



THE EXPEDITIONARY AIRMAN

Official Publication of the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center's "Eagles"



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

Senior Airman Joshua Roden, Robins Air Force Base, Ga., and other Air Advisor Course 08-1 students go through the combat first aid obstacle course on a Fort Dix, N.J., range Feb. 29 as part of the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center's training that prepares Airmen to deploy to Iraq and Afghanistan..

Airmen complete Expeditionary Center's first Air Advisor Course

By Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol
U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center Public Affairs

The first class of Airmen from the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center's Air Advisor Course going to Iraq and Afghanistan to train foreign military members on Air-manship graduated March 7 at Fort Dix, N.J.

A total of 59 Airmen completed the course, developed to prepare instructors to train Iraqi and Afghan airmen to re-establish their

national air forces.

The U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center staff teamed with experts at Air Education and Training Command, U.S. Air Forces Central and USAF Special Operations, along with others, to develop a "train-the-trainer" course in less than six months for Airmen tasked to complete this high-priority mission for the Air Force.

"The Air Advisor Course is a fast-paced, team-oriented course designed specifically for Airmen deploying to support Air Force combat air advisor operations in

Iraq and Afghanistan," said Senior Master Sgt. James Schmidt, the course director. "In this course, we provide training in two phases — combat skills and cultural awareness."

In the combat skills phase, Sergeant Schmidt said students are trained in offensive and defensive driving skills, introductory convoy procedures, combat first aid and advanced combat firearms training using the M-4 and AK-47 rifles and the M-9 pistol.

"The cultural awareness training See **Air Advisor**, Page 8

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From the commander...

Remembering the first year of the 'Eagles'

By Maj. Gen. Kip Self
U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center
Commander

Since the inception of the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center in March 2007, we have been preparing for the future by spreading the word on the EC's capability, its people and potential.

People are hearing about what we are doing and want to come see for themselves. My confidence in you, and I admit that with a lot of pride, is based on hard work and an unsurpassed devotion to duty.

We are gaining momentum on our vision to establish a world-class training and education center that is the envy of the Air Force. For example, our new training missions, such as the Air Advisor and Tactical Security Element courses, are making people stand up and take notice of our abilities.

As we begin our second year as the USAF EC, we should remember those who served under the banner of the Air Mobility Warfare Center. It's thanks to their efforts that we stand where we are today. The numerous framed

citations for the Air Force Organizational Excellence Award hanging on our walls attest to the excellence we inherited.

In the past year, we have come a long way. We developed a new identity – the "Eagles." The Center's people soar high every day.

I must admit I am still amazed by your spirit and selflessness to do what it takes to prepare our service member for combat, educate them to be better on the job and provide them with the most modern technology and ideas.

It has also been a year of change as we brought in new people and said farewell to some great Americans in uniform and out. Mr. Nick Grand, the first U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center Foundation president, left behind a legacy of support and love for the Center that will be sorely missed.

We've also had folks and teams earn huge major command recognition such as the Mobility Operations School and 421st Combat Training Squadron as best in their fields. We've established a new public web site to get out our news and information.

We worked hard during Rodeo 2007 in July and for the Airlift/Tanker Association Convention in October.

Essentially, we have established ourselves as indispensable in the development of the Airman Warrior by building "Airpower...from the ground up!"



I want to personally thank all of the Center's "Eagles" for what you do every day for the USAF EC and our United States Air Force! We have a very important mission, and each "Eagle" makes a difference every day. I am proud to serve with you.

Mobility commander provides update on AF, AMC priorities

By Gen. Arthur J. Lichte
Air Mobility Command Commander

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill. — To the Men and Women of Air Mobility Command:

If the last 90 days are any indication, 2008 is turning out to be an amazing year for Air Mobility Command.

Most recently, March was a record-setting month for mobility Airmen supporting the Global War on Terror. More than 120,000 passengers were transported into, out of and within the Middle East and Horn of Africa, and more than 41 million tons of cargo were shipped in support of the joint warfighter. Adding these achievements to an already-impressive list, air mobility professionals supporting U.S. Central Com-

mand set new records for the number of passengers and the amount of cargo moved in a one-month period.

Going back further, we closed out February with the long-awaited announcement of the KC-45A tanker award. As the first increment of a three-decade long process, we are eager to field the new tanker as quickly as possible as we continue the modernization and recapitalization efforts we have all focused on for so long. Making the investments today to ensure tomorrow's dominance is our obligation to the next generation of Airmen, joint warfighters and Americans.

But, it was in January when a significant, yet subtle, milestone occurred — the update of the AF's Priorities. The AF's Priorities have been an effective rallying point for the entire Air Force — to get us flying on

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PROMOTIONS

'Eagle' selected to pin-on eagles

Congratulations to **Lt. Col. Andy Jilions**, Mobility Operations School, on his selection to colonel in January.

Three 'Eagles' selected for lieutenant colonel

Congratulations to the following U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center 'Eagles' selected March 6 for lieutenant colonel:

Maj. Phil Heseltine, USAF EC command section executive officer

Maj. Gene Croft, U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Operations School acting vice commandant

Maj. Matt Lacy, 421st Combat Training Squadron operations officer

Seven 'Eagles' selected for E-8 stripes

Seven master sergeants from the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center were selected for E-8 stripes March 12.

The senior master sergeant selectees are:

Master Sgt. Eugene F. Bardot IV, Mobility Operations School

Master Sgt. Troy S. Coville, MOS

Master Sgt. Kevin P. Edwards, 421st Combat Training Squadron

Master Sgt. Steven M. Minard, MOS

Master Sgt. Scott P. Pepper, 421st CTS

Master Sgt. Michael A. Steinkraus, MOS Detachment 1, Hurlburt Field, Fla.



Master Sgt. Jacinda G. Rivers, MOS Det. 1

"The USAF EC's promotion rate was 17.9 percent," said Chief Master Sgt. Jeffrey Helm, USAF EC command chief. "We were far above the Air Force's average."

According to Air Force News, public law restricts the number of E-8s to two percent of the enlisted force, so senior master sergeant promotions are "highly competitive."

The Air Force selected 1,284 of 14,404 eligible master sergeants for promotion to senior master sergeant, an 8.91 percent selection rate.

MAJOR AWARDS

EC members earn annual AMC honors

Air Mobility Command has honored several "Eagles" from the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center here with annual honors for 2007. Among them include security forces awards and public affairs communication and media awards.

Following are the award winners:

421st Combat Combat Training Squadron (from the USAF EC's Expeditionary Operations School)

— *Outstanding Security Forces Unit Award (Small)*

Tech. Sgt. Daniel Koenigsmann, 421st CTS — *Outstanding Security Forces Raven Team Leader Award*



Staff Sgt. James Chubb, 421st CTS — *2007 Outstanding Security Forces Raven Team Member Award*

Tech. Sgt. Scott Sturkol, USAF EC Public Affairs — *Journalist of the Year; Commentary Writer of the Year; Feature Writer of the Year; Photojournalist of the Year; Second Place in Illustrative Photography, Media Contest; Third Place in Combat Documentation Photography, Media Contest; and Third Place in Portrait/Personality Photography, Media Contest.*

Air Force Sergeant's Association presents two 'Eagles' with annual awards

The Air Force Sergeant's Association honored two "Eagles" with annual awards. **Master Sgt. Hugh Umpstead**, U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center security manager, won AFSA Volunteer of the Year and **Airman 1st Class Zach Palafox**, Expeditionary Center Resources Directorate, won AFSA First Term Airman of the Year. Congratulations to both winners!



Combat Action Medal



Maj. Dan Devoe, a student in the Mobility Operations School's Advanced Study of Air Mobility 2008 class on Fort Dix, N.J., was presented with the Air Force Combat Action Medal March 20 for his deployment to Afghanistan in 2006. Before becoming an ASAM student, Major Devoe worked as a staff member in MOS. During his deployment to Afghanistan, Major Devoe worked exclusively with the Joint Precision Airdrop System where he was among the first people to test the system in a combat environment.

Mobility commander witnesses expeditionary training in action

By Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol
U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center
Public Affairs

Gen. Arthur Lichte made his first official visit to the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center on Fort Dix, N.J., as the commander of Air Mobility Command Jan. 22, and witnessed some of the ways the Center carries out its mission to train expeditionary Airmen.

During the visit, Air Force Exercise Eagle Flag and the Phoenix Warrior Training Course 08-2 were in full swing. When combined, both courses train and test nearly 600 Airmen in expeditionary combat support skills.

General Lichte noted that the Center, through all of its training in the Mobility Operations School, Expeditionary Operations School and supporting units, is a frontline contributor to the Air Force's top priority — winning the Global War on Terrorism.

"It contributes directly to our warfighting ability because it prepares Airmen, gets them ready to move out quickly, and helps them know what to expect in the deployed environment," General Lichte said. "We're an expeditionary Air Force and expeditionary Airmen need to know that this is our job — to pick up, go, set up an air base and establish operations."

General Lichte used Eagle Flag to illustrate the importance of Airmen having combat skills. In each exercise, nearly 400 Airmen build a base utilizing three force modules — open the base, command and control, and establish the base.



Photo by Master Sgt. Bob Lorusso
General Lichte walks through the Eagle Flag village of "Citheron" during his visit Jan. 22.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol
Gen. Arthur Lichte, Air Mobility Command commander, and Chief Master Sgt. Joseph Barron, AMC command chief, learn about tactics in military operations in urban terrain during a practice scenario for training at Naval Air Engineering Station Lakehurst, N.J., Jan. 22. The effort was part of General Lichte's official visit to the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center and to Eagle Flag which is conducted at Lakehurst.

"I think it goes back to our heritage of opening up airfields," General Lichte said. "It's absolutely essential that Airmen can get in, be the first ones on a particular base, open up the airfield, and then start operations which eventually transition to an established base. For Airmen, this is our core competency — to get in and open up an airfield."

During a recent visit to Southwest Asia, General Lichte said he saw expeditionary Airmen in action. After also seeing USAF EC courses, he said the training scenarios provided here and the deployed environment "is an absolute parallel."

"The things that I saw (in Southwest Asia) are exactly what you see here," he said. "Of course it is a little bit warmer over there, but the conditions are austere. Our Airmen are operating in a very tough environment alongside Soldiers, Sailors and Marines — and for them to learn key elements at early stages — what to expect when they get deployed — it's happening right here at Fort Dix. It's absolutely essential that



Photo by Master Sgt. Bob Lorusso
Staff Sgt. Jonathon McClure, Mobility Operations School, shows General Lichte equipment he uses in his work area.

Lichte, from Page 4

we prepare our Airmen, and that's what it's all about."

General Lichte also highlighted that Airmen are in the fight every day. He said the USAF EC is at the tip of the spear in leading the effort to prepare Airmen for that fight.

"Our first priority, of course, is fighting and winning the global war on terror and kind of a sub part of this is being prepared for the next war," General Lichte said. "Because of lessons learned that are coming back to us, we are learning from that and applying it right here.

"The second priority is to take care of Airmen," General Lichte said. "Of course we're doing that because we never, ever want to send an Airman into harm's way without the proper training or without the proper equipment. Here, they are focusing on the proper training."

The U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center's "Eagles" have developed a motto that General Lichte said is very fitting — "Airpower ... from the ground up."

"'Airpower...from the ground up' is the motto here because everyone looks up to the sky and understands what airpower is all about, but you forget how much support you need on the ground," General Lichte said. "The Center prepares Airmen for how they can deploy, what happens when they first step off that airplane, how they set up an airfield and how they set up operations. All of that and more is absolutely essential, and the motto is just perfect. It's perfect because Airmen are certainly the people who are up in the air, but they are also supporting on the ground to accomplish the fight."



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

Col. Jennifer Pickett, commandant of the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center's Expeditionary Operations School, leads Maj. Gen. Kip Self, USAF EC commander, Gen. Arthur Lichte, Air Mobility Command commander, Mrs. Chris Lichte, and others past a group of military tactical vehicles being used in the Phoenix Warrior 08-2 course.



General Lichte talks with media from New Jersey and Philadelphia during his visit.

Photo by Master Sgt. Bob Lorusso



Photos by Master Sgt. Bob Lorusso

(Above) Senior Master Sgt. Domenic Perino, Air Mobility Battlelab, is coined by General Lichte. (Below) Master Sgt. Richard Woods, Mobility Operations School, describes the Aircraft Maintenance Production Simulator.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

General Lichte talks to Phoenix Warrior students during his visit.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

Staff Sgt. Ryan Marcotte, Expeditionary Center armory, shows Chief Master Sgt. Joseph Barron, AMC command chief, General Lichte and Mrs. Lichte the various types of weapons the armory holds.

USAF EC announces annual award winners



2007 U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center Company Grade Officer of the Year
Capt. Robert Prausa,
421st Combat Training Squadron



2007 U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center Senior NCO of the Year
Master Sgt. Troy Coville,
Mobility Operations School



2007 U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center NCO of the Year
Tech. Sgt. Ryan Holmes,
Mobility Operations School



2007 U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center Airman of the Year
Staff Sgt. Eljurious Whiteside,
Mobility Operations School



2007 U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center Category II Civilian of the Year
Mrs. Kristen Nalette,
Mobility Operations School



2007 U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center Category II Civilian of the Year
Mr. Domenic Fazzo,
Mobility Operations School



2007 U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center David E. Bass Leadership Award
Master Sgt. Michael McHone,
421st Combat Training Squadron



2007 U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center Reynolds A. Kuntzman Superior Performance Award
Tech. Sgt. Jennifer Mastan,
Mobility Operations School

Congratulations also goes out to all of the following nominees:

- * **Ms. Patricia Burke,** Mobility Operations School
- * **Capt. Jodi Bonnes,** MOS
- * **Capt. Todd Caskey,** Resources Directorate
- * **Capt. John Yerger,** Air Mobility Battlelab
- * **Senior Master Sgt. Domenic Perino,** AMB
- * **Master Sgt. Michael Harris,** AMB

- * **Master Sgt. Angelia Kirk,** U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center Resources Directorate
- * **Master Sgt. Scott Pepper,** 421st Combat Training Squadron
- * **Master Sgt. Richard Woods,** MOS
- * **Tech. Sgt. George Dollenger,** 421st CTS
- * **Tech. Sgt. Bridgette Falosk,** EC Military Personnel Element
- * **Tech. Sgt. Daniel Koenigsmann,** 421st CTS

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- * **Tech. Sgt. Wade Rigsby,** EC Resources Directorate
- * **Staff Sgt. Joshua Crowe,** EC Resources Directorate
- * **Senior Airman Jessica Adams,** 421st CTS
- * **Senior Airman Maria Mendez,** EC MPE

EC Airmen participate in President Bush visit to McGuire



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

This group of U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center "Eagles" were among the hundreds on hand to see President George W. Bush during his visit to McGuire Air Force Base, N.J., March 28.



President Bush waves from the doorway of Air Force One after arriving at McGuire.



Airmen waiting to meet President Bush watch his arrival back to McGuire from Freehold, N.J. McGuire was the staging area for Air Force One and Marine One as the President addressed the nation from an organization in Freehold.



President Bush greets with Airmen during his visit.

Air Advisor, from Page 1

hones in on host nation-specific understanding of where these Airmen will be deploying in either Iraq or Afghanistan,” Sergeant Schmidt said. “For example, they receive mission overview training, an understanding of the host nation air force organization and its capabilities, and conversational language training in Arabic or Dari.”

Capt. Wes Venters, a behavioral scientist from U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado and a student in the course deploying to Iraq, said language training was one area he found especially helpful.

“The language training essentially helps us to communicate with the people of Iraq and Afghanistan,” Captain Venters said. “As air advisors, we’ll be working a lot with the Iraqi population and more specifically the soldiers.”

“We’ll also go over there and work in a joint environment,” Captain Venters said. “Knowing we’ll be working directly with the Army, I could see a lot of the training paralleled with what the Army teaches. That’s good because when we go over there and get into the joint environment and are asked to be on a fire team or something related to that, we’ll know what to do. We’re certainly better prepared as Air Force air advisors.”

Tech. Sgt. Darnell Gordon, an air surveillance technician from the 552nd Operations Support Squadron at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla., said although he has deployed and trained for deployments in his 15-year career, the Air Advisor Course shined some new light on things he hasn’t done before, such as extensive weapons training.

“It helps for those of us in the Air Force who aren’t trained continuously in combat-related activities,” Sergeant Gordon said. “The weapons training we received gave us a better familiarity with our weapons systems. We’re not going to be experts, of course, but if something happens we can always fall back on our training from having that familiarity.”

Now more prepared for the air advisor mission is Lt. Col. Chris Lyons. He is a student in the course from Air Mobility Command at Scott AFB, Ill., and will be deploying to Afghanistan. “It is a great combination of focused classroom, field, range and obstacle course instruction to prepare us for the jobs we will be doing in Afghanistan,” Colonel Lyons said. “The language and cultural training helps us better communicate with and understand our Afghan counterparts, while the combat and field training keeps our warrior skills at their peak.”

Sergeant Schmidt said the course wasn’t easy for the students.

“Students must be mentally and physically prepared to perform various types of rigorous combat scenario-based physical tasks in this course,” he said. “With any class you may have minor issues that come up, but you deal with them and continue on. All students were able to



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol
Staff Sgt. Tamica Harris shoots an M-4 during tactical live-fire training with an M-4 and M-9 for the Air Advisor Course 08-1 on a range on Fort Dix, N.J., Feb. 27. Sergeant Harris is from the 319th Training Squadron, Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

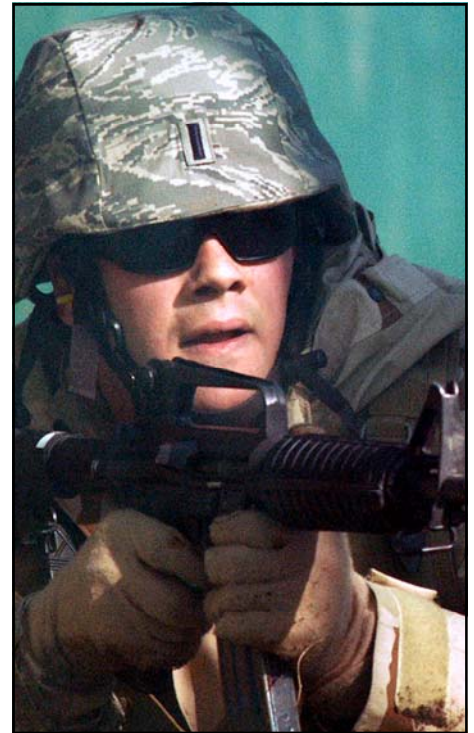
critique each class they attended. Any items that we felt could be adjusted based on student input — we did.”

Master Sgt. Bonnie Trajanowski, a student from the 2nd Bomb Wing Plans Office from Barksdale AFB, La., who will be deploying to Iraq, said she was happy to be able to contribute to future versions of the course.

“It’s a learning curve,” Sergeant Trajanowski said. “It’s exciting to be a part of this first class, because we get to have our inputs used to make the course better for future students. The training put us into the mindset of what we’re going to be doing. It prepared us. When I first learned about being an air advisor, I was unsure. Now, when I know I’ll be working with the Army and doing this special mission, I know can be more of an asset. This training is an asset for us to help them as opposed to going there and being a possible liability.”

Sergeant Schmidt said the continuing mission of the course will be to make sure Airmen are ready for the air advisor mission.

“We’ll continue to provide deploying air advisors the skill sets they need to adapt to an ever-changing deployed environment,” Sergeant Schmidt said.



(Above) First Lt. Jared Casebolt, Mountain Home AFB, Idaho, responds to a scenario during combat first aid training.



(Left) Capt. Dawn Fitzgerald, Nellis AFB, Nev., goes through the combat first aid obstacle course on a range on Fort Dix.

Air Mobility Battlelab's lightweight litter system initiative yields promising results

By Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol
U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center
Public Affairs

As initiatives go, this one for the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center's Air Mobility Battlelab may "litter"-ally save lives.

AMB set out to prove the feasibility of using a lightweight, man-portable litter system that can be hand-carried by aeromedical evacuation, or AE, teams, and used on Air Mobility Command cargo aircraft not equipped with an on-board litter system, said Master Sgt. Christopher Sidoli, AMB project officer for the initiative.

"This initiative solution resulted from a problem where AMC aircraft without organic litter systems had to rely on the Patient Support Pallet (or PSP) for aeromedical evacuation missions," Sergeant Sidoli said. "The PSP is a heavy, bulky litter system that is heavily reliant on cargo handling equipment for loading and unloading. Additionally, a PSP is not always co-located with AE crews, which results in additional missions to unite AE crew, PSP and patients. A man-portable litter system that's small and light enough to be stored at the AE team's location has the potential to speed up the evacuation of patients significantly."

AMB teamed with Lifepoint, Inc. to demonstrate the concept using the company's Stacking Litter System, or SLS, which weighs less than 150 pounds and was originally designed to



A KC-135 Stratotanker aircrew member from the 108th Air Refueling Wing, McGuire Air Force Base, N.J., lays on a stacking litter system as part of the demonstration by the Air Mobility Battlelab.



Master Sgt. Chris Sidoli (center), Air Mobility Battlelab, works with KC-135 Stratotanker aircrew members from the 108th Air Refueling Wing, McGuire Air Force Base, N.J., during a demonstration for the stacking litter system initiative June 22, 2007. Air Mobility Command's Surgeon General Readiness Division has said the versatile and portable system will contribute to a "more robust and flexible aeromedical evacuation system."

Photos by Master Sgt. Bob Lorusso

evacuate patients over short distances on helicopters. The initiative's initial approval date was April 2007, and the concept demonstration was completed in June 2007 on a KC-135 Stratotanker from the 108th Air Refueling Wing at McGuire Air Force Base, N.J.

"Our main objective with the demonstration was simple — determine the ease of transportability, assembly and installation of the stacking litter system into the plane," Sergeant Sidoli said.

"We also demonstrated three other objectives with the SLS — compatibility with the NATO mesh litter, a litter backrest and the special medical emergency evacuation device."

Overall, Sergeant Sidoli said, the results from the June demonstration were extremely positive.

"The demonstration proved the SLS is highly transportable, and it required only two people to load on the aircraft without the aid of lifting equipment. Additionally, the demonstration team was able to easily install the system on the plane in less than 18 minutes," Sergeant Sidoli said.

Although the demonstration team encountered some compatibility issues resulting from the differences between long-range, fixed wing

AE operations and the SLS's helicopter origins, Sergeant Sidoli indicated these issues could be overcome with minor modifications and that the concept of a "man-portable" litter system capable of being co-located with AE teams is feasible.

The AMB briefed the demonstration results to AMC headquarters in December 2007 and recommended transition of the lightweight litter concept for eventual fielding.

According to the Air Mobility Command Surgeon General Readiness Division, they are interested in fielding this type of capability. In reporting back to the AMB, the division noted that a portable litter system that can be hand-carried by AE crews will "contribute to a more robust and flexible aeromedical evacuation system."

"If a man-portable system makes it all the way to being used by AE teams in the field, it has the potential to save lives — that's the bottom line," Sergeant Sidoli said.

The Air Mobility Battlelab was established in 2001 to identify and demonstrate the utility of innovative concepts with potential to enhance Mobility Air Force capabilities. AMB will deactivate in September 2008 as part of an Air Force cost-savings initiative.

EC commander visits Little Rock, talks JPADS

By Airman 1st Class Nathan Allen
314th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

LITTLE ROCK AIR FORCE BASE, Ark. — Maj. Gen. Kip Self, U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center commander, returned to “The Rock” in mid-February to see the latest Joint Precision Airdrop System training and the Mobility Operations School’s 34th Combat Training Squadron.

General Self served as the 314th Airlift Wing commander until May 2007 before becoming the USAF EC commander. The general spoke on his main reason to visit Little Rock.

“If you go out on the (Little Rock) ramp, you’ll see the (Air National Guard) and active duty combining for the first time with C-130J Hercules aircraft to learn the Joint Precision Airdrop System process,” General Self said. “I’m here to take a look at the training process.

General Self added, “This is the first time the J models have been through the JPADS training. It’s important training because JPADS is being implemented and integrated into the J model (for future use).”

JPADS is a laptop-based, high-altitude precision airdrop mission planning system designed to use real-time wind and topographic data to deliver supplies as close as possible to the ground troops.

Traditional airdrops by Air Force airlifters, such as the C-130 Hercules and C-17 Globemaster III, are at altitudes of anywhere between 400 and 1,000 feet. With JPADS, those same airlift aircraft have the potential to guide air drop bundles from as high as 25,000 feet.

JPADS includes a mission planner to plan the optimal release points using special software residing on a laptop computer. The computer is loaded with a high-resolution grid of forecasted winds. The mission planner also receives updated near real-time wind

speeds while in the air using hand-launched dropsondes (hand-sized, parachute-equipped wind indicators).

“Sometimes, Soldiers or Marines are in positions or locations that you just can’t get to by convoy or your traditional landing zone, so airdrop is the process or method of choice,” General Self said. “So if you can deliver cargo or goods to the Soldiers or Marines on the ground and still keep the aircrew safe through precision airdrop, you’ve got a win-win.”

General Self said the system itself is the key to success.

“... if you can deliver cargo or goods to the Soldiers or Marines on the ground and still keep the aircrew safe through precision airdrop, you’ve got a win-win.”

Maj. Gen. Kip Self
U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center
Commander



Photos by Airman 1st Class Nathan Allen

A member of the 34th Combat Training Squadron gives a briefing on Joint Precision Airdrop System training Feb. 14 at Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark.

“It gives us high precision coordinates and also does some modeling of the winds so when the cargo exits the airplane, it has already developed a model by which it will already understand where that cargo will land,” General Self said. “Hopefully that’s right on our good guys so they can get their beans and bullets without having to go find it, and, we’ve kept the crew at a safe distance away so they’re not under risk.”

The JPADS initiative has already been used extensively in various deployed locations to “save lives” by taking thousands of convoys off the road, General Self said, but the technology is continually improving.

The Expeditionary Center commander added the latest upgrade to the JPADS is the integration of the Improved Container Delivery System. This advancement includes better software and self-analyzing, guided parachutes.

About the 34th Combat Training Squadron

The Mobility Operations School’s 34th Combat Training Squadron at Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark., according to Mr. Rudy Becker, MOS director, has the potential to be recognized as the host of what can be thought of as a “Mobility Red Flag.”

“The 34th CTS is where we’re getting aircrews and support personnel their first five missions in a simulated high-threat environment so when they show up for the fight, they’ve already ‘been there,’” Mr. Becker said.

“Partnering with the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, La., aircrews and contingency response teams converge at the 34th CTS from around the world,” Mr. Becker said, “including Germany, Great Britain, and Australia, to execute a realistic deployment into a bare base environment.

Aircrews flying both air-land and airdrop missions respond to the videotaped launch of realistic ground threats as well as escape and evasion scenarios, Mr. Becker added.

The 34th CTS is also the center of excellence for Joint Precision Airdrop System training for mobility air forces, Mr. Becker said.

“This capability, while still in its infancy, is, for example, being employed daily in Afghanistan to deliver pinpoint airdrop accuracy to coalition forces,” he said.

According to the unit’s fact sheet, the 34th CTS motto is, “Training Today’s Airlifters for Tomorrow’s Contingencies.” It also states the unit is Air Mobility Command’s premier tactical employment training organization for tactical airlift units.

(Courtesy Mobility Operations School)

Republic of Korea general visits Expeditionary Center



(Clockwise from top left) Tech. Sgt. Sean Heraty, U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center armory, shows weapons to Republic of Korea Brig. Gen. Young-Ki Eun, Director, Civil Engineer Division, ROK Air Force Headquarters, and Maj. Gihwi Seo, also from the ROK Air Force, during General Eun's official visit here March 19.



General Eun takes aim with a World War II era sniper rifle. General Eun presents Maj. Gen. Kip Self, USAF EC commander, with a special memento.



Lt. Col. Mitch Monroe, 421st Combat Training Squadron commander, shows the general some of the Center's campus areas.



Staff Sgt. Jacqueline Baker, 421st CTS, briefs the general on Eagle Flag.

Tech. Sgts. Jeffrey Cadogan and Daniel Koenigsmann hold a Raven demonstration for the general.

Chief Master Sgt. Jeffry Helm USAF EC command chief, shows General Eun the Tuskegee Airman display case in the Center as part of a building tour.



Advanced Study of Air Mobility:

Around the world, in Expeditionary Center's classroom

By Maj. Michele Gill
U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center
Public Affairs

They've traveled across the U.S. to visit military and industry headquarters for the past 10 months. Now they're preparing to travel around the world in the next few months before they graduate.

What other in-residence Intermediate Developmental Education, or IDE, program offers Air Force majors the opportunity to become air mobility experts in the military and global classrooms, while earning a Master of Air Mobility degree from the Air Force Institute of Technology? None other than the Advanced Study of Air Mobility program at the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center at Fort Dix, N.J.

Sixteen Air Force majors were hand-picked to become part of this 13-month professional development program, designed specifically for mobility officers. They began their journey in May 2007 and have gone through the rigors of learning about logistics, transportation, supply, mobility and other areas including business process improvement, statistics and research methods.

ASAM graduates are uniquely prepared for challenging follow-on assignments throughout the Department of Defense. Historically, some have been assigned to unified commands, the Joint Staff, Headquarters Air Force, Air Mobility Command and even NATO, the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers in Europe and the United Nations.

When asked how they think ASAM would help shape their careers, most of the students said it has helped them understand the transportation and logistics processes better.

"ASAM has provided me with a much broader view of the Air Force and Department of Defense," said Maj. John Lacy, ASAM 08 student. "This broader perspective is necessary as our careers progress from specialty-based (aircrew or loggie) to leadership-based."

Maj. Jeremy Hanson, his classmate, added that ASAM is making him more well-rounded in all facets of transportation and global mobility.

Reflecting on the ASAM curriculum, a recent graduate said he's using the skill sets on a daily basis.

"Whether it's forging ahead with AFSO 21 (Air Force Smart Operations for the 21st century) initiatives, developing the USAF Expedi-



Courtesy photo

Students in the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center Mobility Operations School Advanced Study of Air Mobility Program 2008 stand on the steps of the U.S. Capitol building in Washington, D.C., Jan. 10 as part of a course field trip.

tionary Center's roadmap for the future or being the 'resident mobility advisor' to the EC leadership, ASAM has postured me for success," said Maj. Phil Heseltine, ASAM Class 07 graduate and executive officer for the USAF EC commander.

Others said ASAM has even made them more prepared for life after the Air Force.

"The academic supply chain management courses look at the civilian sector successes and failures, and in conjunction with the combatant command visits, we get an across-the-spectrum view of logistics," said Maj. James Nichol, another student in the 2008 class. "This 'big picture' will be an asset and will enable me to more effectively accomplish my future mobility warrior duties."

"ASAM will give me logistics and supply chain management expertise that will help me be a better leader, whether in the Air Force or in the civilian world," said ASAM 08 student Maj. Kevin Eastland.

The program incorporates several site visits into the curriculum to give a first-hand view of the mobility challenges in both the continental U.S. and overseas theaters. While on their trips,

the students may discuss mobility issues with senior military leaders and civilian transportation experts.

"The ASAM students travel more than any other IDE program's students, visiting every combatant command, other military organizations and a number of public and private sector organizations and companies outside the Department of Defense," said Maj. Dan DeVoe, another student in the current class. "The program is designed to develop a detailed, operational-level understanding of air mobility, specifically, and the entire logistics supply chain, in general."

Maj. Zachary Zeiner, ASAM 08 student and class leader, said the most significant thing he has learned since the class began last May is the global integration of all modes of travel. He's amazed at how it all fits together, from rail to air to ship to trucking to pipelines and even the internet.

"It (ASAM) has given me a better understanding of ways to solve logistics problems and how the different transportation components operate," added student Maj. Will Clark.

See ASAM, Page 13

ASAM, from Page 12

Maj. Eric Howland said he has learned there are many pieces to the transportation puzzle. He said, "I've learned the entire process from factory to foxhole."

ASAM is one of many options available to Air Force's majors who are interested in pursuing intermediate developmental education and advanced degrees.

"ASAM is probably the best kept secret in the Air Force, and we want to change that," said Mr. Rudy Becker, USAF EC's Mobility Operations School Director, "Our graduates are serving in almost every combatant command and are in significant leadership positions throughout the Air Force and Joint community. IDE candidates would be well served to identify ASAM as their number one choice."

About half of the current ASAM students chose ASAM as their number one IDE choice. Most of them had heard about it through friends who loved the experience of getting an advanced education while applying classroom theory to real-world applications during site visits.

Another ASAM 08 student, Maj. Lawrence W.S. Mitchell, said he chose ASAM as his first IDE choice because global mobility issues interest him.

"ASAM is extremely selective and for good reason," said Major Zeiner. "There is no other program within DOD where you get this 'PhD-level' education and exposure on logistics and mobility management."

Even if ASAM wasn't their first choice, students agree that it would be if they could turn back time.

"Having graduated from the ASAM program, I can say if I had to do it all again — I would," said Major Heseltine. "I tell all captains and new majors I speak to that ASAM is the best IDE program in the Air Force, and this needs to be the number one on their list of schools."



Courtesy photos

(Above) Advanced Study of Air Mobility 2008 students stop for a photo while visiting the Surface Deployment and Distribution Command in Virginia Dec. 11. (Below) Eight of the sixteen ASAM 2008 students ski together in the Colorado Rocky Mountains Feb. 29 as part of a camaraderie event prior to visiting several Colorado-based military organizations.



Prospective candidates should indicate their preference for ASAM on Air Force Form 3849. For more information on the selection process and eligibility criteria, refer to the officer development education Website at: [http://](http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil)

www.afpc.randolph.af.mil. For additional information on this program or any of the 74 other courses offered by the USAF Expeditionary Center, call the registrar's office at (609) 754-7738.

ASAMers...Where in the world are they? A look at Class 2008's schedule

(May 2007 – June 2008, between trips) USAF EC, Fort Dix, N.J.
(August) Scott AFB, Ill.
 U.S. Transportation Command
 Headquarters Air Mobility Command
 Tactical Airlift Control Center
 18th Air Force
(September) Hurlburt Field, Fla., at USAF EC's Detachment 1
 Air Operations Center 101 Doctrine
 Director of Mobility Forces – Air
(October) Memphis and Nashville, Tenn. (location may change each year)
 Federal Express Headquarters
 Airlift/Tanker Association Convention
(November) Florida
 U.S. Central Command
 U.S. Special Operations Command
 U.S. Southern Command
 CSX Transportation
 Crowley Maritime Corporation
 Jacksonville Port Authority
 JetBlue Airways
(December) Virginia

U.S. Joint Forces Command
 Joint Deployment Training Center
 Joint Warfighting Center
 Joint Technology Exploration Center
 Joint Advanced Training Technology Laboratory
 Surface Deployment and Distribution Command
 Air and Space Expeditionary Force Center
 Air Force Global Cyberspace Integration Center
(January 2008) Washington, D.C.
 Pentagon
 Defense Logistics Agency
 White House Military Office
 State Department
(March) Colorado and Nebraska
 U.S. Strategic Command
 U.S. Northern Command
 Air Force Space Command
 Space Innovation and Development Center
 Cheyenne Mountain
 50th Space Wing
(March – April) Europe
 Royal Air Force
 U.S. European Command
 U.S. Air Forces in Europe

U.S. Africa Command
 U.S. Special Operations Command Europe
 North Atlantic Treaty Organization Headquarters
 Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe 21st
 Theater Sustainment Command
 Eindhoven Air Base
 Third Air Force
 86th Contingency Response Group
 721st Air Mobility Operations Group
 598th U.S. Army Transportation Terminal Group
(May) Pacific
 U.S. Forces Korea U.S. Forces Japan
 U.S. Pacific Command U.S. Pacific Fleet
 U.S. Embassy, Korea U.S. Embassy, Tokyo
 Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command
 Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies
 Pacific Air Forces
 USMC Forces, Pacific
 5th Air Force
 7th Air Force
 374th Airlift Wing
 715th Air Mobility Operations Group
 Joint Security Area at Camp Bonifas

AIR FORCE WARRIORS: MWD team trains for Afghanistan deployment

(Editor's note: This is the first in a series of three stories following a military working dog team from training in the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center's Phoenix Warrior Training Course through a deployment.)

By Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol
U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center
Public Affairs

He thinks to himself, "We don't have weather like this in Florida." However, even though it's hovering around 25 degrees Fahrenheit, Staff Sgt. Christopher Dion knows it's the work he and his dog, Dena, must do to be ready to go to Afghanistan.

Across the field, Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Dean is barking orders for the military working dog teams he's training to get started in the tactical obstacle course designed specifically to present challenges to MWD handlers and dogs. Frost is building on his black instructor cap as he yells to motivate his students. The hat, the students know, is the most notable symbol of the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center's 421st Combat Training Squadron on Fort Dix, N.J., where Sergeant Dean works.

Maybe it's the cold or just the fact that after 10 days of training in the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center's Phoenix Warrior Training Course, these MWD teams are tired. In actuality, the students are taking extra time preparing themselves and their dogs for their fourth try on this course. Today, the course includes the sounds of gunfire for the first time, and teams will have to navigate the course's obstacles while returning fire.

Sergeant Dion and his 6-year-old German Shepherd Dena, both from the 6th Security



Military working dog Dena works her way through an obstacle course designed specifically for the Phoenix Warrior K-9 track.



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol
Staff Sgt. Christopher Dion and his military working dog, Dena, both from MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., participate in an obstacle course on a Fort Dix, N.J., range Feb. 14 as part of training as students in the Air Force Phoenix Warrior Course 08-3 K-9 track.

Forces Squadron, MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., are the third of four teams going through the obstacle course.

Sergeant Dion and Dena approach the start of the course. Dena's leash is attached to a clip on her handler's shoulder.

First, she ran effortlessly through a 12-foot tube. Then without hesitation, Dena jumped a six-foot wall.

Nearby, Staff Sgt. Brennon Pierce, also an instructor from the 421st CTS, fires M-60 blanks — the sound roars through this normally quiet, pine-barren range on Fort Dix.

Sergeant Dion returns fire, while Sergeant Dean adds another challenge and throws smoke canisters to reduce visibility.

Next, the MWD team low crawls through a 10-foot tunnel and continues to advance through the course despite the sounds of gunfire and motivational tactics from their instructors.

"That's what I like about this training," Sergeant Dion said. "Coming to Fort Dix, where

there they have these ranges, it enables us to do a lot of the gunfire training that we otherwise would not be able to do (at home station)."

Phoenix Warrior happens to be the first official training course for Sergeant Dion and Dena as a team. Sergeant Dion's first assignment as a MWD handler came in October 2007, but he's had plenty of security forces training under his belt. He's been an Army infantry and tank soldier and has worked as an Air Force security forces Airman at both home station and numerous deployed locations. Joining the Army in 1990, the 37-year-old Sergeant Dion never imagined how his life's path would lead.

"When I first came in to the military in 1990, I actually thought about going in the Air Force to become a dog handler," Sergeant Dion said. "But, as the story goes, my recruiter was late, and the Army guy was there, so I talked to him. The next thing you know, I'm in the Army infantry. I look back at it now, and I can say

See MWD, Page 15

MWD, from Page 14

(the Army) gave me some good times and good experiences.”

Sergeant Dion first became an Airman after the terrorist attacks on America on Sept. 11, 2001, when he transferred from the Army Reserve to the Air Force Reserve in that same month. A native of Massachusetts and a consummate patriot, Sergeant Dion put on his Reserve staff sergeant stripes and went to work at Westover Air Reserve Base, Mass.

“In early 2002, I was sent to the Air Force Security Forces School at Lackland (AFB, Texas),” Sergeant Dion said. “Soon thereafter, I was activated to full-time duty and deployed to MacDill to augment their security forces unit because many of their forces were deployed for the Global War on Terrorism.”

It was at MacDill where he first started doing some “bite work” with the canine handlers in the 6th SFS. “Bite work is simply working with the dogs on their attack and defending skills,” Sergeant Dion added.

Sergeant Dion completed the MacDill deployment in February 2003 and soon was deactivated from active service. As part of a family decision, he returned to active duty in March 2004.

“At that time, they took the E-5 (position) I held in the Reserves and made me a senior airman and sent me to Buckley AFB, Colo.,” Sergeant Dion said.

In 2005, Sergeant Dion deployed to Southwest Asia for eight months where he did some more training with military working dogs. Following his deployment, Sergeant Dion attended the security forces K-9 school at Lackland. He then returned to Buckley only to find out there were more handlers than dogs — he had to wait for his chance.

“It wasn’t long after that I deployed again — this time to Camp Bucca, Iraq,” Sergeant Dion said. During this 10-month deployment he worked security operations, improvised explosive device identification and vehicle NCO duties. Then, he received orders to move to his current assignment at MacDill.

“By the end of October (of 2007), I was assigned to Dena, and we’ve been working together ever since,” Sergeant Dion said.

Dena, also known as an explosives detection canine, is a veteran like her handler. She has deployed to Iraq and Kuwait in recent years and has proven her skills more than once, Sergeant Dion said.

“This is an exciting time for me,” Sergeant Dion said. “To be able to deploy with Dena and do the MWD mission and to be in this training course with her has made our bond that much stronger.”

“Once I’m in Afghanistan, I’ll be better able to tell you how this entire experience has prepared me.”

Staff Sgt. Christopher Dion
Phoenix Warrior 08-3 student



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

Staff Sgt. Christopher Dion and his military working dog, Dena, both from MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., finish going through an underground obstacle on a Fort Dix range Feb. 14 during training in the Phoenix Warrior 08-3 K-9 track.

Sergeant Dion admits there have been some challenges in his training relationship with Dena, but the challenges aren’t with the dog.

“Dena is a very good dog to work with — she’s very forgiving,” Sergeant Dion said. “I haven’t trained consistently with a dog for nearly two years, so in some ways I had to relearn some of the K-9 stuff. She’s a very forgiving dog to do that with.”

As far as Phoenix Warrior is concerned, Sergeant Dion has looked to Sergeant Dean, the course director of the K-9 track, for guidance. He says he’s learned more than he’d ever imagined.

“A great example of his guidance was when we had the live-fire convoy training. During part of that, there were SF troops with M-4s firing from towers at targets,” Sergeant Dion said. “Sergeant Dean had us take the dogs right up next to the towers and just practice basic obedience with them. Through all of this, from what I’ve come to learn, if you are able to do basic obedience with a dog while there is gunfire going on, right above the dog’s head, it kind of gets them used to the conditions. It gives you added control over your dog.”

Sergeant Dean said the K-9 track for Phoenix Warrior is only nine months old but is paying

dividends for teams like Sergeant Dion and Dena.

“The USAF EC has provided the resources which allow this track of the Phoenix Warrior course to flourish into the incredible and invaluable training experience for every handler who has and will attend,” Sergeant Dean said. “This course provides MWD teams with experiences that are new or serving as a refresher of skills that are a must to ensure the protection of themselves and others and their safe return.”

Sergeant Dean added that because of the track’s short history, good, hard feedback of successes is still in the compilation stage.

“Our main purpose is to prepare MWD teams for situations and threats they may encounter in theater,” Sergeant Dean said. “This course was developed based on after-actions report from K-9 handlers who have deployed before such as from me and my staff. As time goes on, we’ll learn more about how valuable it’s been to our students.”

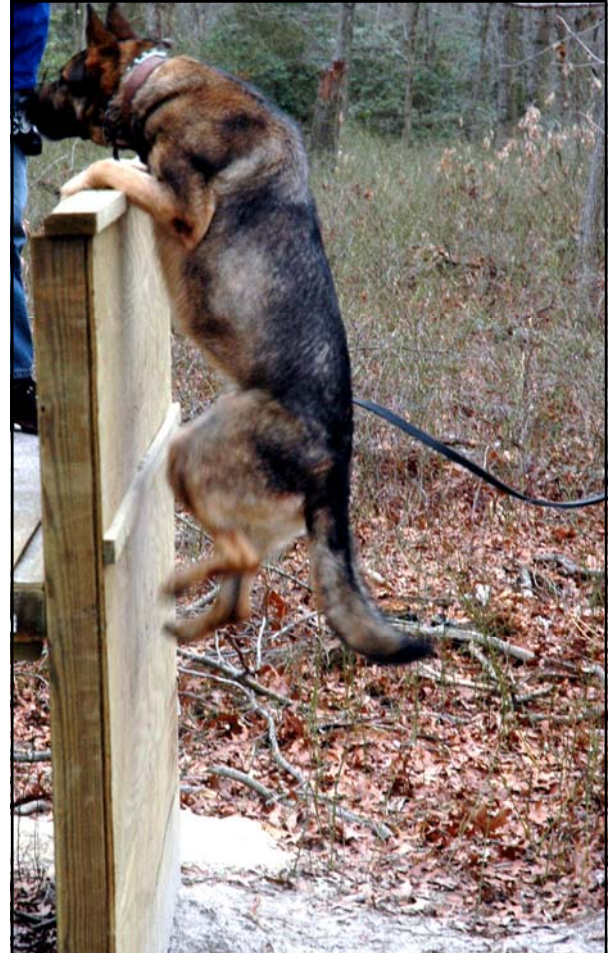
Sergeant Dion believes he and Dena are better prepared, and from here it means moving on to final deployment preparation.

“Once I get back to MacDill, I won’t be leaving right away,” Sergeant Dion said. “We’ll be doing a lot of follow-up training and carrying on with the lessons we learned here.

“Once I’m in Afghanistan, I’ll be better able to tell you how this entire experience has prepared me.”



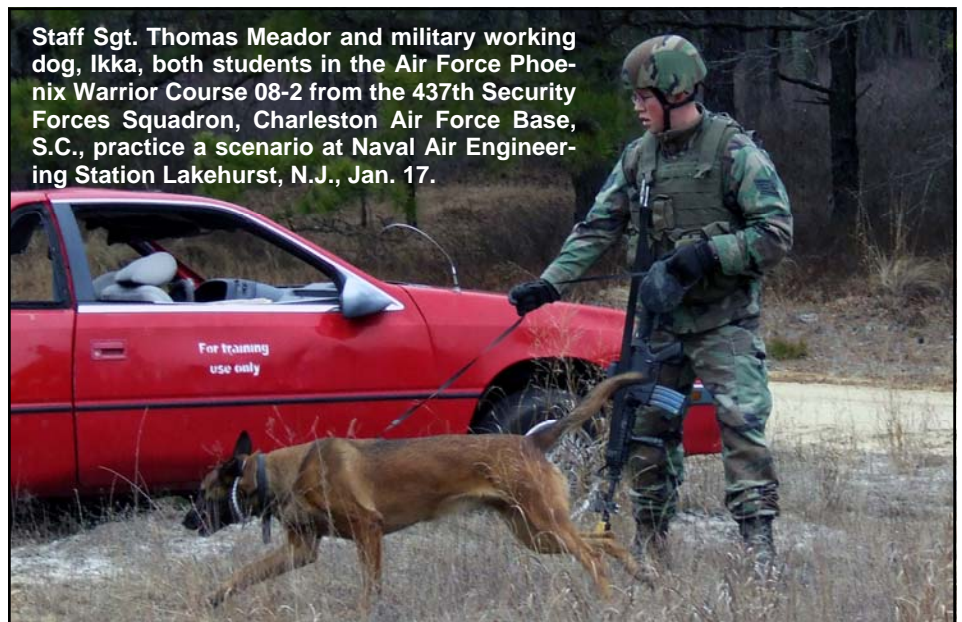
Tech. Sgt. LaMarcus Williams and military working dog, Jago, both from the 6th Security Forces Squadron at MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., participate in an obstacle course on a range on Fort Dix, N.J., Feb. 14. They were participants in the Phoenix Warrior Training Course 08-3 K-9 track.



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol
Military working dog Arek, jumps a six-foot wall during training on Fort Dix Jan. 22. Arek is a MWD assigned to the 75th Security Forces Squadron, Hill Air Force Base, Utah, and along with his handler, Staff Sgt. Jason Hanisko, were students in the K-9 track for Phoenix Warrior Training Course 08-2.



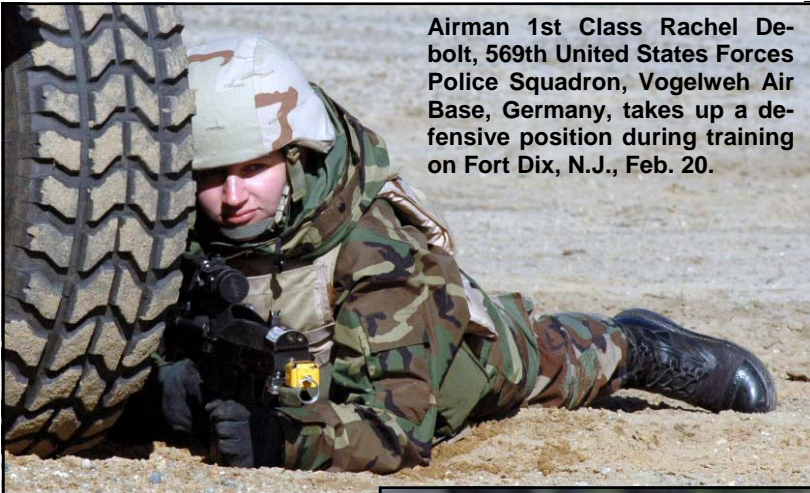
(Above and lower left) Staff Sgt. Dmitriy Skylar and military working dog, Rocki, both from the 305th Security Forces Squadron, McGuire Air Force Base, N.J., participate in an obstacle course Feb. 14 for Phoenix Warrior 08-3.



Staff Sgt. Thomas Meador and military working dog, Ikka, both students in the Air Force Phoenix Warrior Course 08-2 from the 437th Security Forces Squadron, Charleston Air Force Base, S.C., practice a scenario at Naval Air Engineering Station Lakehurst, N.J., Jan. 17.

MILITARY OPERATIONS IN URBAN TERRAIN

Phoenix Warrior 08-3 students tackle unique training



Airman 1st Class Rachel Debolt, 569th United States Forces Police Squadron, Vogelweh Air Base, Germany, takes up a defensive position during training on Fort Dix, N.J., Feb. 20.



(Right) Airman 1st Class Justin Trammel, also from the 569th USFPS, Vogelweh AB, Germany, practices a dismounted patrol scenario Feb. 20. (Below) Phoenix Warrior students prepare to clear a building.



(Above) Senior Airman Michael Cooper, 355th Security Forces Squadron, Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz., participates in a military operations in urban terrain scenario Feb. 20. (Below) Staff Sgt. Robert Graves, 569th USFPS, Vogelweh AB, Germany, leads a group of students in a MOUT scenario.



Contingency skills training instructor returns from year-long deployment training Afghan army

By Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol
U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center
Public Affairs

For Tech. Sgt. Samuel Schmitz, going to Kabul, Afghanistan, for a year was by far one of the longest deployments he's ever been on in his 12-year Air Force career. However, he said it was well worth the effort.

In January 2007, Sergeant Schmitz, a contingency skills training instructor with the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center's 421st Combat Training Squadron on Fort Dix, N.J., left for Fort Riley, Kan., for two months of Army contingency skills training before deploying to Afghanistan.

"My job there was to work as an Afghan National Army (or ANA) Central Movement Agency mentor," Sergeant Schmitz said. "My duties required me to work with junior ANA officers and senior NCOs to mentor and advise them on how to become and operate as a professional military. I was also a team lead on a mobile maintenance training team, or MMTT, that traveled the country providing training to various ANA units on vehicle and equipment maintenance."

Sergeant Schmitz' work in Afghanistan, from which he returned Feb. 3, is similar to what he's been doing at Fort Dix since October 2003 with the 421st CTS. There, he supports courses like Advanced Contingency Skills training or Air Force Exercise Eagle Flag. In those courses, he's trained Airmen in areas such as HMMWV familiarization and field generator operations.

"I am a civil engineering electrical power production specialist by trade," Sergeant Schmitz said.

"My work here with the Expeditionary Center certainly helped in my work in Afghanistan."

During his deployment, Sergeant Schmitz said he saw "huge" changes take place in the country's infrastructure and economy.

"When we first arrived there, children were roaming the streets — now they are going to

school and getting an education," Sergeant Schmitz said. "The police and Afghan National Army presence have improved dramatically over the past year. During my tour, working with the ANA to train and advise them of their daily operations and missions, we also saw huge improvements. Our ANA mission moved critical cargo all over the country in support of other ANA troops. When those ANA troops would return from missions where they encountered resistance or improvised explosive devices, they'd tell us the training they received from us was vital to their mission success. It made every member of my team have a sense of purpose and accomplishment for what we were sent there to do."

Sergeant Schmitz added that it was the little things that made each member of his team proud to serve and to help the government of Afghanistan begin to develop its own identity.

Since the U.S. began Operation Enduring Freedom on Oct. 7, 2001, thousands of Airmen have deployed to Afghanistan to help build the fledgling democracy and train a new Afghan force. Sergeant Schmitz said it's taking a joint effort to do this immense task.

"I learned how important my fellow brother-in-arms standing to my left and right were to my ability to return home to my family," Sergeant Schmitz said. "All the U.S. armed forces are working together there to make a big difference. I can say I only did a small part in that effort."

Going on such a long deployment also means being ready, Sergeant Schmitz said. It amounts to one thing — training.

"Nothing will ever fully prepare you for the challenges one may face during a combat tour," Sergeant Schmitz said. "Split-second decisions are made that impact your life along with the lives of your teammates.

Continuous training is the cornerstone to mission success and your survivability. Training before, and most certainly during the tour, will provide each team member with the ability to make those split-second decisions correctly."

Now that he's back, Sergeant Schmitz knows his work will ultimately help other deploying



Courtesy photo

Tech. Sgt. Samuel Schmitz, contingency skills training instructor from the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center's 421st Combat Training Squadron, Fort Dix, N.J., participates in a patrol in a village near Kabul, Afghanistan, July 28, 2007.

Airmen. That help will come in the form of providing new updates in training for the students who traverse the halls of the USAF EC campus.

"I think each Airman who passes through our doors learns how to work as a team, persevere in tough situations and how to operate professionally outside of their normal environment," Sergeant Schmitz said. "What I can do is take what I've learned through experience and help them gain more confidence in doing all those things."

Asked if he could provide some immediate advice to deploying Airmen, Sergeant Schmitz said they should "wear every last piece of protective gear" and be ready for the unexpected.

"Wear all of your protective equipment to include helmet, throat protector, side plates, ballistic glasses, hearing protection, gloves and uniforms, because they work," Sergeant Schmitz said. "Make sure both your primary and secondary weapons are functional and you have full loads of ammo. Check your buddy to make sure he is as prepared as you. Know your equipment! Lastly, don't become complacent no matter how many times you conduct the same mission or travel the same routes."

After 12 months, Sergeant Schmitz said he's glad to be back, but he will always think about the others in Afghanistan continuing the mission. He'll hold fond memories of the 14 other Airmen he lived and worked with on a daily basis. But mostly, he said he'll keep faith in his country and the work that is being done to improve the future of Afghanistan.

"God Bless America and Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors and Marines standing in harm's way."



Courtesy photo

Sergeant Schmitz talks with an Afghan National Army soldier through an interpreter in a village near Kabul, Afghanistan, on Sept. 29, 2007.

Expeditionary Center EOD instructor provides first-hand knowledge to students

By Tech. Sgt. Robert J. McWhorter
 U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center
 Explosive Ordnance Disposal operations program manager

Tech. Sgt. Vandiver K. Hood quickly returned to the podium less than a week after his post deployment leave in late February to instruct Advanced Contingency Skills Training students on improvised explosive device, or IED, recognition and response procedures.

Sergeant Hood deployed to Iraq from July 2007 to January 2008. He served as an explosive ordnance disposal team leader for a weapons intelligence team at a forward operating base in Iraq.

Sergeant Hood is an instructor assigned to the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center's 421st Combat Training Squadron EOD team on Fort Dix, N.J. Together, the 421st EOD team instructs students on IEDs, unexploded ordnance and explosive safety procedures for deployed environments during Phoenix Raven, Phoenix Warrior, ASCT and other courses.

This past deployment was his second to Iraq. Sergeant Hood earned a Bronze Star and the Air Force Combat Action Medal for the first deployment.

All that said, however, Sergeant Hood said he just wanted to get his job done in Iraq to help make sure those he supported made it home safely to their families. He also said he never thought much about the danger involved.

"If I gave too much thought to something like that I don't know if I would have been able to do my job," Sergeant Hood said. "When you're in danger, the thoughts that go through your head are usually not to worry about what is happening but to look for a solution, attack, and push through."

Because of the WIT's unique mission, he said, he learned a lot about enemy's tactics concerning IEDs. That effort is translating in educating deploying Airmen.

"I'm proud to be able to pass on any lessons learned to the expeditionary combat support Airmen we teach in our courses for the Expeditionary Operations School," Sergeant Hood said. "The ultimate idea is to save lives. The more information our Airmen are armed with before they deploy, the better decisions they'll make on the battlefield."

Students are also talking about Sergeant Hood's contributions. During the Advanced Contingency Skills Training Course 08-2A in February, Maj. Chris Chaplin, a student from Air Combat Command Headquarters, Langley Air Force Base, Va., said Sergeant Hood's training on IEDs added "enormous value."

"It was obvious Sergeant Hood has a lot of experience," Major Chaplin said. "It gives a lot of credibility to the course."

Major Chaplin added, "This course is extremely valuable to the deploying Airman. It gives all of us a greater awareness of the threats we will be facing."

The major also said instructors like Sergeant Hood "increase our confidence and give us the skills needed to complete to our mission."

Sergeant Hood said Airmen don't have to travel "outside the wire" to know how important preparation in training and knowledge can be.

"I know not everyone will be traveling 'outside the wire,' or even go to Iraq, but that does not mean they shouldn't be prepared," Sergeant Hood said. "A lot of people are surprised when they get off the plane in a war zone and the base they are deployed to gets shelled their first night in country. That is when they realize this is not a joke. That's when they also realize the importance of their preparation and training."

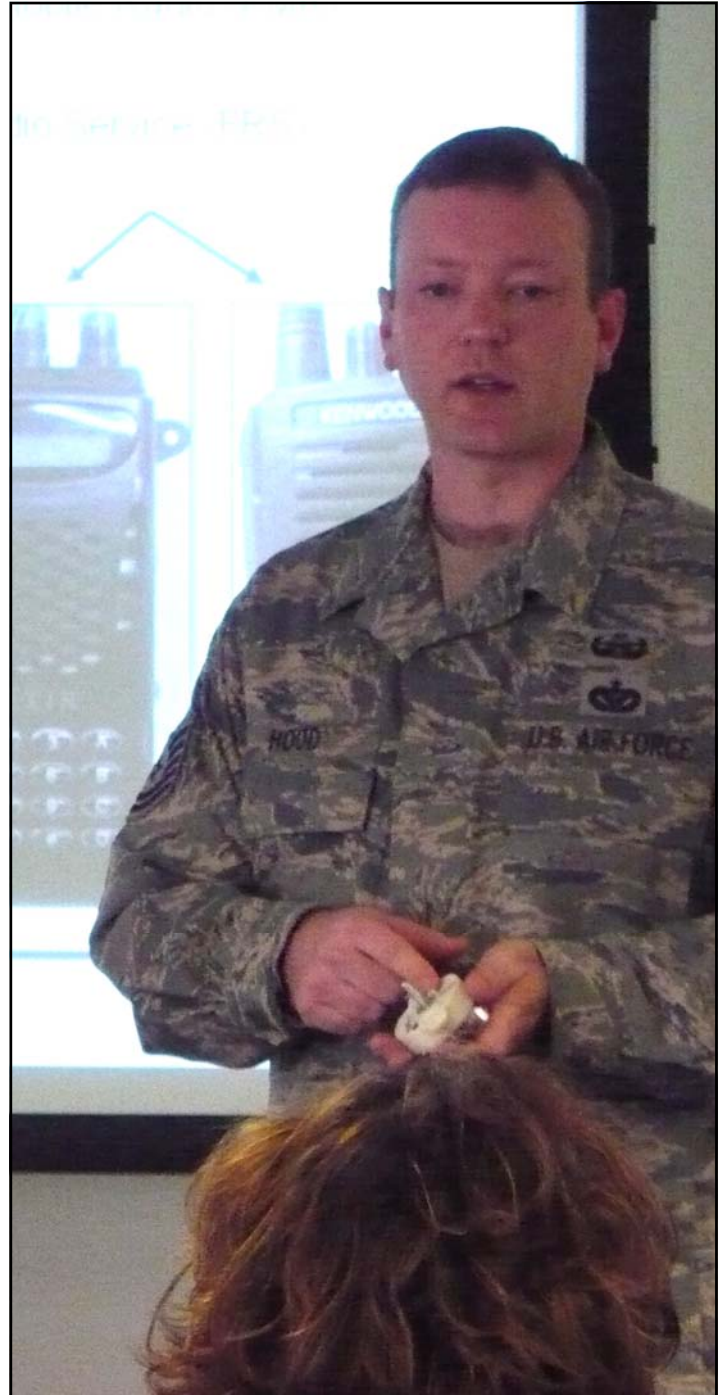


Photo by Tech. Sgt. Robert McWhorter
Tech. Sgt. Vandiver Hood, explosive ordnance disposal instructor with the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center's 421st Combat Training Squadron on Fort Dix, N.J., teaches a class on improvised explosive device recognition for students in the Advanced Contingency Skills Training Course 08-2A in February.

Aerial porters receive advanced training

By Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol
U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center Public Affairs

Airmen in the Air Force air transportation career field, also known as "aerial porters," can advance their training and capabilities through the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center's Aerial Port Operations Course on Fort Dix, N.J.

Held approximately 12 times a year at either Fort Dix or an away location such as Travis Air Force Base, Calif., or Charleston AFB, S.C., the APOC is taught by instructors from the Center's Mobility Operations School Air Transportation Branch.

"The course gives its students a 'walk-around' of the entire aerial port," said Tech. Sgt. James Carson III, course director. "Some Airmen only get the experience of working in one section of the aerial port. This course gives them a chance to learn about the processes that are going on in the other sections providing a much a bigger picture."

The APOC is a Community College of the Air Force-accredited course offered to air transportation Airmen and logistics readiness officers, Sergeant Carson said. "They not only come here and learn more about their job, but they also earn college credit in the process," he added.

Sergeant Carson said the course covers the main sections of aerial port operations to include air freight, passenger service, air terminal operations center and functions done at higher headquarters such as Air Mobility Command. The course integrates the computer-based Global Air Transportation Execution System, or GATES.

"This is a computer system that is used worldwide by aerial ports to track the movement of aircraft, cargo and passengers," Sergeant Carson said. "Here in the Mobility Operations School, we use a stand-alone training database that mirrors the actual GATES program used by aerial porters. This gives the students a chance to access the system and enter and process data into an exact replica system without challenging the integrity of the operational GATES program."

Sergeant Carson said this type of advanced training gives aerial porters a form of "standardization."

"If you put 10 aerial porters in a room and ask them to tell you what the aerial port business is all about, you will get 10 completely different answers," Sergeant Carson said. "Each port has its own way of doing things and our students come in with what they've learned at their home station. The Aerial Port Operations Course standardizes the training offered to its audience. Each of our lessons is derived from the regulation or instruction. In essence, this gets our students out of the shortcut method of learning and back on track with the regulations."

Staff Sgt. Paul Sweeney, an instructor and designer who recently taught as lead instructor for APOC Course 2008E, said the air transportation career field is very diverse and this type of advanced training is certainly needed.

"As aerial porters, we have so many different work centers," Sergeant Sweeney said. "They include passenger service, fleet service, ramp, Air Transportation Operations Center, load planning, data records, cape forecasting, aerial delivery and cargo processing. We are responsible for getting all the air cargo and passengers to the fight and then getting them all home. It is vital that aerial porters receive this training to advance their knowledge of the air transportation career field. In this course, the information covered helps aerial porters when they deploy, or when they are at home station."

It's especially on deployments, Sergeant Sweeney said, where this kind of training pays off.

"When you deploy as an aerial porter, you could work a different work section than you worked at home station," Sergeant Sweeney said. "As an extra tool to draw from their toolbox of experience, this course gives aerial porters a comprehensive background on the entire aerial port opera-



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol
Staff Sgt. Paul Sweeney, instructor with the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center Mobility Operations School's Aerial Port Operations Course, Fort Dix, N.J., teaches in the APOC 2008-E class Feb. 20.

tions picture. This knowledge, in turn, immensely helps the deployed aerial porter."

Sergeant Carson added, "A deployed aerial porter does not always have the time to ask why things are done in this sequence or why we use certain methods. Once an Airman has an idea about 'the big picture,' it will give that Airman a better understanding of why we do things the way we do them."

The course design and curriculum keeps up with the latest updates too, Sergeant Sweeney said.

"The Aerial Port Operations Course is always evolving," Sergeant Sweeney said. "I am constantly updating and reviewing all the information offered in this course to include lesson plans, course slides, course guide, tests and review games. When I arrived at the Center, the air transportation career field had just changed computer systems, and it's through those changes that we train our Airmen to keep up and stay informed."

With each new class, the course designers also learn from their students as they provide valuable input, Sergeant Carson said.

"If there is outdated information or methods, they let us know," Sergeant Carson said. "If there are new trends out in the port that we are unaware of, they also keep us in the know. Our students keep us on pulse with the operational aerial port. Most of our students have deployed and fixed-station experience, so we try to capitalize on their feedback."

Whether they teach the course inside the Center's walls or their instructors go on the road to the students, Sergeant Carson said they will continue to do their part to train air transportation Airmen to excel.

"We take pride in the importance our aerial porters bring to the Air Force," Sergeant Carson said. "Hopefully, as each class passes, we can share information and continue to make our career field the best in the world."

(Editor's note: Using both resident and Web-based instructional media, the Mobility Operations School offers 64 courses. Besides APOC, the school teaches the Director of Mobility Forces Course and the Advanced Study of Air Mobility Intermediate Developmental Education and graduate program. Other courses cover topics in operations, tactics, intelligence, transportation, maintenance, aircrew resource management, and command and control. For more on the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center, visit <http://www.expeditionarycenter.af.mil>.)

Air transportation Airmen can train from anywhere with Expeditionary Center distance learning

By Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol
U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center
Public Affairs

Air transportation Airmen across the Air Force can access training anytime, anywhere through the U.S. Air Expeditionary Center's distance learning program.

Offered by the Center's Mobility Operations School Air Transportation Branch at Fort Dix, N.J., "aerial porters" can train in eight courses — air freight, passenger service, air terminal operations center, aerial port vehicles, data records, Global Air Transportation Expeditor System, aerial port expeditor for C-17 and aerial port expeditor for C-5.

"Seventy-five percent of MOS distance learning is developed and maintained by the Air Transportation Branch," said Master Sgt. Jeff Norway, NCO in charge of air transportation formal schools. "Four of the eight air transportation courses earn Community College of the Air Force credit hours and all are CCAF accredited."

The ATB also has two on-line certification programs for C-17 and C-5 aerial port expeditors, Sergeant Norway said. Additionally, two more on-line courses are in the works covering customer service and load planning.

"All of our courses are heavily influenced by subject matter experts from the field," Sergeant Norway said. "They are part of every course design or redesign we do. Their input is crucial because they are out there doing it every day at strategic aerial ports and while deployed."

Sergeant Norway said the on-line courses are built to accommodate the "Total Force."

"Approximately 70 percent of the air transportation force is Guard and Reserve," Sergeant Norway said. "We use the blended learning approach so all can learn. As a matter of fact, some of the courses are mandatory for skill level upgrade and are incorporated into our qualification training package. Essentially, we build lesson plans for each task within the Career Field Education Training Plan."

Sergeant Norway said the courses "more than pay for themselves" providing a "huge" return on investment.

"The biggest return is for the student and the command he or she is from," Sergeant Norway said. "Our blended learning approach for the courses gets them on the same level prior to attending the traditional stand-up class in aerial port operations."

Statistics don't lie either, meaning the taxpayer is getting a return as well. According to course tracking documents, the current savings



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

Air transportation Airmen in the Aerial Port Operations Course work on computers in an U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center classroom Feb. 20. With numerous distance learning courses also available to them, these same Airmen can train from any location.

when comparing sending students on temporary duty assignments for "in classroom" training to the air transportation on-line courses since 2004 is more than \$24 million.

"For example, you can see this success in one of our more popular on-line courses — air freight," Sergeant Norway said. "The course went on-line in November 2004 at a development cost of \$265,000. Since then, however, we've had more than 4,700 students take the course.

"By doing the same course in a classroom, the average cost per student would be \$900 per student," Sergeant Norway said. "With 4,700 students already having taken the course, the 'in classroom' cost would come to nearly \$4.3 million. Subtract the development cost of \$265,000, and you've just saved the Air Force and the taxpayer more than \$4 million in training dollars."

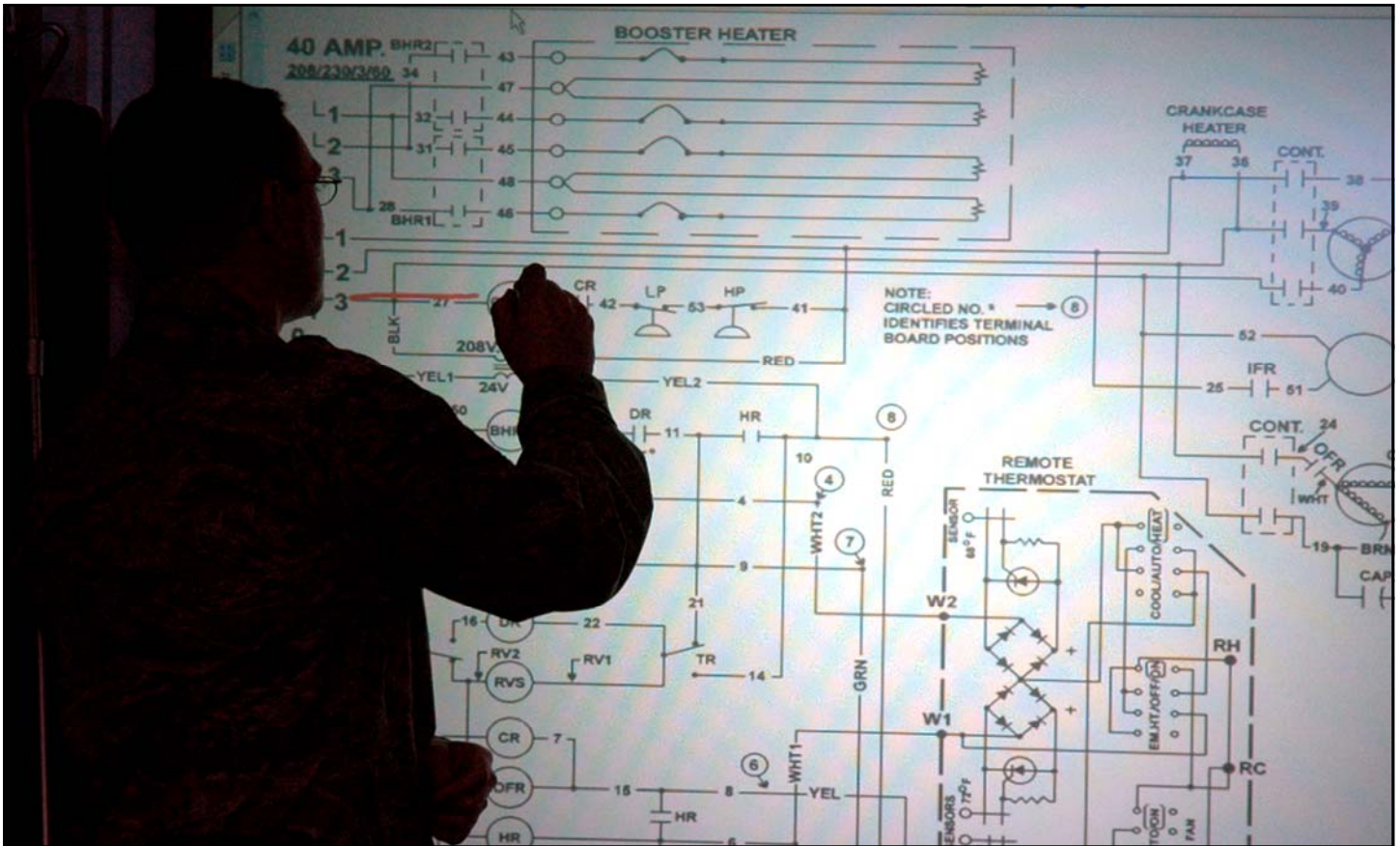
In 2007 alone, in all eight courses combined, 10,699 students completed the on-line training, Sergeant Norway said. "That number is only going to grow as we add more courses," he said.

Air transportation Airmen interested in learning more about available courses should see their unit training managers or access the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center site on the Air Force Portal.

Ten advantages to on-line learning

1. Convenience
2. Available anywhere, anytime as long as Internet connection is available
3. Saves money — no need to travel to a school house
4. Self-paced
5. Student-centered — teachers are more facilitators
6. Visually appealing — you have more than a text book to guide you
7. Fosters greater student interaction and collaboration
8. Accommodates multiple learning styles using a variety of delivery methods geared to different learners; more effective for certain learners
9. On-demand access means learning can happen precisely when needed
10. Enhances computer and Internet skills

MOS INSTRUCTORS ON THE JOB



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol



(Clockwise from top) Staff Sgt. Jonathon McClure teaches in the Mobility Operations School's Mobile Command and Control Environmental Unit Course in January.

Staff Sgt. Paul Sweeney teaches in the Aerial Port Operations Course Feb. 20.

Staff Sgt. Jamie Widrig teaches in the Mobile C2 Generator Course in January.

Staff Sgt. John Haynes, instructor for APOC, reviews a lesson plan Feb. 20.



RAVEN DEMONSTRATION



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

Tech. Sgts. Jeffrey Cadogan (left) and Daniel Koenigsmann (right), both Raven instructors with the 421st Combat Training Squadron begin a Raven demonstration March 19 in the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center on Fort Dix, N.J. Sergeant Koenigsmann uses verbal judo in an effort to calm Sergeant Cadogan who is posing as an aggressor.



Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Cadogan stands ready in the "red man" suit for a Raven demonstration March 19.



(Above and below) As the aggressor takes a more hostile approach, Sergeant Koenigsmann responds with self defense moves to subdue his attacker.



Once contained, Sergeant Koenigsmann explains the procedure to report the aggressor to local authorities.



Soldiers add realism to Eagle Flag 08-2



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol
Soldiers from the 404th Civil Affairs Battalion, Fort Dix, N.J., parachute over Naval Air Engineering Station Lakehurst, N.J., as part of a joint operations event for Air Force Exercise Eagle Flag 08-2 Jan. 16.



A CH-47 Chinook from Detachment 1, Company G, 104th Aviation Battalion of the Connecticut Army National Guard at Windsor Locks, flies over NAES Lakehurst.



More Soldiers parachute down after jumping from the CH-47 helicopter.



The CH-47 lands on the NAES Lakehurst airfield.

EAGLE FLAG ROLE PLAYERS



Photo by Airman 1st Class April Meyer



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

Role players act out a scenario with Eagle Flag students at NAES Lakehurst Jan. 21.

(Above) Staff Sgt. Sara Nocher, Seymour-Johnson Air Force Base, N.C., plays the role of a villager during Air Force Exercise Eagle Flag 08-2 Jan. 19 at Naval Air Engineering Station Lakehurst, N.J.

(Below) Senior Airman Clayton Murray, 75th Air Base Wing, Hill AFB, Utah, plays the role of local media Jan. 20 at NAES Lakehurst.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

Another role player for Eagle Flag 08-2 sets up the village fruit stand.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

Airmen play roles as the host nation army for the exercise.

Why We Serve: Desire to serve brought Airman back to force

By Army Sgt. Sara Moore
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Tech. Sgt. Paralyn McClain joined the military straight out of high school, but after an eight-year stint, decided to get out. Five years later, however, a love for the military and a desire to serve brought her back to the Air Force, and she hasn't looked back for seven years.

During her break from the military, McClain attended the University of Maryland and traveled with her now-ex-husband, who was in the military. She said coming back into the Air Force was a decision she doesn't regret.

"I really enjoyed being in the military, and I came back in to make a difference," she said.

McClain joined the Air Force in January 1986, and her first assignment was intelligence collections at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb. She was assigned to Osan Air Base, South Korea, in 1991, and Misawa Air Base, Japan, from 1993 to 1995, when she separated from the Air Force. She re-entered the force in December 2000 and was assigned to air operations intelligence at Langley Air Force Base, Va., where she worked until she was assigned to her current position as an intelligence analyst for the Expeditionary Operations School at the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center, Fort Dix, N.J.

McClain is now touring the country as part of the Defense Department's "Why We Serve" program. The program sends recently deployed servicemembers around the country to talk to various business, community and veter-

ans organizations about their experiences. McClain said she volunteered for the program because after her latest deployment, which she returned from in April 2007, she saw a need to get accurate information to the public about the military and operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"When I came back from this deployment, I had so many questions from family members, being I'm not from a military family, and so many people I just happened to run across along the way would ask me all these things," she said.

"So it was very important for me to be able to have people know more than what the press is putting out there, because there is more than one way of looking at things, and there are many other stories that are out there that people just aren't hearing."

During McClain's deployment to Afghanistan, she said, she appreciated that everyone had something to contribute. "I had the great experience of working with over 20 coalition countries and working with a lot of Afghans. Seeing how everybody's pieces could help out, that was probably the biggest thing for me," she said.

McClain, who's originally from Mays Landing, N.J., said she plans to make the Air Force a career. For now, she said, she's happy to be part of Why We Serve, bringing her message to the American public.

"It's a very good program, and definitely something that's needed, and I'm happy to be part of it," she said.



Department of Defense Photo
Tech. Sgt. Paralyn McClain, intelligence analyst for the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center's 421st Combat Training Squadron, Fort Dix, N.J., for the past several years, is currently serving with the Department of Defense's Why We Serve Program where she travels around the country telling her story about a recent deployment.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

Eagle statue lands at Expeditionary Center

This bronze statue of an eagle landing on its perch has found a home at the entry way to the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center on Fort Dix, N.J. Made by artist Jules Moigniez, the statue has been named "Liberty," or "Libby" for short. The statue represents the Center's moniker of the "Eagles."

Leadership from the 'heart'

By Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol
U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center
Public Affairs

I was sitting in the front row of the auditorium in my son Jackson's school waiting for the spelling bee to start.

I was anxious to see how Jackson would do amongst the best spellers in school. Once it started, he was the fifth person they called. His word was, "intermediate." He replies, "Intermediate, i-n-t-e-r-m-e-d-i-a-t-e, intermediate."

Jackson said it with such confidence the audience, which was the entire student body, staff and parents, cheered in amazement. I even looked over at his

mother sitting next to me and also at his teacher a few rows down, and they were both so very proud. However, I was the proudest of them all.

I watched him make it well into the third round before he misspelled a word by one letter. However, he still spelled it in the confidence-inspired style he used in the first few rounds. No matter what, I was so very proud of him.

Jackson's spelling bee experience was his first. It was an event built from his dedication to himself and in the hard work he put in to learn the spelling of hundreds of words they used for the spelling bee.

He showed how someone can inspire others despite the life challenges he has faced with autism. He believes what is in his heart and no disability will ever slow him down.

During that spelling bee, I learned a lot from my son. I learned he has the heart of a champion whether he wins or not. I saw that leadership from the heart comes in all forms — including an 11-year-old boy with autism.

Jackson is the youngest of five children for my wife and me. He's faced a lot more "in class" time than most children his age and

maintains the same grade proficiency as children his age. He doesn't even think twice about it — he just goes through life like this is the way it is.

It's hard, in a way, for

me to even talk about this because it means accepting I have a child with a disability. But, on the other hand, I've never looked at Jackson's abilities as a disability because I know he can overcome anything. He has heart and a team around him who will do what it takes to get him to the next level.

I also see in him many of the core values the Air Force instills in us as Airmen. For example, let's start with "integrity first." Jackson takes ownership of his priorities, does his schoolwork, his chores at home and loves his family.

How about "service before self?" Jackson is always willing to support "Team Sturkol" in

whatever task or adventure we undertake. He shows good followership, and when called upon, he takes the lead willingly even if he knows it's a learning process along the way.

With "excellence in all we do," Jackson strives to master everything he becomes involved with. It's one of the traits he holds that is also an advantage. For instance, he taught himself how to type on the computer at age 4, and by age 5, he could load software for me. He did these things because he really wanted to be good at it.

In defining leadership, we often hear about the intangibles that make a good leader such as confidence, inspiration, motivation and heart.

For me, having "heart" means having that desire to persevere where others might not. Or, it can also mean believing in your ability to do whatever it is you put your mind forth to do. I saw the heart of a leader in my son that day at the spelling bee. His performance inspired me as well as others.

As life goes on for Jackson, I know it won't get any easier. However, I know he will demonstrate "leadership from the heart" and make my heart proud for being around him.

If you asked Jackson what he knows about autism, he'd tell you, "I don't know anybody with autism." My reply is always the same - "Neither do I son, neither do I."

Take a look around you and inside you, my guess is you'll see how leadership, from the heart, can carry you to new heights and soar beyond the clouds of doubt.

"I saw the heart of a leader in my son that day at the spelling bee. His performance inspired me as well as others."

Priorities, from Page 2

the same heading in a challenging environment. The original priorities were very effective for us as Airmen and, in fact, became a focal point for people looking at the Air Force from outside our ranks. As a result, General Moseley and Secretary Wynne decided to update the priorities' wording to make the message equally effective for both those in and out of uniform.

In January of this year, the Air Force published the updated version of its priorities. The priorities are now: (1) Win Today's Fight, (2) Take Care of Our People and (3) Prepare for Tomorrow's Challenges.

The new language is succinct and direct. And, the basic theme of mission, people and tomorrow remains the same. So, even though the words are new, our

vector remains the same.

As a command, we will transition to the priorities' new wording over the next several months. My intent is to make this change gracefully and cost-effectively. Continue to use existing products (banners, flyers, etc.) until they are replaced through attrition. Use the updated wording on new products as they are created.

As I look forward to the rest of 2008, I am incredibly proud of everything mobility Airmen have (and continue to) accomplish every day around the world. Your dedication and service provides the clenched fist and outstretched hand of Global Reach that is prized by our nation's leaders, depended on by the joint warfighter, and cherished by those in need of humanitarian assistance. I'm confident the rest of 2008 will hold even more successes.

Notable quotes from key Air Force leaders

"To our Airmen who are either deployed or supporting theater operations from home station, thank you for your contributions to the Joint team in defending our Nation and providing the security these newly-free societies need to flourish."

Secretary of the Air Force Michael W. Wynne, Feb. 7, "Letter to Airmen: Reflections from the AOR"

"The wingman bonds we share today are a direct link to our proud heritage and yet another way we're standing on the shoulders of the giants who preceded us. While we fly, fight, and win, we're also obliged to treasure and foster our wingman concept, to take care of each other every day, and to never forget, 'once an Airman, always an Airman.'"

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley, June 7, 2007, "CSAF's Vector: Wingmen for Life"

"Our Airman's Creed captures what our warrior ethos means, and everywhere I go I see Airman reciting the creed from heart. It is inspirational to see their commitment as they say the words and understand what they mean."

Chief Master Sgt. Of the Air Force Rodney J. McKinley, Jan. 29, "The Enlisted Perspective"



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

FTAC tour

Master Sgt. Ben Rodriguez, from the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center's Mobility Operations School, Fort Dix, N.J., shows students from the McGuire Air Force Base, N.J., First Term Airman Center the Heritage Hall area of the Center during a tour Jan. 16. The FTAC students regularly visit the Center to learn about the USAF EC mission and capabilities.

Village boss

Tech. Sgt. Richard Oliver, from the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center's Expeditionary Operations School, Fort Dix, N.J., plays the role of chieftain during Air Force Exercise Eagle Flag 08-2 in January at Naval Air Engineering Station Lakehurst, N.J. Sergeant Oliver is a veteran of participant and trainer in Eagle Flag. Sergeant Oliver recently moved from the 421st Combat Training Squadron to EOS to support teaching in the new Air Advisor Course.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

The Expeditionary Airman Salutes ...

Promotions for January, February, March

Congratulations to the following U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center "Eagles" who sewed on new rank in this past quarter:

To master sergeant
John Pickford
Colby Bowers

To technical sergeant
Matthew Butler
Melissa Douglas
Michael Dichiaro

USAF EC quarterly winners
Congratulations to the following USAF EC "Eagles" selected as the Center's best in the most recent quarterly awards competition:

Company Grade Officer of the Quarter
Capt. Jodi Bonnes
Mobility Operations School

Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Quarter
Master Sgt. Scott Krzysik,
MOS

Noncommissioned Officer of the Quarter
Staff Sgt. Rudolph Stuart
421st Combat Training Squadron

Airman of the Quarter
Airman 1st Class George Son
Expeditionary Center Resources Directorate

Civilian of the Quarter (Category I)
Ms. Kristin Nalette
MOS

Civilian of the Quarter (Category II)
Mr. Michael Crawford
MOS

Rennselaer ROTC cadets visit USAF EC

Col. Jennifer Pickett, commandant for the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center's Expeditionary Operations School, Fort Dix, N.J., briefs Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets from Rennselaer Polytechnic Institute, N.Y., during their visit to the Center Feb. 8. Approximately 30 cadets and staff from the university traveled to New Jersey for an Air Force orientation visit.



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

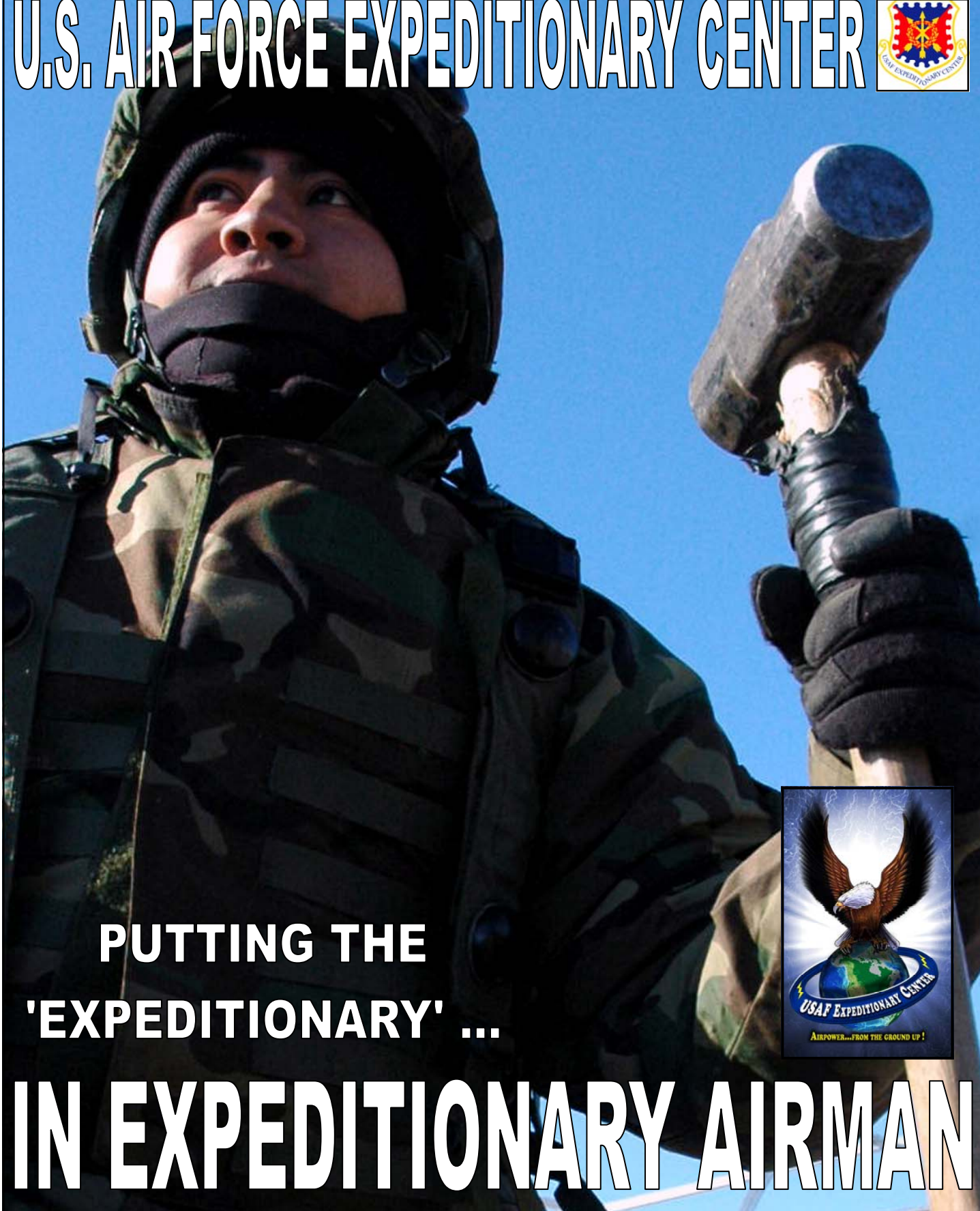


The RPI cadets talk with Senior Master Sgt. Domenic Perino, Air Mobility Battlelab, and Master Sgt. Troy Coville, Mobility Operations School, as part of a senior NCO panel for their visit.

Tech. Sgt. Sean Heraty, USAF EC Armory, shows the RPI cadets some of the weapons kept in the armory and explained how they are used for training in many of the Center's courses.



U.S. AIR FORCE EXPEDITIONARY CENTER



PUTTING THE
'EXPEDITIONARY' ...

IN EXPEDITIONARY AIRMAN



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol