

ROCK SLATE



Volume 3, Number 46

386th Air Expeditionary Wing

Dec. 22, 2006



Holiday Gala
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Anyone can be great because anyone can serve

Lt Col Howard Ward
737 EAS Commander

In the middle of holiday season, it's easy to dwell on the things we miss versus the things we gain as we serve away from home at this time of year. I have a picture of my family and some craft items my children made for me on my desk along with lots of thoughts of what they're doing in preparation for the holiday. But then I stop and reflect upon the things I've gained from being here, particularly at this time of year...those thoughts bring me full circle to the very heart of what it means to serve.

A life spent in service is a life spent finding greatness. Dr. Martin Luther King had a great quote about this subject. He said "Anyone can be great because anyone can serve. You don't have to have a college education; your subject and verb don't have to agree to serve. All that's required is a soul full of grace and a heart full of love."

Our core values also reflect the idea that the path to individual greatness is losing yourself in service to others. This is certainly not a new concept for Americans. The original signers of the Declaration of Independence didn't sign on to the idea of freedom without consequence; most lost personal fortunes, and in many cases their lives and their families' lives for their stand. None can argue today that their stance of service before self was in vain...our right to chart our own course in life is built upon the foundation of that selfless act over 200 years ago.

As for the here and now, our service is a testament to the idea that freedom will always be a work in progress...and every generation is faced with the choice of either remaining comfortable as our hard earned freedom erodes, or to draw a hard line and respond. The time and place of our moment of truth was not of our choosing...our lot was cast on 11 September 2001.

I'm proud that our generation's response was to declare to all who brought us to this moment, "This is our freedom and you can't have it!" We chose the path of service and made the choice to fight...at our own risk, we're all here together as both servants and stakeholders of the great vision we call America...a place where anyone can achieve anything they dare to dream.

I'll certainly miss being with my family this holiday season...but when I think of my children growing up in a world where their freedom is threatened, I take comfort in knowing that the sacrifice is worth it. More than any material holiday gift I could receive, I get far more from knowing my service continues to pay the price of freedom...and by our example, the next generation will have seen the proper response when they face their moment of truth.

I'm proud to be here with you in service to our nation more than ever at this time of year. That's what it means to be free...that's what it means to serve.



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

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

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

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



Farewell, kudos to the 70th Medium Truck Detachment

Story and photos by
Maj. Joseph Mercurio
586 ELRS/DO

CAMPARIFJAN, KUWAIT

-- On December 9, 2006, the 586th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron and the Army Joint Logistics Task Force 57 said goodbye to the 162 Airmen of the 70th Medium Truck Detachment (MTD) II. Major General Thomas D. Robinson, 377th Transportation Support Command, presided over the Transition of Authority Ceremony held at the Camp Arifjan Chapel Auditorium. Colonel Don S. Cornett, 336 TC Group Commander spoke to the gathered audience and praised the 70th MTD II accomplishments, their high level of readiness, standards and discipline that "speaks volumes regarding the dedication to duty and professionalism of the Airmen of the 70th Medium Truck Detachment. Throughout their deployment they have shown nothing less than the highest commitment to the core values of the Air Force – integrity, service, and excellence."

The combat Airmen of the 70th Medium Truck Detachment arrived from 38 different active duty Air Force bases and 9 unique Air Force specialties to train at the Basic Combat Convoy course at Camp Anderson-Peters in San Antonio, Texas in April 2006. After 46 days of Air Force and Army training, the 70th MTD arrived in theater in May 2006 as a cohesive unit of combat convoy warriors. Led by Captain Joseph Barber, the "Scorpions" of the 70 MTD

hit the road running and first crossed into Iraq on May 25, 2006, one day after arrival. Since then, they have been heavily relied on, operating through two different surge periods with crews receiving sometimes as little as 24 hours

180, Joint Logistics Task Force 57, and their own Air Force chain of command. A record-setting unit, they racked-up more miles than any other Air Force convoy line-haul unit to date with over 5 million miles traveled, and their contribution

world. They deployed the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit and the 1-172 Stryker Brigade's Rapid Deployable Packages, and the 10th Mountain and 4th Infantry Divisions in order to help quell the violence in Iraq.

During their deployment, the Scorpions endured 14 IED attacks, 19 Small Arms attacks and 13 complex and Rocket Propelled Grenade attacks. Three Airmen received the Purple Heart, 24 earned the Combat Action Badge for direct enemy contact, and 111 vehicle operators and 15 mechanics were awarded the Army's Driver and Mechanic Badges for their earned and sought expertise.

Chief Master Sergeant Tony Killion, the Scorpions Detachment Chief stated that they were also the lead unit for many improvements throughout the Joint Logistics Task Force 57 as well as the AOR. They were the first Medium Truck unit to field the Duke Warlock system, an IED jammer, while their Airmen improved conditions at FOB Scania by transporting and setting up tents and air conditioning units for use by all transient military units. Their mechanics and operators worked to find a viable fix for the M915 truck rear cab mounts that were recently on display for the Secretary of the Air Force.

Their attention to detail and professionalism allowed the detachment to maintain an operational readiness rate of 97% throughout the deployment and they never missed a mission due to non-availability of resources.

We wish them well.



Major General Robinson, 377th TSC, awards Captain Joseph Barber, 70th MTD Commander with the Bronze Star.

of rest between missions.

The Airmen quickly established themselves as a premier convoy line-haul unit; despite the fact they were an in-lieu- of unit operating in an unfamiliar Army system. During their tour they received numerous accolades from 828th Battalion, Logistics Task Force

helped the 586 Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron earn the Air Force Meritorious Unit Award.

The Airmen of the 70th MTD completed 203 deployment, redeployment, and sustainment line-haul missions in Iraq and Kuwait, traveling over some of the most dangerous roads in the



SAFETY SCORECARD

Flight Team Safety Award 386th Expeditionary Operations Group Standardization Team

*Capt. Aaron Phillips
Senior Master Sgt. Phillip Poole*

Ground Team Safety Award 386th Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron Power Production Flight

*Master Sgt. Barry Parrett
Staff Sgt. Robin Ault
Staff Sgt. Ralph Hetzel
Staff Sgt. Jeff Steder
Staff Sgt. Jodie Steiner
Senior Airman Tyrel Mitchell
Senior Airman Gary Boicourt
Senior Airman Leslie Glassco
Senior Airman Todd Heikkinen
Senior Airman Jose Alvarez
Senior Airman James Morris
Senior Airman Jong Park
Senior Airman Levi Owen
Senior Airman Auston Davis
Senior Airman Brian Spugnardi*

Weapons Team Safety Award 586th Expeditionary Mission Support Group Route Clearing Team

*Capt. Dave Celeste
1st Lieutenant Steve O'Malley
1st Lieutenant Jason Kolodziej
Tech Sgt. Brad Quam
Tech Sgt. Timothy Clark
Staff Sgt. Kieth Provencher
Senior Airman William Croker
Airman 1st Class Eric McPherson
also Tech Sgt. Adam Cannon
from the 386th Expeditionary
Civil Expeditionary Squadron
and Army Staff Sgt. Michael
Daly from Bravo Company,
2nd Battalion, 185th Armor
Regiment*

Weapons Individual Award 386th Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron Munition Crew Member, Brett D. Hrouda

Guest Stars ...



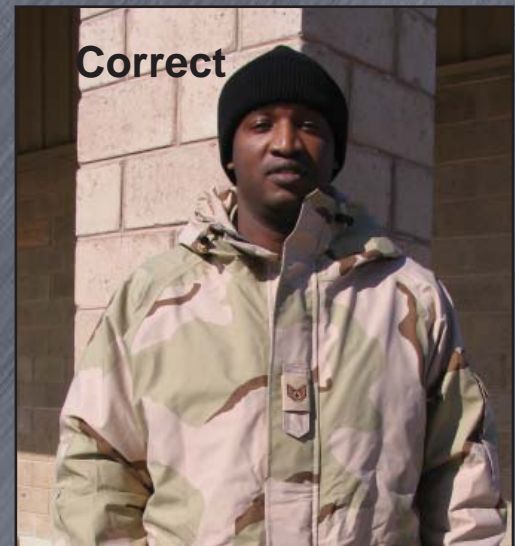
Air Force/Maj. Joseph Mercurio

Author and Radio Commentator Al Franken and Sports Hostess Leeann Tweeden serve as the co-hosts of the Sergeant Major of the Army USO Hope & Freedom Tour at Camp Arifjan on Thursday, 14 Decemeber.

STANDARD(S) ISSUE



Incorrect



Correct

3.1.2.1. Knit Cap. May be worn if cold weather gear is layered under the shirt or an outer garment is worn during inclement weather or for a period defined by the wing commander. Wear the sides of the cap down to cover the ears to the maximum extent possible. Do not wear the cap rolled up on top of the head. The seam of the cap will rest on the crown of the head. It will not entirely replace the DCU cap when the DCU cap is more appropriate. Authorized with PT gear when wearing some type of cold weather gear.

Crosswalk safety ...



Air Force/Capt. Jeff Clark

Master Sgt. Joseph Coe (left) and Staff Sgt. Jesus Padilla tape and paint crosswalks on Jacobson Avenue Dec. 15. The 386th Air Expeditionary Wing Safety office reminds everyone to use a crosswalk when possible and for motorists to drive slowly and watch for pedestrians, especially around high traffic areas. For more information call the Safety Office at 442-2239/2047.

Nonjudicial punishment provides commanders with an essential tool to maintain good order and discipline and promotes positive behavior in Airmen without the stigma of a court-martial conviction. Below are Airmen who received nonjudicial punishment in August 2006.

An Airman from the 586th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron was derelict in the performance of their duty by sleeping on post, in violation of Art 113, UCMJ. (Art 15: Suspended reduction to E-1, forfeiture of \$636.)

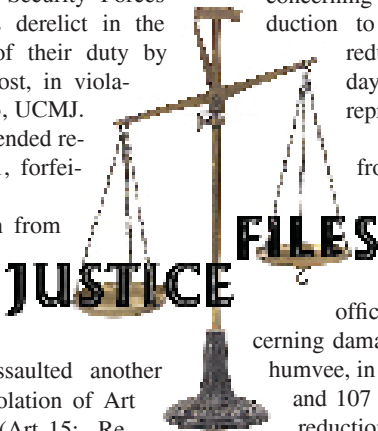
An Airman from the 386th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron assaulted another Airman, in violation of Art 128, UCMJ. (Art 15: Reduction to E-1, suspended forfeiture of \$250 for 2 months, reprimand.)

An Airman 1st Class from 386 ESFS was derelict in the performance of their duty, in violation of Art 92, and reckless endangerment, in violation of Art 134, UCMJ. (Art 15: Reduction to E-2, forfeiture of \$713 for 2 months, one month suspended.)

A Senior Airman from 386 ESFS guilty of conspiracy to commit, violation of Art 81, UCMJ and did commit the following: false official statement, Art 107; damage to military property, Art 108; damage to other than military property, Art 109 when he drove an armored humvee into a light pole and then asked others to falsify documents concerning the damage. Reduction to A1C, suspended reduction to Amn, 30 days extra duty and a reprimand.

A Senior Airman from 386 ESFS was found guilty of conspiracy to commit and did make a false official statement concerning damages to an armored humvee, in violation of Art 81 and 107 UCMJ. Suspended reduction to E-3, 30 days extra duty and a reprimand.

An Airman from 386 ESFS was found guilty of conspiracy to commit and did make a false official statement concerning damages to an armored humvee, in violations of Art 81 and 107 UCMJ. Suspended reduction to E-1, forfeiture of \$200 pay per month for two months, 30 days extra duty and a reprimand.



Tent tear-down ...



Air Force/Staff Sgt. Ian Carrier



Col. Charles Hamilton, 386th Air Expeditionary Wing Vice Commander (pictured) and the Command Chief, Chief Master Sgt. Thom Narofsky, joined 156 volunteers to help dismantle 24 tents that were no longer needed after construction of the new dorms was completed. The tents will be sent to DRMO.

The tent removal project was entirely made up of volunteers and was broken into three phases. About 20 people showed for the first 12 tents (phase one.) During phase two, there were almost 60 workers.

Milestones reached for new heroes

Story and photos by
Staff Sgt. Ian Carrier
386 AEW/PA

From the onset of military aviation, significant achievements have been recognized. Beginning with the First World War, flyers credited with 5 kills or more were awarded the designation of "Ace". This tradition continues to this day.

During World War II, due to the intense danger of the job, 25 combat missions was the milestone for bomber crews. The movie *Memphis Belle* was made as a document to such an event.

The Vietnam conflict created a new mission, new challenges, and the advent of "100 Sorties" patches.

While fighter and bomber pilots reap accolades and have Hollywood films produced about them, the current conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq are producing heroes of their own kind. Modern day Aircrews are quietly and bravely flying their way into the history books.

On Dec. 15 and 16, ten members of the 737th Expedi-

tionary Airlift Squadron were awarded certificates and tabs to signify the completion of their 100th combat missions. The ceremony was presided over by Lt. Colonel Howard Ward Commander, 737 EAS commander.

"A Squadron's recognition program says a lot about a squadron and its accomplishments," said Colonel Ward. "This program honors endurance, stamina."

These Airmen; Officers, Noncommissioned Officers, and Enlisted Men alike, have taken part in missions as varied as Operations Joint Forge, Enduring Freedom, Southern Watch, Iraqi Freedom and beyond.

The missions themselves were just as varied as the operations. One Airman airlifted the Interem Vice President of Iraq on a fact-finding mission. Another flew a rescue mission when the USS Cole was attacked. The list goes on for the service members of the 737th who have spent a significant part of their lives away from their homes, family and friends to support the Global War on Terrorism, and provide a "Lifeline to Operation Iraqi Freedom."

100 Combat Mission award recipients

Major Ryan J. D'Andrea

(Pope AFB)

Capt. Aaron S. Philips

(Pope AFB)

Capt. Dale W. Stanley

(Yakota AB)

Capt. Peter J. Ventres

(Ramstein AB)

Senior Master Sgt. Phillip W. Poole

(Pope AFB)

Master Sgt. Scott W. Turner

(Pope AFB)

Tech. Sgt. Steven J. Mentzel

(Ramstein AB)

Tech. Sgt. Daniel J. Elliot

(Elmendorf AB)

Tech. Sgt. Peter D. Desmarais

(Pope AFB)

Staff Sgt. Virgil G. Sterry

(Pope AFB)

Senior Airman William H. Oxenford

(Elmendorf AB)





The 386th Expeditionary Services Squadron did it again! The Flex was transformed Dec. 17 for a Holiday Gala. People gathered for the 24-hour extravaganza that included games like musical chairs, bingo and darts, tons of food and giveaways with prizes that totalled more than \$7,000! Gala was truly the word to describe yet another successful Services event.

All photos by Air Force/Capt. Jeff Clark

586 EMSG Det 1
Excellence in Competition
 
M16
ARMED SERVICES SHOOTING MATCH
 ALL BRANCHES OF THE SERVICE ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE
 1, 2, 4, & 6 JANUARY AT THE KUWAIT NAVAL BASE, USA RANGES

Reservation and information points of contact:

TSgt Robert Bush, 786-2937
 robert.bush@kuwait.swa.army.mil

Capt James Arthur, 720-6127
 james.arthur@kuwait.swa.army.mil

MSgt Charles Yates, 722-6391
 charles.yates@kuwait.swa.army.mil

SrA Brandon Stryker, 839-1084
 brandon.stryker@kuwait.swa.army.mil

DOUBLES RACQUET-BALL STANDINGS

Teams	Wins	Losses
AMERICAN LEAGUE		
Curlett/	2	0
Perkinson		
Wickencamp/	1	1
Teets		
Agustin/Ness	1	1
Archung/	1	1
Gregor		
Way/Hayes	0	2
NATIONAL LEAGUE		
Young/	2	0
McKenzie		
Shephard/	1	1
Finnila		
Brandy/Suvill	1	1
Uribe/Lopez	1	1
Kermgard/	0	2
Summers		

386th Air Expeditionary Wing Rock Solid Warriors



**Senior Airman
Justin Gray**

386th Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron
2A656, Aircraft Electrical and Environmental Systems
Journeyman

Home unit/base: 43 AMXS / Pope AFB, N.C.

How do you support the mission here? I am assigned to the 386 EMXS as the sole C-130 back shop electrician, and double as a member of the Composite Tool Kit (CTK) Section. I maintain and service aircraft batteries as well as troubleshoot and repair liquid oxygen carts used to service all multi-national C-130 aircraft. While working CTK, I help ensure all equipment and tools are in the proper condition to get the job done and are strictly accounted for. On occasion I am also called on to assist with C-130 aircraft work when help is needed.

How many times have you deployed and what makes this one unique? I have deployed twice. The reason this deployment is more unique than my past deployment is that I have a lot more responsibilities. Not only do I work the Electric Section back shop and CTK, but I also provide assistance to the flight line maintainers if needed.

How does your job differ in a deployed environment vs. home base? Here we are flying twice as many missions a day than what we would normally see back at home station. I have to be ready for anything to happen, and get our job done in a timely manner, while doing everything by the book and within regulations. Being able to perform in various arenas has made this deployment more challenging and rewarding.



**Senior Airman
Pete Callan**

886th Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron
3E751, Quad Firefighter/Driver Operator

Home unit/base: 319 CES/CEF Grand Forks AFB, N.D.

How do you support the mission here? As a Driver/Operator my main job is to ensure that my crew gets to fire, medical and hazardous materials situations quickly and safely. Once on scene I make sure that they have all the proper tools and equipment to mitigate the incident; whether it's providing water to put out fire or stabilizing a sick/injured patient.

How many times have you deployed and what makes this one unique? This is my second deployment.

How does your job differ in a deployed environment vs. home base? At the Rock I have taken a larger role in training and certifying younger Airman on their CDC's and have taken on quite a few tasks that are normally completed by a higher ranking individuals.