m.  
 Spades 8 p.m.

### Thursdays

Blackjack 8 p.m.

### Fridays

March 3 KRAB Idol 8 p.m.  
 March 10 Hip Hop Night 8 p.m.

### Saturdays

March 4 HALO Tournament 10 a.m.  
 Progressive BINGO 8 p.m.

Karaoke 9:30

### Sundays

March 5 Chess Tournament 2 p.m.  
 Foosball 7 p.m.  
 Texas Hold 'Em 8 p.m.

## Fitness Center Events

### Mondays

Ab Class - 5:30 a.m. Spin Class - 5 and 6:30 a.m.  
 Ju Jitsu 7 p.m.

### Tuesdays

Feb. 28 Dodgeball Competition 8 p.m.  
 March 7 Boxing Basics/Spin Class 7:30 p.m.  
 March 7 Arm Wrestling Competition 8 p.m.

### Wednesdays

Ab Class - 5:30 a.m. Spin Class - 5 and 6:30 a.m.  
 March 8 Ju Jitsu 7:30 p.m.

### Thursdays

Spin Class 7:30 p.m.  
 March 2 Push Up Competition 8 a.m.  
 March 9 Sit Up Competition 8 a.m.

### Fridays

Ab Class - 5:30 a.m. Spin Class - 5 and 6:30 a.m.  
 Boxing Basics 7:30 p.m.

### Saturdays

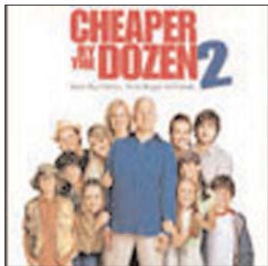
5K Run 10 a.m.  
 Spin Class 7:30 p.m.

### Sundays

KRAB Cup 2 p.m.  
 Spin Class 7:30 p.m.



# KRABusters Video



**Monday, Feb. 27**  
 0700 & 1900 History of Violence  
 1000 & 2200 Daddy Daycare  
 1300 & 0100 Big Brass Ring  
 1600 & 0400 Carousel

**Tuesday, Feb. 28**  
 0700 & 1900 Into the Blue  
 1000 & 2200 Raiders of the Lost Ark  
 1300 & 0100 Mummy Returns  
 1600 & 0400 Sidewalks of New York

**Wednesday, March 1**  
 0700 & 1900 The Ringer  
 1000 & 2200 Heartbreak Ridge  
 1300 & 0100 Desert Blue  
 1600 & 0400 Holy Man

**Thursday, March 2**  
 0700 & 1900 Lord of War  
 1000 & 2200 Salem's Lot  
 1300 & 0100 On The Line  
 1600 & 0400 Winter's End

**Friday, March 3**  
 0700 & 1900 Skeleton Key  
 1000 & 2200 Prelude to A Kiss  
 1300 & 0100 Double Vision  
 1600 & 0400 Kick Boxer

**Saturday, March 4**  
 0700 & 1900 Grandma's Boy  
 1000 & 2200 Sling Blade  
 1300 & 0100 Iris Blond  
 1600 & 0400 A Civil Action

**Sunday, March 5**  
 0700 & 1900 Corpse Bride  
 1000 & 2200 Runaway Bride  
 1300 & 0100 Shanghai Noon  
 1600 & 0400 Jurassic Park

**Monday, March 6**  
 0700 & 1900 Cheaper by the Dozen 2  
 1000 & 2200 Virus  
 1300 & 0100 Order of the Eagle  
 1600 & 0400 Snake Eyes

**Tuesday, March 7**  
 0700 & 1900 Great Raid  
 1000 & 2200 Leap of Faith  
 1300 & 0100 The Tenth Man  
 1600 & 0400 The Client

**Wednesday, March 8**  
 0700 & 1900 Flight Plan  
 1000 & 2200 Hannibal  
 1300 & 0100 The Cat's Meow  
 1600 & 0400 Star Trek First Contact

**Thursday, March 9**  
 0700 & 1900 Just Like Heaven  
 1000 & 2200 Patch Adams  
 1300 & 0100 Much Ado About Nothing  
 1600 & 0400 Python

**Friday, March 10**  
 0700 & 1900 XXX State of the Union  
 1000 & 2200 Baby Boom  
 1300 & 0100 The Winslow Boy  
 1600 & 0400 Can-Can

**Saturday, March 11**  
 0700 & 1900 Curse of the Were Rabbit  
 1000 & 2200 Skins  
 1300 & 0100 The Rocketeer  
 1600 & 0400 Bowfinger

**Sunday, March 12**  
 0700 & 1900 The Gospel  
 1000 & 2200 Other People's Money  
 1300 & 0100 Of Human Bondage  
 1600 & 0400 Voices from a Locked Room

