



THE

Volume 2, Edition 4

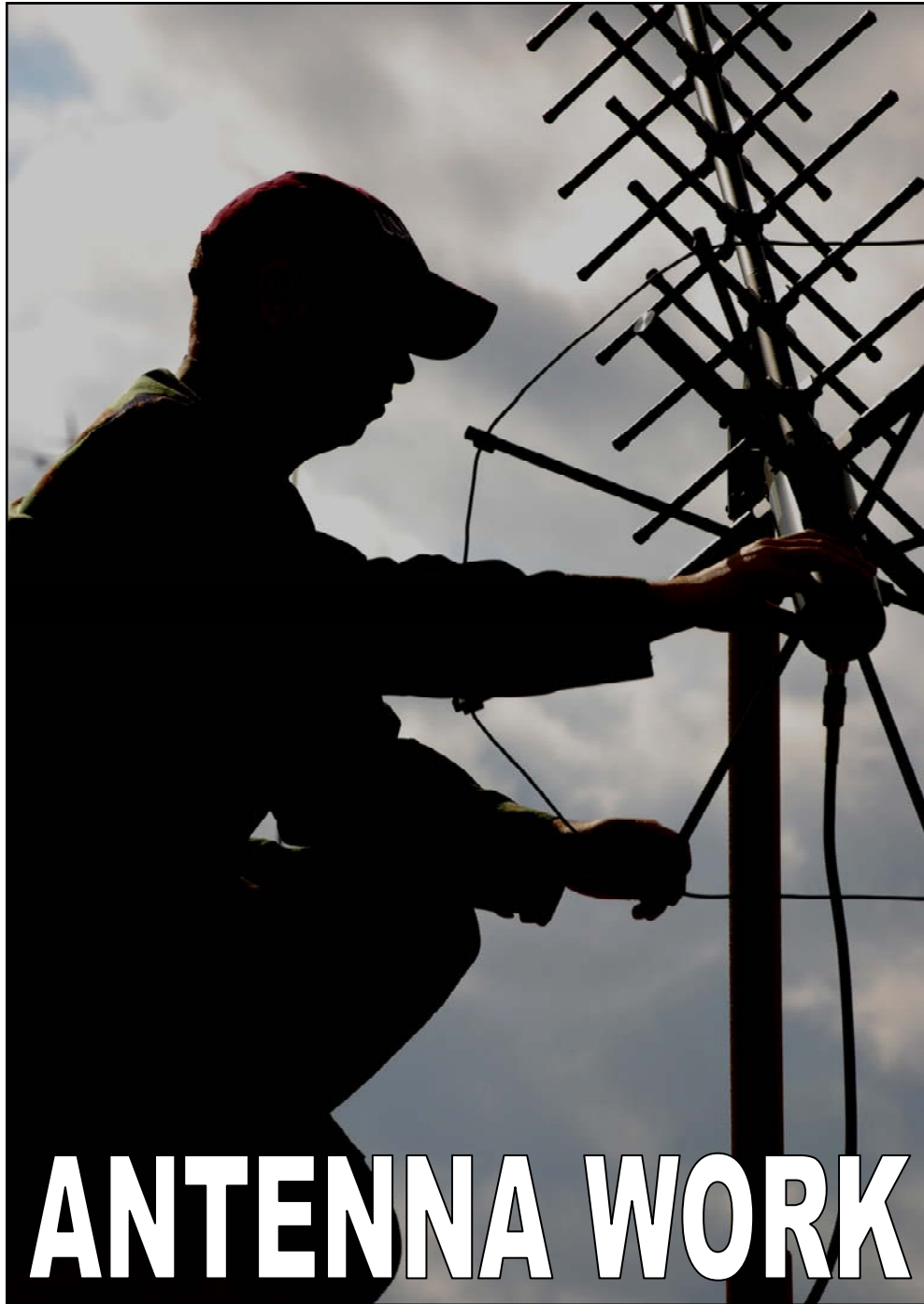
EXPEDITIONARY



AIRMAN

October to December 2008

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



ANTENNA WORK

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

Tech. Sgt. Don Colbert, course director for the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center's Mobile Command, Control and Communications Systems Course, works on adjusting an antenna on the Hard-sided Expandable Lightweight Air Mobile Shelter, or HELAMS, in the Mobility Operations School's Mobile C3 training facility on Fort Dix, N.J., Oct. 29, 2008. The HELAMS is the Air Force's newest shelter being fielded to contingency response forces to serve as mobile command posts in a bare-base environment. For more on the HELAMS shelter, see Page 15.

BEHIND THE LINES



New command chief discusses leadership
Page 2

CMSAF: 'The quality of our Airmen is astounding'



Pages 3



Senior NCO inducted into AMC's 'Order of the Bayonet'

Pages 6-7

Artist sketches 'Eagles' for special painting



Page 8-9



USAF EC adds SPICE to its curriculum

Page 14

JAGs train for combat



Pages 18-19

Excellence – not just a word

By Chief Master Sgt. Fitzgerald Hentz
U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center
Command chief master sergeant

Team Eagles — shortly I will celebrate my two-month anniversary as your command chief and what an awesome experience it has been.

Each day has proven to be one of humbleness and honor as I have witnessed your genuine effort to train, mentor, and lead expeditionary Airmen. Your professional approach and sincere dedication to mission accomplishment can be summed up with one word — excellence.

Seeing each of you consistently and passionately perform vital roles in developing and caring for Airmen reassures Maj. Gen. (Kip) Self and me that excellence is not just a word to you. It is indeed your standard for preparing expeditionary Airmen to fly, fight, and win.

As I have told many of you, the training role of the United States Air Force Expeditionary Center is an important one and one that all of us should feel proud to have.

Whether you're a member of the Mobility Operations School, Expeditionary Operations School, 421st Combat Training Squadron or the Resources Directorate, realize that your day-to-day execution of the Air Force's core values helps produce the very best "warrior" Airmen.

As a recent returnee from a one-year deployment to Joint Base Balad, Iraq, I can reassure each one of you that your efforts are making a difference.

The training you provide ensures our Air Force and its leaders have the right Airmen with the right skills and capabilities to get the job done.

This huge accomplishment is only possible because of your commitment to make every Airman the best resource to provide "Airpower...from the Ground Up" — a commitment that enabled the Expeditionary Center to graduate over 17,400 students in 2008. So, it is with pride that I say thanks Eagles for the excellence of what has been done and for the excellence of what will be done.

The year ahead will continue to give each of you opportunities to succeed. Will challenges arise? Of course they will. But with your enthusiastic determination, challenges will become opportunities for success, and excellence will continue to be our benchmark.

Let us use as our guide the philosophy of Robert F. Kennedy when he once stated, "Some people see things as they are and ask



Chief Master Sgt. Fitzgerald Hentz

'Why.' I see things that could be and ask, 'Why Not.'"

Eagles, let us continue to ask why not with an "all in" attitude as we strive to enhance the already well established legacy of the United States Air Force Expeditionary Center.

It is with that outlook that our initiative will lead to unprecedented contingency and mobility training concepts, ideas and processes which will in turn enhance the war fighters.

Yes, we will have challenges but we will meet them head on with zeal and determination, realizing that excellence is not only our legacy but it is also our responsibility and defines why we will continue to "soar" as Eagles.

Editorial Staff

Maj. Gen. Kip L. Self
USAF Expeditionary Center Commander
Lt. Col. Christie L.S. Dragan
Director, USAF EC Public Affairs
Chief Master Sgt. Paula Paige
IMA to USAF EC Public Affairs
Senior Master Sgt. Michael Montgomery
Superintendent, USAF EC Public Affairs
Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol
NCO in Charge, USAF EC Public Affairs
Editor, *The Expeditionary Airman*
Staff Sgt. Nathan Bevier
Photographer
Staff Sgt. Veuril McDavid
Videographer
Staff Sgt. Paul R. Evans,
Photographer/Contributor



THE EXPEDITIONARY AIRMAN

The Expeditionary Airman, a funded military newspaper, is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military. Contents of The Expeditionary Airman are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the U.S. Air Force.

The editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center Public Affairs Office. Submissions for The Expeditionary Airman are due by noon the Monday prior to the end of each quarter (March, June, September, and December). Input may be submitted via e-mail to scott.sturkol@us.af.mil and christie.dragan@us.af.mil. The USAF EC Public Affairs Office reserves the right to edit all submitted material for style and content.

CMSAF McKinley: 'The quality of our Airmen is astounding'

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

ANAHEIM, Calif. — The Air Force's top enlisted leader visited the 2008 Airlift/Tanker Association convention in early November to update the thousands of attendees on the latest Air Force issues and priorities. One message stood clear above the others — he's proud of Airmen.

"I just got back from a trip to Iraq, Afghanistan and the Horn of Africa," said Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Rodney J. McKinley on Nov. 7. "It was a fantastic trip and the one thing that always impresses me on these trips is our Airmen."

Chief McKinley addressed the issues affecting the Air Force and how the way forward means meeting the priorities set forth by the service's leadership.

"We may have had some challenges, but we have met those head on and I have to tell you I really like the direction our Air Force is going," Chief McKinley said. "As Secretary of the Air Force (Michael) Donley talked about our priorities earlier at this convention, the No. 1 priority is to reinvigorate the nuclear enterprise."

Part of the Air Force's reinvigoration process is not just getting back to basics, but also having a plan to keep focus on the things that are important, the chief said. He noted the Air Force has "got the stick" on reinvigorating the nuclear enterprise.

"We are standing up Global Strike Command, a major command that will be led by a three-star general," Chief McKinley said. "It's still being determined where that's going to be headquartered, but it's the right thing to do. We're concentrating on our nuclear enterprise because our country needs to know that we've got that focus."

Chief McKinley also referenced an enlisted perspective he wrote in July, entitled, "Blocking and Tackling." He said the business of the Air Force getting back to the basics can be demonstrated in numerous ways and in many ways is like a good football sports team.

"When things happen, such as changes in leadership, the simple thing I come back to is to talk about doing the basics — the blocking and tackling," Chief McKinley said. "We've got to get it right because if you look at any sports team, they are going to succeed because they are good at the basics — the blocking and tackling. They go on the field and they practice the basics all the time. That's what makes them great."

"That's also what makes the Air Force great," Chief McKinley said. "The things we learned in basic training, the Air Force Academy or ROTC are the things that make us the best."

As examples of remembering the basics, Chief McKinley expressed a dedication to the Air Force's core values.

"The lessons we learned in basic training are simple," Chief McKinley said. "These are things like integrity. Integrity is doing the right thing even when no one is looking."

In addressing "service before self," the chief said, "That means you are going to put the service out there first. I'm not saying don't take care of your family or personal needs, but you've got to have that service ethic if you are going to take care of Air Force needs."

"And in 'excellence in everything we do,' every job is important, no matter what the job," Chief McKinley said. "You've got to make sure you do that job the very best you possibly can so somebody does not have to come behind you and do the same job over again."

Chief McKinley said he also wants Airmen to remember their customs and courtesies.

"Customs and courtesies are important," he said. "When you think about a retreat ceremony, think about our flag and the heroes of our past and all those of you who are serving right now. We should think about those people who have given it all."

Another update Chief McKinley touched on was uniform improve-



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol
Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Rodney J. McKinley talks to attendees to the 2008 Airlift/Tanker Association convention Nov. 7 in Anaheim, Calif. Chief McKinley hit on numerous issues across the Air Force.

ments. He said the Airman Battle Uniform issues with mismatched colors and being "too heavy and hot" should be fixed by summer 2009 as well as an updated physical training uniform.

"We are working on the PT gear and we are going to have a new PT short and shirt combination out by next summer," Chief McKinley said. "They're going to be made of a better material and they're going to have a pocket in there so you can carry your ID card and your keys."

"We've also got a new PT suit planned to be made with the same newer, softer material as the shorts and shirt," Chief McKinley said. "I've already seen and touched it — it's nice and comfortable."

Chief McKinley said we continue to take care of Airmen and their families with improvements in quality of life.

"We just put \$140 million toward taking care of dormitories across our Air Force," Chief McKinley said. "Another thing we did was put \$23.4 million into quality of life. That funding is put out there to take care of areas like fitness centers, child care centers, libraries and recreation centers. These are matters important to Airmen and their families."

He also said more than \$91 million has been put into reenlistment bonuses for Airmen in demanding career fields.

"This is a jump in our re-enlistment bonuses," Chief McKinley said. "We are also working to program that money for the next several years to keep the funds flowing to retain our Airmen."#

'Eagles' welcome new command chief

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

Chief Master Sgt. Fitzgerald Hentz became the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center's newest command chief master sergeant Dec. 1.

Chief Hentz grew up in Greenwood, S.C., and entered the Air Force in January 1982. His background includes various duties in the security forces career field and as an interim first sergeant on two occasions. His assignments include bases in South Carolina, Georgia, New Mexico, Florida and Texas.

The chief also served overseas in South Korea, Germany, and Southwest Asia. Before assuming his current position, Chief Hentz most recently served as Security Forces Manager, Headquarters Air Education and Training Command, Randolph AFB, Texas.

Chief Hentz also recently completed a one-year deployment as the Security Forces Manager, 332nd Expeditionary Security Forces Group, Balad Air Base, Iraq.

Over his career, Chief Hentz has earned the Bronze Star, five Meritorious Service Medals, three Air Force Commendation Medals and numerous other awards. In his current position, he is the command chief for more than 275 personnel assigned.

Annually, the USAF EC offers 66 in-residence courses and 11 Web-based training courses graduating more than 23,000 students each year.



Photos by Staff Sgt. Nathan G. Bevier

Chief Master Sgt. Fitzgerald Hentz holds his first enlisted call in the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center's Grace Peterson Hall on Dec. 8.



Chief Hentz talks during his welcome in the "Landing" at the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center on Dec. 1.

TRANSCOM commander praises mobility Airmen: 'We have built a crown jewel'

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

ANAHEIM, Calif. — In opening the 2008 Airlift/Tanker Association convention, Gen. Duncan McNabb not only spoke about the evolution of U.S. Transportation Command since the days of its first commander, but also the mobility Airmen who contribute to its success.

Citing how the Air Force has made its air mobility the "crown jewel" of the world's mobility air forces, the newest U.S. Transportation Command commander said America's success in the mobility business is unprecedented.

"Our strategic ability to move is like no other nation has," General McNabb said on Nov. 7. "Our ability to influence events very quickly makes a huge difference."

He added, "When you think about our nation and our warfighters out there, they are depending on our ability to do what we do without any worry, and we do it. How tremendous is that? I believe I lead a championship team because there is no question...this is a championship team."

In tune with the convention's theme, "From Berlin to Baghdad and Beyond," General McNabb related how the Berlin Airlift of 1948 was a keystone event marking the abilities of air mobility more than 60 years ago. He noted how, looking back, all Airmen should consider what the airlift was and what was at stake.

"There were questions for a new Air Force at the time, such as how do we stop Soviet expansion? Or, how can we stop them when country after country was rolling under the Iron Curtain? At some point, are they possibly going to take over Germany? Are they going to take over Berlin?" he said.

The options to get food to starving people in East Berlin were limited, General McNabb said, but "one other way" was airlift. And it was through airlift where he said people such as retired Col. Gail Halvorsen, also known as the "Candy Bomber," brought air mobility to the forefront.

"Gail Halvorsen said this is not about delivering coal," General McNabb said. "He said it's not about delivering wheat — it's about saving people. It's about saving children."

General McNabb said the courageousness of the veterans of the Berlin Airlift translate to what the Air Force does today. He said it is what Airmen are doing every day.

"When you think about that, people depend upon us all across the world," General McNabb



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol
Gen. Duncan McNabb, U.S. Transportation Command commander at Scott Air Force Base, Ill., provides the opening address at the Airlift/Tanker Association convention in Anaheim, Calif., on Nov. 7.

said. "Look at when (earlier this year) you saw us going into Georgia with its capital Tblisi under fire. We said, 'Send the mobility folks in there and let's do it that way. You could see the appreciation in the faces of their people.'"

The general also reflected on the events of Sept. 11, 2001. On that day, he worked in the Pentagon and still recalls what happened quite vividly and how it affected him.

"I was angry," General McNabb said. "I was angry, not because of the Pentagon (attack) because you could say that was a military target,

but the twin towers [World Trade Center in New York City] was not. It was the killing of innocent men, women and children.

"We all know this [the Global War on Terrorism] is a battle of good over evil, of hope over despair, of freedom over tyranny," General McNabb said. "It is about the future of mankind — there is no doubt about that."

He said after that event, America didn't have to look far for volunteers for a response to the acts of terrorism.

"When [our leaders] looked around and said, 'Who will go and who will defend us against this great evil?,' all of you raised your hand for freedom and said, 'Here we are — send us.' When I travel to Balad or Bagram or Kandahar, I see the spirit in which you do your work — it absolutely blows me away. It is tremendous. The sacrifice is very real. The courage is very real. We have in fact raised the next 'greatest generation.'"

General McNabb added, "You rose to the sound of the guns. You've been tested under fire. You are battle worthy. For the rest of your life you know that no matter what path you go that you not only raised your hand for freedom but you also put yourself out there for others. You went for a great cause — that great cause of freedom."

The general also praised family members for their support in the success of air mobility and more specifically since the start of the GWOT. He encouraged convention attendees to go home and thank their loved ones for everything they have done.

"A person can put themselves in harm's way a lot easier than they can put a loved one in harm's way," General McNabb said. "It is a very different equation. So I thank all of you. I thank you and if you all could do one thing for me ... when you go home you make sure you tell your loved ones thank you. Thank them for their sacrifice. Thank them for allowing you to serve this great nation and this great cause of freedom. It is, in fact, huge."

Overall, General McNabb said he is proud to be a part of, and a product of, the Air Force's air mobility community.

"Nobody comes close to what you do," General McNabb said. "When it comes to taking our warfighters to the fight, nobody can touch you.

"It's not the aerial porter or the aircrew," he said. "It's not the intel folks. It's not the planner. It's not the logistician who works all through this. It's everybody bringing the whole thing together so you can look at it and say, 'My goodness, that is just magic.' "#

Former 'Eagle' inducted into AMC's Order of the Bayonet

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

With more than 20 security forces Airmen before him donning their "battle rattle" of Kevlar helmets, armor and M-4 rifles with bayonets, Master Sgt. Jason Parker was given a prestigious honor very few in his career field receive.

Sergeant Parker, assigned to the 92nd Security Forces Squadron at Fairchild Air Force Base, Wash., was inducted into the Defender class of the Air Mobility Command Order of the Bayonet on Nov. 24 during a special ceremony in the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center's Grace Peterson Hall.

The Order of the Bayonet was established in 1981 to recognize the accomplishments of those who have made significant contributions to the security and ground defense of air bases, regardless of their position or rank. This is the highest honor AMC security forces men and women can bestow upon a person.

"This is like the Heisman trophy for cops in the Air Force," said Col. Robert Dutterer of the AMC Security Forces Directorate at Scott AFB, Ill. "This is as huge as it gets. And, in this case, what makes it more important is here he is — a senior master sergeant select — getting it. The last four ceremonies I attended (for this award) were for colonels and chiefs."



Photo by Staff Sgt. Paul R. Evans

Master Sgt. Jason Parker stands at attention during the reading of the citation and the presentation of the award of the Order of the Bayonet for Sergeant Jason Parker in the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center's Grace Peterson Hall on Nov. 24. Sergeant Parker, now stationed at the 92nd Security Forces Squadron at Fairchild Air Force Base, Wash., was nominated for the award while serving as a member of the Expeditionary Center's 421st Combat Training Squadron.

Sergeant Parker's ascension to induction into the Order began with a nomination from his former leadership in the EC's Expeditionary

Operations School. Sergeant Parker served in the school's 421st Combat Training Squadron until 2007 when he left for a one year deployment to Iraq.

After he was nominated, Colonel Dutterer said Sergeant Parker's submission package was reviewed by the AMC Chief's Council and formally approved by AMC's top security forces officer — Col. Lyle Cary. "The contributions that he's made, the training he's done for men and women deploying down range, the deployments he's done — all rolled up — shows he's the best of the best."

In the citation for his nomination, it states Sergeant Parker "is a leader among leaders" while assigned to the 421st CTS. During his tenure, Sergeant Parker created the Phoenix Warrior and Advanced Contingency Skills

See **Bayonet**, Page 7



Photo by Staff Sgt. Nathan Bevier

Tech. Sgt. Dan Koenigsmann (foreground), security forces NCO from the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center's 421st Combat Training Squadron, stands in a formation during the Order of the Bayonet induction ceremony.

About the Order of the Bayonet

- The Order of the Bayonet was established in 1981 to recognize the accomplishments of those who have made significant contributions to the security and ground defense of air bases, regardless of their position or rank.
- This is the highest honor AMC security forces men and women can bestow upon a person.

Bayonet, from Page 6
training courses that are in use today for thousands of Airmen for deployments.

With an "Air Force-wide reputation for excellence," the citation says Sergeant Parker was specially chosen as team leader for a Department of Defense initiative to prepare 60 international media personnel to embed with combat units during Operation Iraqi Freedom. He also led 23 Level II Antiterrorism Mobile Training Teams in support of six major commands preparing more than 800 antiterrorism officers and 42 agents from the National Security Agency.

In accepting the award and induction into the Order, Sergeant Parker said the award and induction to the Order is a representation of "great Airmen."

"Throughout my career, I've been blessed with quite a few opportunities," Sergeant Parker said. "I've been blessed to work with, and for, a lot of great supervisors and leaders. I've also had a lot of opportunity to work with a lot of great Airmen. This award, although it is being given to me and I'm being inducted into the Order, it really is an award for all of them.

"They really did all the work," Sergeant Parker added. "They brought me up in the Air Force and raised me to be the senior NCO that I am today."



Photo by Staff Sgt. Nathan Bevier

Sergeant Parker addresses the audience after being inducted into the Air Mobility Command Order of the Bayonet on Nov. 24.

Sergeant Parker's citation for the Air Mobility Command Order of the Bayonet

"Master Sgt. Jason S. Parker is a leader among leaders and displayed superior support for the security and ground defense mission of Air Mobility Command and the United States Air Force while assigned to the 421st Combat Training Squadron, Fort Dix, N.J. During his tenure, Sergeant Parker created the Phoenix Warrior and Advanced Contingency Skills Training pre-deployment training courses that provided valuable ground combat training to over 8,000 Airmen across all Air Force specialties during 14 Phoenix Readiness and 34 Phoenix Raven training classes as well as 18 Air Force Chief of Staff-directed Eagle Flag employment exercises.

"With an Air Force-wide reputation for excellence, he was specially chosen as team leader for a Department of Defense initiative to prepare 60 international media personnel to embed with combat units during Operation Iraqi Freedom, and led 23 Level II Antiterrorism Mobile Training Teams in support of six major commands training more than 800 Antiterrorism Officers and 42 agents from the National Security Agency. He single-handedly established a training partnership with the Joint Special Operations University that enabled more than 200 cadre and expeditionary Airmen to acquire accreditation through video tele-instruction, saving more than \$300,000 in travel costs.

"Sergeant Parker shaped Air Mobility Command and the Department of Defense by planning and executing the first-ever exercise of the new Nuclear Weapons Security Standard in a Department of Defense Nuclear Surety Inspection. His denial-

recapture template was benchmarked by nuclear units in the DOD which was subsequently published in the Inspector General Brief.

"A renowned subject matter expert, Sergeant Parker deployed to Iraq to perform a formal ground assessment of current enemy tactics, techniques, and procedures and validate security forces pre-deployment training. His findings proved critical to enable the Air Force Security Forces Center to create 26 core lesson plans designed to standardize security forces and military working dog pre-deployment training.

"As a combat tactics evaluator during the 2005 Air Mobility Command Rodeo competition, Sergeant Parker's superior leadership and expertise in air base defense techniques directly contributed to the successful launching of 42 aircraft flown in support of 163 competition sorties. Over 900 competitors and international observers from 25 United States military bases and 15 nations competed in an array of air mobility operational skills to include aerial refueling, medical evacuation, security, combat loading and landings.

"Sergeant Parker's stellar leadership and tireless efforts contributed immensely to preparing America's Airmen to secure air bases around the globe to counter asymmetric threats. In recognition of his distinguished efforts and proven commitment above all others, the security forces men and women of Air Mobility Command salute Master Sgt. Jason S. Parker by bestowing upon him our highest symbol of honor: 'The Order of the Bayonet.'" (Source: Air Force citation)

Artist documents Expeditionary Center Airmen

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

In November, artist John Witt visited the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center with Keith Ferris, noted aviation artist in the Air Force Art Program, as the chair and honorary chair respectively of the New York Society of Illustrators.

During the visit Mr. Witt and Mr. Ferris, both multi-decade veterans of the Air Force Art Program, met with the Expeditionary Center's leadership. They explored ways to identify and utilize works in the Air Force collection that would illustrate the Center's current activities in expeditionary and mobility training as well as document present and future activities with their artist associates in the Society.

"In the course of our discussion with Maj. Gen. (Kip) Self and the attending leadership, I created a rough sketch and proposed creating a symbolic painting (for the Center)," Mr. Witt said.

The painting Mr. Witt envisions contains images of Airmen in their respective gear as well as "Liberty," the eagle mascot, and the Center's motto and emblem. The framed oil painting on stretched canvas is planned to measure nearly 7-by-5 feet.

On Dec. 11 and 12, Mr. Witt made a return visit to the Center to complete preliminary work for the proposed painting.

"I am very grateful to the EC staff for selection of the proposed models, their uniforms and equipment," Mr. Witt said. "A schedule was developed for my visit that not only allowed me the ability to take reference images with a camera, but also to do on-the-spot drawings of each participant. The nine drawings, like the eventual painting, will also be donated to the Air Force collection and will be displayed in a single frame."

The material Mr. Witt creates eventually makes its way to the Air Force art collection — the world's largest collection of aviation art, said Mr. Russell D. Kirk, director of the Air Force Art Program who works for the Secretary of the Air Force administrative assistant's office at the Pentagon.

"We have approximately 9,500 works in the program, and receive approximately 100 to 125 per year," Mr. Kirk said. "Every two years we host the 'Air Force Art Presentation' with the Secretary of the Air Force and Chief of Staff of the Air Force as co-hosts. This is a function that

See **Artist**, Page 9



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

(Above) Artist John Witt, chairman of the New York Society of Illustrators, makes a sketch of Tech. Sgt. Kristina Myers, from U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center's command staff, Dec. 12 in the Expeditionary Center studio. (Below) Mr. Witt sketches Tech. Sgt. Rudolph Stuart, security forces contingency skills instructor with the 421st Combat Training Squadron Dec. 12.



Artist, from Page 8 officially accepts all of the artwork donated over the past two years. It features works from artists who've been documenting our mission."

Mr. Witt, who turned in his first piece to the Air Force collection in 1980, said the program lives up to its motto of "History though Art."

"The participating artists are given an opportunity to witness the U.S. Air Force and its involvement in world history and, through their art, become a small part of it," Mr. Witt said. "That is a big motivator for most of us — to volunteer our time and talents."

Once complete, Mr. Witt's pieces will be displayed in the Expeditionary Center.

BIOGRAPHY OF MR. JOHN WITT

Born in Wilmington, Del., in 1940, Mr. John Witt received a bachelor's degree in fine art in 1962 from the Philadelphia College of Art.

He subsequently served for three years on active duty with the U.S. Army Exhibit Unit, where he helped create the Army's "Man on the Moon" Exhibit at the New York World's Fair, exhibits at the Chicago Museum of Science and Industry, and special projects at the Pentagon and White House. Several of his paintings are included in the U.S. Army War Art Collection.

The military art by Mr. Witt is also from experiences as a civilian combat artist with U.S. Marines in Vietnam in 1968 and 1969 and through numerous assignments with the U.S. Air Force Art Program, including Operation Team Spirit in Korea in 1986, Operation Enduring Freedom in the Pacific in 2001, Operation Iraqi Freedom in Iraq in 2003, and during the Air Force's tsunami relief effort in December 2005.

Elected as a three-term president of the New York Society of Illustrators, Mr. Witt was awarded the Dean Cornwell Recognition Award for establishment of the Museum of American Illustration. He is the recipient of national awards in many mediums and his works are included in many public and private collections.

Listed in "Who's Who in America, American Art, and the World," Mr. Witt remains active as a documentary and portrait artist.#



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol
(Above) A completed sketch by Mr. Witt of Tech. Sgt. Sean Graves from the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center's 421st Combat Training Squadron. **(Below)** Mr. Witt stops for a photo with Tech. Sgt. Ryan Thompson, 421st CTS, and the sketch he created on Dec. 12.



Battlelab initiative aims to speed KC-10 cargo loading

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

Though the Air Mobility Battlelab was deactivated in the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center on Fort Dix on Sept. 24, one of its final initiatives shows great potential to help KC-10 crew members do their jobs faster and decrease aircraft weight.

With the KC-10 Lightweight Cargo Net and Hoist Initiative, the Air Mobility Battlelab, or AMB, sought out ways to make raising and lowering the aircraft's cargo net easier. The net acts as a safety barrier between the KC-10's cargo deck and passengers seated in the forward section of the aircraft, and must be moved out of the way every time cargo is loaded or unloaded.

However, the current net's 235-pound weight makes it very awkward and time consuming for crew members to raise and lower, however. The AMB explored two options to improve the situation: installing a mechanical hoist to raise and lower the net, and using new materials to make the net lighter.

The Air Force Research Laboratory's Airbase Technologies Division at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., stepped up to the challenge of designing and building the hoisting device. Using in-house engineering expertise, the group built a system composed of two gear boxes that attach to the top of the net and are operated by a crew member standing on the cargo deck floor.

To demonstrate the concept of a lighter-weight net, the battlelab contracted with the AmSafe Corporation, a company with considerable experience building cargo nets for commercial aircraft. Using state-of-the-art high-strength materials, AmSafe was able to construct a cargo net that weighed only 115 pounds.

"The lightweight net was not only 120 pounds lighter, but had an 'integrated stowage' system that made it much easier to raise than the current net, which has to be lifted and secured using cargo straps. It has real potential," said Master Sgt. Chris Sidoli, AMB's project manager for the initiative and a KC-10 boom operator.

The battlelab conducted its demonstration on McGuire Air Force Base, N.J., in mid-September. With a team of volunteers from the 305th and 514th Air Mobility Wings as well as representatives from AmSafe and the Air Force Research Laboratory, they accomplished six objectives in comparing the lightweight net against the current net.

"Our major objective was to see if there was a time savings during net raising and lowering between the two nets," Sergeant Sidoli said. "We found that the effort for the lightweight net took half as long as it does for the current net, even without using the hoisting device."



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

Boom operators from McGuire Air Force Base, N.J., install an alternative, lightweight cargo net inside a KC-10 Extender on Sept. 16 as part of a demonstration for the Air Mobility Battlelab. The demonstration was for the Battlelab's KC-10 Lightweight Cargo Net and Hoist Initiative, which was recommended for use to Air Mobility Command.

Using two experienced KC-10 boom operators, Staff Sgt. Matt Hauer from the 2nd Air Refueling Squadron and Airman 1st Class Dan Flenniken from the 305th Operations Support Squadron, as volunteers the team found that it took 15 minutes, 21 seconds to fully stow the current net. In contrast, Sergeant Hauer and Airman Flenniken were able to stow the lightweight net in seven minutes, despite having received only minimal training.

In the remaining objectives, the demonstration team wanted to make sure the lightweight net was compatible with KC-10 while raised and when lowered to its fully-installed position. They also wanted to determine if the hoist system would work on both the current and lightweight nets, and if the hoist could be operated by one person.

"First, we found the lightweight net fits and doesn't interfere with the KC-10's built-in systems. Some minor modification would be necessary to make the net ready for fielding, how-

ever," Sergeant Sidoli said. "With the hoist system, we found that it did raise the nets quicker than if done manually. We also determined it was best to have two people operate the hoist, and we noted some modifications that would make the hoisting process more efficient."

In the battlelab's overall assessment, Lt. Col. Jeffrey Lathrop, AMB commander, determined the lightweight cargo net concept shows a lot of promise in reducing cargo loading and unloading times. It could also save the Air Force money in the long haul by lowering aircraft weight which, in turn, reduces fuel consumption.

"In addition to making the net much easier and safer to use, a 120-pound weight savings has the potential to save the Air Force approximately \$1 million a year in fuel costs for the KC-10 fleet-wide," Colonel Lathrop said. "We recommended the lightweight net concept to Air Mobility Command for further development."

'Eagles' represented at A/TA convention



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

A display set up for the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center at the 2008 Airlift/Tanker Association Convention in Anaheim, Calif., in November shows details of the center. Nearly 60 people from the Expeditionary Center attended the convention.



Visitors to the Expeditionary Center booth scoop up information on the center on Nov. 7.



(Above) A visitor to the Expeditionary Center booth takes a practice hit on Senior Master Sgt. Scott Pepper (in the red man suit). Sergeant Pepper, of the 421st Combat Training Squadron, wore the suit as part of Phoenix Raven demonstrations.



(Right) Mr. Rudy Becker, director of the Expeditionary Center's Mobility Operations School, talks with a visitor about the EC.

Ravens show skills at A/TA Convention



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol
Senior Master Sgt. Scott Pepper, 421st Combat Training Squadron, is all suited up in the "red man" for a Phoenix Raven demonstration at the Airlift/Tanker Association Convention on Nov. 7 in Anaheim, Calif.



Staff Sgt. John Hoffecker, 421st CTS, begins a Raven demonstration with Senior Master Sgt. Scott Pepper, also from the 421st CTS.



(Above and right) Tech. Sgt. Dan Koenigsmann and Senior Master Sgt. Scott Pepper, both from the 421st CTS, hold a Raven demonstration for convention attendees showing how to take down an aggressor.



Expeditionary Center highlighted in Air Mobility Command's A/TA presentation



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol
(Left, above and below) These photos, from Air Mobility Command's 2400 ZULU video, were a part of the final presentation by Gen. Arthur Lichte, AMC commander, at the Airlift/Tanker Association Convention in Anaheim, Calif., on Nov. 8. More than 15 percent of the AMC mission video featured photos taken by the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center Public Affairs staff to include Staff Sgt. Paul Evans.



Expeditionary Center adding 'SPICE' to its curriculum

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

The Mobility Operations School continues to feast on new challenges to train war-fighting Airmen. The latest course in its buffet of training includes some added SPICE.

In February 2009, the SPICE, or Small Package Initial Communications Element, Course begins a 25-day training regimen for select Airmen. Students will learn about the SPICE system, which delivers regular and secure electronic mail and secure/non-secure voice communications to bare-base deployed locations.

"It's a highly deployable half-pallet system that provides a deployed contingency response group or element vital communications capability," said Tech. Sgt. Adrian C. McDonough, SPICE Course director.

The SPICE system is more Internet Protocol-based than any other deployable system, Sergeant McDonough said. It relies on accessing the Defense Information System Network using commercial, off-the-shelf equipment. It provides all the capabilities equal to an in-garrison communications squadron giving Airmen essentially the same systems to use on deployment as they do at home station.

"You could move a SPICE course graduate to a communications squadron and that Airman would rock and roll -- day one," Sergeant McDonough said.

In addition, the course director said the only difference from traditional communications equipment used in the field is the SPICE system accesses its communications "through a commercial or military satellite rather than buried cable." It's some of the top communications equipment available, he said, and the training will produce Airmen with increased skills.

"Because our emphasis is on light and lean, the Air Force and AMC are constantly upgrading the equipment which translates to having access to cutting-edge technology," Sergeant McDonough said. "Our students will learn how to operate and configure all of it. It also means just two COMM maintainers will have the skills of a whole network control center."

Offered through the MOS Expeditionary Branch, the course teaches students to "completely" configure and operate the SPICE system. "Graduates will be able to perform every aspect of communications equipment operations," Sergeant McDonough said. "The course will include system troubleshooting, pre-deployment and post-deployment preparations, deployed set up and configuration and deployed operations of the equipment."

Working with Air Mobility Command at Scott Air Force Base, Ill., the 819th Global Support Squadron from McGuire AFB, N.J., Sergeant McDonough and fellow SPICE Course instructor Staff Sgt. Jason Girvin developed the course material from scratch.

"We've run the equipment we'll be using through the gauntlet and we've had tons of coordination completed through AMC," Sergeant McDonough said. "Our goal from the start was to build a top-notch training program and have input from the experts in the field. This is a big step in helping the deployed communicator have the latest training and equipment available to them."

Capt. Eli Martinez, communications officer from AMC Headquarters,



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

Tech. Sgt. Adrian C. McDonough, course director for the Mobility Operations School's Small Package Initial Communications Element, or SPICE, Course, checks equipment his students will be using at the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center on Fort Dix, N.J.

said the SPICE system was developed to increase command and control bandwidth for contingency response forces while maintaining a small footprint for rapid deployment during the initial stages of opening an air base.

"After assuming responsibility for an airfield from seizure forces (Army or Marines), a CRG would use SPICE to help receive the 1,200 to 3,000 follow-on forces who will operate the mission," Captain Martinez said in a 2007 Air Force Communications Agency article. "Until the implementation of SPICE, the CRG was limited to 128 kilobytes per second or less bandwidth to communicate with the outside world during this process."

Sergeant McDonough said contingency response Airmen will still train and certify on communication-oriented tasks as they always have, however, the SPICE Course will give them "a solid foundation that will prepare them to ease into on-the-job training at their home units where they have to complete a year-long SPICE training path."

"After they graduate, they will have configured and operated the SPICE for every mission it is capable of doing," Sergeant McDonough said. "They'll have numerous training hours detecting and fixing errors. The ultimate success depends on the students, and units, taking what they have learned and using it frequently in preparation for the deployed environment."

To learn more about U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center, Mobility Operations School and courses offered, visit www.expeditionarycenter.af.mil or see the USAF EC's page on Air Force Portal.

AIR FORCE'S NEWEST MOBILE AIR SHELTER SET UP FOR EXPEDITIONARY CENTER TRAINING

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

The newest model of deployable, mobile command posts is on the lot leaving the older model looking like a relic of deployments past.

Sitting behind the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center's main building on Fort Dix, N.J., the Hard-sided Expandable Lightweight Air Mobile Shelter, or HELAMS, is set up and ready for business.

Eventually replacing the Mobile Air Reporting Communications, or MARC, shelter, the HELAMS is at the center for training Airmen in the Mobility Operations School's Mobile Command, Control and Communications (C3) Systems Course.

"We will train students on both the MARC and HELAMS under one course until the MARCs are phased out," said Tech. Sgt. Don Colbert, Mobile C3 Systems Course director. "The HELAMS is used to make students familiar with set up and operations specific to the new shelter. The old advanced course was three weeks long. Now, the new Mobile C3 Systems Course will be four weeks long to cover all the new material."

Staff Sgt. Joshua Sager, Mobile C3 Systems Course instructor, said the HELAMS is highly mobile and quick to set up. It's a rugged container that provides a reliable, environmentally controlled area to work and has a design that provides reliable, weather-resistant storage and an air transport capability for installed equipment, supplies and auxiliary equipment that is shipped in the shelter and then removed for use during setup and operation.

"By replacing the MARC, which was put into service in the mid 1980s, the HELAMS provides for more work space and a new high frequency radio system that requires less power to operate and much quieter than previous system," Sergeant Sager said. "It also offers a significant weight reduction — it's 2,500 pounds lighter than the MARC. Additionally, the HELAMS has a smaller load footprint when transported — a full pallet position smaller, and has an easier to deploy wheel set for ground transportation."

As the MARC did, the HELAMS provides a portable command post for contingency forces.

"The CRG commander is allocated more workspace than the MARC to monitor opera-



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

Tech. Sgt. Don Colbert, course director for the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center's Mobile Command, Control and Communications Systems Course, works on adjusting an antenna Oct. 29 on the Hard-sided Expandable Lightweight Air Mobile Shelter, or HELAMS, in the Mobility Operations School's Mobile C3 training facility.

tions," Sergeant Colbert said. "The HELAMS also provides a secure setting for classified briefs, communications security and operations security. It is climate controlled to increase reliability of communications systems."

Sergeant Colbert said he's happy to have the latest technology available for students and it should pay big dividends for the Air Force.

"Our HELAMS unit will provide the latest hands-on training required to help Airmen be ready to deploy with the shelter," Sergeant Colbert said. "The new shelter is a bonus for us to have for training and also in the long run, it will

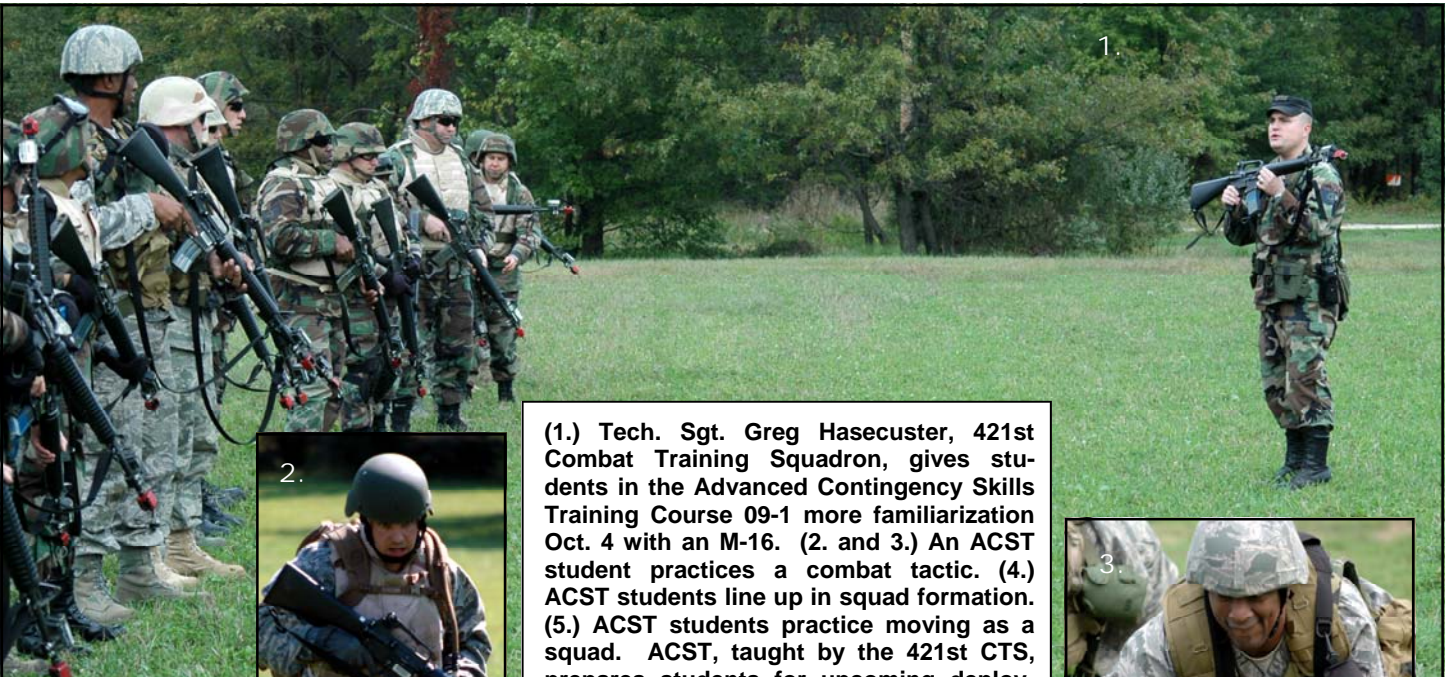
provide mobility forces the best equipment available to complete their duties in a bare-base environment."

Sergeant Colbert noted the HELAMS is manufactured by AAR Mobility Systems of Cadillac, Mich., and first became available to the military in 2003. The design is based on the soft-walled Expandable Light Air Mobile Shelter that entered production in 1999.

To learn more about U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center, MOS and courses offered, visit www.expeditionarycenter.af.mil, or see the USAF EC's page on Air Force Portal.

TACTICS

ACST students learn basics of patrolling, combat maneuvers



(1.) Tech. Sgt. Greg Hasecuster, 421st Combat Training Squadron, gives students in the Advanced Contingency Skills Training Course 09-1 more familiarization Oct. 4 with an M-16. (2. and 3.) An ACST student practices a combat tactic. (4.) ACST students line up in squad formation. (5.) ACST students practice moving as a squad. ACST, taught by the 421st CTS, prepares students for upcoming deployments.



Photos by Staff Sgt. Paul R. Evans



Photos by Staff Sgt. Paul R. Evans
 (Clockwise from top) Students in the Advanced Contingency Skills Training Course cover their positions Oct. 9 with smoke during convoy operations training on a Fort Dix, N.J., range. ACST students communicate as they coordinate help for an “injured” Airman. A student keeps his eyes and gun at the ready for any possible attacks while riding in a High-Mobility, Multi-Wheeled Vehicle, or HMMWV. The convoy moves down the road on a Fort Dix range. The convoy training and the ACST course is taught by the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center’s 421st Combat Training Squadron. The course prepares Airmen for upcoming deployments.



Specific training prepares legal Airmen for deployment success

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

For four days prior to attending the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center's Advanced Contingency Skills Training Course, Airmen in the Air Force's legal career field receive training specialized for their upcoming deployments.

That training, known as the Judge Advocate Functional ACST Course, combines both classroom and field training and in 2008 trained more than 200 Airmen from the JA career field.

Tech. Sgt. Keith Vershay, NCO in charge of the USAF EC legal office, and an instructor in the course, said there are two separate and distinct portions of training.

"First, there is the classroom portion where students are taught JA and paralegal-specific training based on the mission they are headed to," Sergeant Vershay said. "Secondly, there's the field portion that focuses on weapons, tactics and military operations in urban terrain-type training leading up to the rules of engagement/rules on the use of force (ROE/RUF) training."

In classroom training, JAG and paralegal students learn general and theater-specific operations law subject matter that prepares them for their specific roles during their deployments, Capt. Paolino Caliendo said,



Students participate in military operations in urban terrain training Oct. 24 on a Fort Dix range as part of the JA functional course.



Photos by Staff Sgt. Nathan Bevier
Tech. Sgt. Denise Wade, a paralegal craftsman from Malmstrom Air Force Base, Mont., performs low crawl maneuvers on a Fort Dix, N.J., range, Oct. 24 as part of the Judge Advocate Functional Advanced Contingency Skills Training Course.

USAF EC Staff Judge Advocate and course director for the JA training.

"This theater-specific training they receive includes everything from legal advocacy and advisory skills concerning nuances of deployed law to specialized job functions such as detainee operations," Captain Caliendo said.

Also in the classroom training, Captain Caliendo said, students receive Islamic cultural training and Army, Navy and counter-insurgency doctrine concepts.

"The course focuses on subject-matter students will be dealing with throughout their deployment," Captain Caliendo said. "For example, our last class (in October) consisted of students deploying to Task Force 134 in Iraq. They received specific training on the various positions and functions JAGs and paralegals perform in the various offices within TF 134."

TF 134 is the task force charged with detainee command and control, ensuring due process and assisting Iraq in rebuilding its judicial, correctional and law enforcement system. To assist the JA students deploying to the task force, they held secure video teleconferences with JA Airmen deployed to Iraq.

"This allowed the students to interact and exchange freely some sensitive, substantive information with the Airmen in theater with whom they will be working with or replacing," Captain Caliendo said.

See **Legal**, Page 19

Legal, from Page 18

In the field training, or ROE/RUF component of the course, Sergeant Vershay said they teach supplementary contingency skills training using a “crawl, walk, run” approach.

“We can’t expect students to show up on day one and go through combat training scenarios without the basic knowledge of weapons manipulation, tactics, or other training that is needed in a tense, uncertain and rapidly evolving environment,” Sergeant Vershay said. “That is what our field training highlights — a hands-on familiarization with combat skills concepts.”

The ROE/RUF component, Captain Caliendo said, combines a lecture on the law of self defense and its application in the deployed environment, wound ballistics and body trauma, and the psychological and physiological reactions of people under high-stress tactical environments and combat situations.

“We teach this through practical exercises such as using small arms training simulators with video-based threat recognition and judgment software,” Captain Caliendo said. “We also use defensive tactics, advanced reflexive training, and force-on-force training using non-lethal dye-marking ammunition fired safely from modified service weapons to help reinforce what these students learned in the classroom.”

Captain Caliendo said JA students “overwhelmingly indicate” appreciation for the training in course critiques.

“Specifically, they say the tactical training they receive, which we train in order to prepare them for the ROE/RUF component of the course, provides them with a good foundation from which to build their core ACST training upon,” Captain Caliendo said. “Additionally, the students consider the training ‘eye opening,’ and pass on their experiences to



Photos by Staff Sgt. Nathan Bevier

Students practice a patrolling formation Oct. 2 on a Fort Dix range as part of the JA functional course.

other students in the core-ACST course to help those students better understand use of force concepts as they apply their training in the field.”

The Air Force legal career field has been holding training at the USAF EC for more than four years, but has evolved significantly in the last year, Captain Caliendo said. It will, he said, continue to change, as the mission does, in order to ensure JAs and paralegals are prepared for suc-

Pre-deployment training is working

One quick note to let you know that the pre-deployment training the Expeditionary Center is doing is working and worthwhile.

I went through the Advanced Contingency Skills Training Course and the Judge Advocate portion in February and March of 2008. I deployed to the International Zone in Iraq and returned this past October.

While I was in Baghdad, I found myself in a position where I had to help two Soldiers clear several rooms in an occupied building in the red zone. It wasn’t as dramatic as it could have been, and it turned out that there was very little danger, but I didn’t know that until we had finished the job. I’m very glad that I had the training and weapon familiarization from ACST. I didn’t get myself shot and I didn’t embarrass the Air Force in front of the Soldiers.

Another incident from that deployment included one of the attorneys deployed with me who was also at ACST with me. He was returning to the embassy with a carload of Soldiers and Iraqis when his vehicle was hit with sniper fire. Even though the armored glass on the windshield was smashed, he stayed calm, stayed on the road, and got everyone out of there safely.

While you don’t train for that specific situation at ACST, our training did help get us ready to deal with that kind of thing.

Capt. Andrew Barker
F.E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyo.



Students participate in military operations in urban terrain training Oct. 2 on a Fort Dix range as part of the JA functional course.

JOINING, TRAINING, DEPLOYING

Immigrant Airman comes 'full circle'

By Staff Sgt. Paul R. Evans
U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center

Senior Airman Bassel Noori deployed for the first time to Ali Air Base, Iraq, in 2008. In a way, he says it's like coming full circle with his origins.

"This is the first time I have taken a trip outside the United States, other than Canada, since I immigrated in 1995," Airman Noori said. "From where my life began to coming here — it has been a complete turnaround."

Airman Noori, from the 6th Mission Support Group at MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., is a Lebanese immigrant from Lagos, Nigeria, a Muslim and a contingency skills-trained Airman fighting in the Global War on Terrorism. He is, as he stated from Iraq, "Happy to be here, proud to serve!"

His life has had many twists and turns. Airman Noori immigrated to the United States with his Afghan father, Lebanese mother and younger sister and settled in Grand Rapids, Mich. He recalled it as "huge culture shock," but said he has overcome one thing after another.

"My biggest struggle was with education," Airman Noori said. "As a sophomore in high school, I didn't have a language barrier — I could speak English. The struggle was with the attitude that American students have with their education — some took it seriously, and others didn't, and to me that was shocking. As a Muslim, the Quran teaches us that education is extremely important because Allah (God) wants us to be able to read and interpret the Quran and write in our native Arabic language. Therefore, education was taught with a certain strictness that isn't the same in America."

In his junior year of high school, Airman Noori said he was more comfortable with the American way of life and became very active in extra-curricular activities such as the French, Spanish and Drama clubs. On Sept. 11, 2001, he was studying at Western Michigan University when the terrorist attacks took place. He remembers the time vividly and the fear that came with it.

"My father got a lot of flak at work for being Muslim," Airman Noori recalls. "They called him a variety of derogatory names for being Middle Eastern. It was very hard for him but he encouraged me to continue on."

The fear generated from the attacks created stereotypical beliefs about Middle Eastern people, Airman Noori said. But he believed it was important to change those beliefs.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Paul R. Evans
Senior Airman Bassel Noori when he attended training at the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center in August.

"It was more important for me to show that not all Muslims or Middle Easterners are terrorists — I had to set a good example to others like me," Airman Noori said.

Despite receiving harassment from classmates, hearing negative reports and stereotypes from the media and general public, Bassel Noori committed to his decision to continue the process for U.S. citizenship. In May 2002, he exchanged his Lebanese citizenship and swore his allegiance to the United States as a new American.

Airman Noori said his patriotism and love for the United States further spawned a desire to give back to his country and that was when he decided to join the Air Force in 2005. He talked about his parents' reaction to him becoming an Airman.

"My parents were apprehensive at first," Airman Noori said. "They are now in full support of my decision because the Air Force has allowed me to continue my education in computer information systems. Plus, I get to help fight the Global War on Terrorism."

Reflecting on his Afghan origin, Airman Noori said his father has lost contact with some of his family back in Afghanistan. Even though some of them had fled Afghanistan to Iran to escape the Taliban, Noori said he has other family members who are reported missing due to the Taliban oppression.

"It's another reason why I am in the Air Force and deployed right now," Airman Noori said. "I want to show no matter where you come from you can make a difference by doing something that's larger than yourself. For me, it is serving in the Air Force and being deployed."

Prior to deploying, Airman Noori trained in the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center's Ad-

vanced Contingency Skills Training Course in August prior to his deployment. He said he came to the course unsure of what he was going to learn and initially was nervous about his deployment. That all changed when he graduated.

"Having gone through the course was a highlight in my Air Force career," Airman Noori said. "The training I received in ACST has helped me feel more confident and prepared to expect the unexpected. This is a war zone and I feel that I at least have a basic knowledge of how to react to certain situations and potentially save a life, including mine."

In ACST, Airman Noori learned convoy operations, patrolling and tactics, combat first aid, self defense, military operations in urban terrain and cross-cultural awareness. All of the training, he said, made him a better Airman for this momentous deployment in his career.

"It did make me a better Airman," Airman Noori concluded. "Thankfully, I have not been in a situation thus far that requires me to apply combat first aid out on the battlefield. I haven't had to engage an enemy in Brazilian Jiu-jitsu. However, I can see how any situation on or off base can easily turn into a potentially life threatening one, in which I will have to apply some, if not all of the concepts that I learned in ACST."

Airman Noori said that now he's deployed, he's glad he has made the decisions he did throughout his life. And, he added he is learning more about the world he knew before America.

"The first month of my deployment coincided with the month of Ramadan," Airman Noori said. "When I went to the chapel, it was good to see a mix of Muslims all praying together, knowing that all of them are united in a common goal in the GWOT. I've seen Air Force and Army Muslims and Department of Defense civilians, contractors, and translators who are Muslim. It's good to see all those folks, like me, who are doing their part in fighting against the ideologies our enemies hold."

Whether it's been life experiences, training or deploying, Airman Noori said he is most thankful to see everyone together working toward a common goal.

"We are all in this together, going through the same stresses, frustrations and thrills," Airman Noori said. "I've enjoyed meeting with folks who share my ethnicity and religion, but it's not about that. It's about why we're here — bringing freedom to people who deserve it and want it."

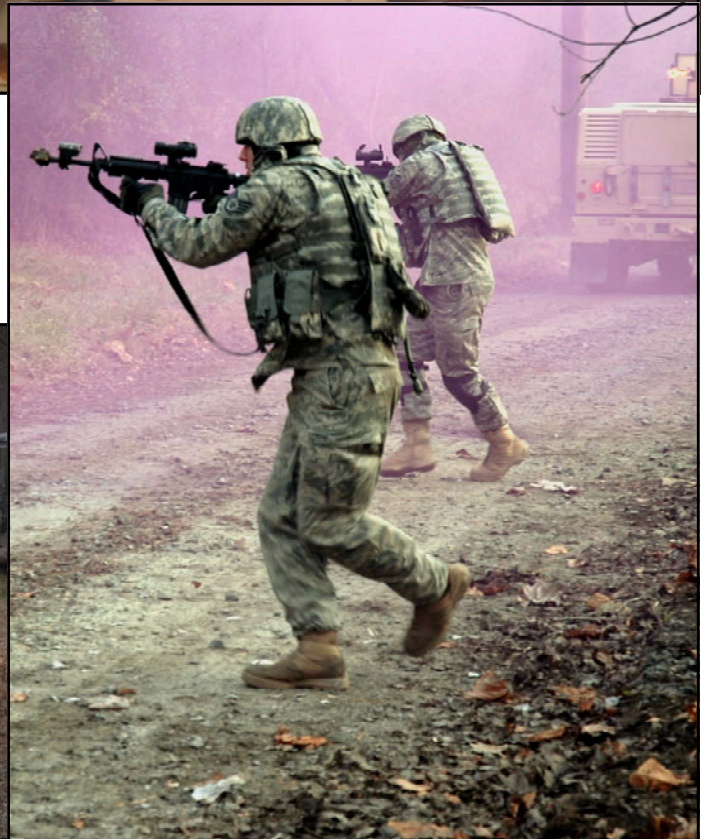
(Editor's note: Airman Noori deployed with the 407th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron at Ali AB, Iraq.)#

PHOENIX WARRIOR



Photos by Staff Sgt. Paul R. Evans

(Above, right, and below) Students in the Air Force Phoenix Warrior Training Course take the fight Dec. 5 to the “enemy” during mounted patrol training on a Fort Dix, N.J., range. Phoenix Warrior is a contingency skills-style course used to train Air Force security forces in advanced combat skills prior to deploying. The training is operated by the Expeditionary Operations School’s 421st Combat Training Squadron.



MILITARY OPERATIONS IN URBAN TERRAIN

ACST students learn close quarters combat



Photos by Staff Sgt. Paul R. Evans

A student in the Advanced Contingency Skills Training (ACST) Course 09-2 participates in mobile operations in urban terrain training Nov. 6 at Naval Air Engineering Station Lakehurst, N.J. The training, taught by the Expeditionary Operations School's 421st Combat Training Squadron, teaches students how to clear buildings of hostile forces while maintaining safety of their team.



ACST students move in a formation to advance on a building containing hostile forces while training at Lakehurst.



(Above) ACST students move into a building on the Lakehurst training area looking for hostile forces.

(Right) A role player acting as a hostile forces member waits in ambush for ACST students during a training session at Lakehurst.



Security forces receive .50-cal familiarization



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

(Above) Staff Sgt. Anthony Richards, 421st Combat Training Squadron security forces instructor, explains the basics of the .50-caliber machine gun to security forces students during training in the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center Oct. 23 on Fort Dix, N.J.

(Left) A security forces student practices taking apart the .50-caliber machine gun.



Security forces students reassemble a .50-caliber machine gun. The students worked in teams for better familiarization. The training aids in understanding weapon functionality and proper ways to inspect and clean it.

Veterans, recipients of Berlin Airlift symbolize reason to be thankful

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

Every Thanksgiving, I'm like many other Americans who find reasons to be thankful. I might be thankful because we are having a feast of turkey, or, for just having a family.

In 2008, however, I was reminded to be thankful for a whole lot more.

In April, I met the family of former missing in action Airman Maj. Robert F. Woods. From doing interviews and attending his funeral at Arlington National Cemetery, Va., I learned how his family was thankful to "have him home" after being missing for more than 40 years, and what he meant to them.

I also learned about how Major Woods began his career as an enlisted Airman in 1948 and supported the Berlin Airlift. Besides being a certified war hero from service in Korea and Vietnam as an aviator, he was, in his beginnings, an Airman who helped redefine air mobility history. And that got me thinking ... "the Berlin Airlift is celebrating its 60th anniversary this year...hmmm...what would the veterans of that airlift milestone tell us about being thankful?"

I got my answer Nov. 8 while attending the 2008 Airlift/Tanker Association Convention in Anaheim, Calif. There, on the second full day of the convention, they held a panel that included veterans of the Berlin Airlift and one recipient of the airlift's efforts.

Among the veterans were retired Col. Gail Halvorsen, also known as the "Candy Bomber," who holds the most co-relation with the airlift as the man who put parachutes on candy bars and floated them to German children while flying his transport plane.

There was also retired Senior Master Sgt. Bill Morrissey, who worked as an air traffic controller in Germany for the "one plane, every three minutes" airlift effort. And besides Air Force vets, there was also retired Navy Cmdr. (Dr.) Earl Moore — a former pilot of a Navy R5D transport (equivalent to a C-54 Skymaster) who flew 208 missions and hauled more than 260,000 pounds of aid during the airlift.

Commander Moore caught my attention the most. He said the entire operation changed him as a person. He talked about being a single Sailor, working in China as the assistant air attaché to the ambassador, and the life he had before the Berlin Airlift. "I was nice and comfortable right where I was," he said.

Then as the airlift began in June 1948, Com-



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

Retired Navy Cmdr. (Dr.) Earl Moore (left), president of the Berlin Airlift Veterans Association, answers a question as part of the "60th Anniversary of the Berlin Airlift" Panel for the 2008 Airlift/Tanker Association convention Nov. 8 in Anaheim, Calif. The panel also included Gen. Roger Brady, U.S. Air Forces in Europe commander, retired Col. Gail Halvorsen (also known as the "Candy Bomber"), retired Senior Master Sgt. Bill Morrissey, Mr. Andrew Cherny, author, and others.

mander Moore was told take his plane to Germany and help out. He said at the time he wasn't happy to leave a comfortable place, but he went. Soon after arriving and flying missions, he said things changed.

"I started out doing a job, but in a matter of a few days it became a crusade," Commander Moore said. "One more trip. Feed more kids."

Commander Moore saw malnourished women and children by the hundreds as he landed in East Berlin. "There were very few men," he said.

By seeing those affected, he said it drove the fact home to him and the many others involved in the Berlin effort to do more, and more, and more.

"I'd ask myself, 'Who are these poor little things?'" Commander Moore said. "It got to the point where we were all addicted. We'd say, 'We've got to get in one more trip.'"

But what caught my heart is how Commander Moore nearly came to tears and said, "I went from a selfish, single no good so-and-so to someone who cared. And I still do." Sixty years later, he still cares and he's most obviously thankful to have been there in that historic operation.

Then there was Mr. Peter Gunther, the recipient on the panel I mentioned earlier. Mr. Gunther said he never gave the airlift much thought

until he met Berlin Airlift veterans at a similar convention in 1995. "Often, as human beings, we try to suppress the negative thoughts and memories that we have," he said about that time of his life.

But since 1995, Mr. Gunther said the highlight in his life was meeting Colonel Halvorsen. "I can't express enough thanks to Colonel Halvorsen," he said. "It's amazing how one individual can compel us to change attitudes of a whole nation to another nation. Talk about grass roots movement."

Again, 60 years later and someone is still thankful that someone cared. How amazing is that? Mr. Gunther's appreciation has transcended generations and carries to this day. "I want to thank you for what you've done and for what you continue to do," he said as he concluded his panel remarks.

Throughout this year, I'm thankful for many things but I am incredibly thankful to be an Airman and a service member.

To know that 60 years ago, just as the Air Force began, Airmen showed outstanding caring for others and continued it through all these years makes me thankful.

To know about people like Major Woods, Colonel Halvorsen, Sergeant Morrissey and Commander Moore, I am proud, and thankful, to be a military member.

These kids nowadays

Commentary by Lt. Col. Al Bello
386th Expeditionary Aircraft
Maintenance Squadron commander

SOUTHWEST ASIA — “These kids nowadays.” If I had a dime for every time I heard that cliché from my parents while growing up in the 1960s and 1970s, well, I’d have a bunch of dimes.

Of course, my parents weren’t the first to use the phrase. It’s been going on for centuries as a “catch all” when each generation finds it difficult to understand the motivations and unconventional behaviors of the next. Now that I’m no longer “cool,” and the father of three children ranging in age from 14 to 24, I too have been guilty of using this phrase a time or two.

My children, and the majority of our young Airmen, are what the mainstream media calls Generation Y. Normally, researchers include those born between 1982 and 2001 in this group. Of course, we should never label a whole generation, but those from Generation Y are described in very general terms as being impatient, skeptical and expressive.

They’re impatient because, after all, they’ve been raised in a world dominated by technology where instant gratification is just a text message or mouse click away. They tend to be a little skeptical of everything because while watching their televisions and surfing the net they’ve watched chief executive officers and other media stars cheat and scam their way to the top.

Additionally, reality TV has taught them if you’re loud and obnoxious enough, your 15 minutes of fame could last a lifetime. No wonder a parent might mutter “these kids nowadays” every now and then.

Surprisingly, even though I’m far away from my children right now and have no obvious reason to use it, I’ve said the cliché numerous times in my head almost every day since I arrived in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility. Interestingly, it hasn’t been aimed at my children; it’s been aimed at the many young Airmen I’ve met during my deployment. And the reason is simple: from what I’ve seen, these kids nowadays are really something special.

When I pull up to an entry control point and see an Airman standing in 120-degree heat wearing full body armor and projecting a professional attitude and image, I say to myself ... these kids nowadays.

When I see an Airman working 12-hour shifts, six days a week, with uniforms covered in grease and hydraulic fluid, maintaining and producing mission capable aircraft at twice the rate of home station, I think ... these kids nowadays.

When I watch Airmen load and unload thousands of tons of cargo, moving millions of passengers, providing first-class logistical support to all personnel in the deployed area of responsibility, I again think ... these kids nowadays.

When I see an aircrew landing an aircraft 16 hours after they took off, completing their fifth or sixth sortie of the day, I mutter to myself ... these kids nowadays.

When I see a team of Airmen leading and defending a three-mile long resupply convoy from one end of Iraq to the other, on the road for 15 straight days, I can’t help but think ... these kids nowadays.

And when I have the pleasure of re-enlisting an Airman who is performing his third deploy-

ment in two years, knowing full well his fourth and fifth are right around the corner, I again say to myself ... these kids nowadays.

Are you starting to get the picture?

The fact is the young Airmen I encounter every day in the AOR are the best I’ve ever seen! Now, before all you other not-so-young Airmen start telling me I’m full of it, just stand fast for a moment.

I’m well aware that we, and Airmen like us, have been doing great things for a very long time. I enlisted in the Air Force in 1986, and have been inspired numerous times by the sacrifice and devotion to duty of countless officers and enlisted personnel during my 22 years.

As our “Airman’s Creed” says, we are faithful to a proud heritage, and we should be. However, I just can’t help but feel there’s something extraordinary about our young Airmen today. To me, what makes them extraordinary is when they decided to commit their lives to their country.

The fact is, most of our young Airmen decided to raise their right hand and defend the Constitution of the United States during a time of war. Not many of us older Airmen can say that.

These young people knew up front what serving in the Air Force meant. It meant difficult and frequent deployments away from family and friends, yet they still raised their right hand and continue to do so today. I think it speaks volumes about their character and commitment to this country and our Air Force.

Is Generation Y impatient? Skeptical? Expressive? Maybe. But let me say this without hesitation: I’m extremely proud to serve with these kids nowadays!

Hurry up and wait!

Security forces Airmen, all students at the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center, are lined up in a high-mobility, multi-wheeled vehicle, or HMMWV, Oct. 16, prior to departing for field training on a Fort Dix, N.J., range.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

It's all about the 'team'

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

It was a simple game of driveway basketball, but to me and Jeff Laesig — it was a battle to beat the Titans.

My friend Jeff and I were one team taking on his older brother and his friend. We were only in our mid-teens and Jeff's brother and company were in their mid-20s. They were bigger than us, faster than us and had a lot more skills than we did. In addition, they had about 10 years of basketball experience on us. But we were determined, if just this one time, to beat them at their own game.

Jeff and I were at a point of getting it all together. After losing probably 10 straight games to these two guys, we had figured out their weaknesses in shooting and their overall game. They were, essentially, where Jeff and I wanted to be as a basketball partnership. That day we made it there.

The game was close all the way to the end. The other guys looked worried. We'd been getting rebounds and making shots from the perimeter at a high percentage rate. They didn't realize that we practiced by playing several hours a day while they were drawing from experience and past skill.

In a game to 20, giving one point for each basket made, Jeff and I beat them, 20-19. It was the first time we'd ever got that far and it was only because they were caught by surprise and we shot amazingly well.

It was also because Jeff and I had come to a level where our teamwork had made a difference in accomplishing a goal — beating his brother and his brother's friend. Without the ability to work as a team, pass the ball and shoot when we needed to, we most likely would have lost.

Whether it's on a driveway playing basketball, in the Air Force, and life in general, it's all about the team. In all we do, we could not do what we do without our teammates doing their part.

For example, I recently sent a photo from a past deployment to a colonel who works in a KC-135 Stratotanker unit. The photo depicted six KC-135 maintenance technicians watching a KC-135 taxi down a runway in Southwest Asia at sunset. The colonel, a pilot, said they wanted to give the photo in a presentation to a maintenance group commander because, "We couldn't do our jobs without the maintainers." Essentially, he recognizes the "team" is what makes the KC-135 fly — not just the aircrew.

In the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center's Advanced Contingency Skills Training Course on Fort Dix, the instructors build all of the training around teamwork. They first discuss the fire team — defined as a small unit of military infantry, which for the Air Force is usually four Airmen.

Building from there, they put several fire teams together to make a squad and it's from that point they work on building this squad into an overall team. The Airmen learning these skills are not just security forces either. They are from public affairs, chaplains, legal, air transportation, personnel, maintenance and numerous other career fields not thought of traditionally as Airmen taking the fight to the enemy on the ground.

"On the first day of ACST, when I'm doing my introduction as their instructor, I give them my expectations and I stress that they need to work as a team," said Staff Sgt. Paul Evans, security forces craftsman and ACST instructor with the center's 421st Combat Training Squadron. "Usually, after the second or third day of doing team building exercises, it clicks they are no longer in their Air Force specialty. They learn they are in an environment that requires a higher level of teamwork, situational awareness and a reliance on each other to complete the mission, no matter how big or small."

In combat, Sergeant Evans said, these fire teams not only allow flexi-



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

SOUTHWEST ASIA — Tanker maintenance troops from the 319th Air Refueling Wing at Grand Forks Air Force Base, N.D., watch as a tanker from the 22nd ARW at McConnell AFB, Kansas, rolls off into the sunset for a night air-refueling mission in October 2003. Tanker units from Grand Forks; MacDill AFB, Fla.; Robins AFB, Ga.; and Fairchild AFB, Wash., combined here for a short time to work together in the 340th Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron.

bility and strength, but also survivability. "A team can work together to bring everyone home safe and sound," he said. "An individual doing the same thing on his own has a significantly declined chance of surviving a combat situation." In other words, they probably don't survive.

In my workcenter, I'm an active duty NCO while two other Airmen I work for and with are from the Air Force Reserve. We have a "Total Force" team.

There's not a week that goes by we don't have something big happening. Yet, despite limited time together, we meld our minds and complete some of the biggest projects imaginable. We communicate consistently and keep a level head.

Our environment fosters teamwork, which, as defined by the Air Force, means we have "a working environment that ensures trust, teamwork and pride in accomplishing the mission." It means, as a team, we have Airmen willing to "share their expertise with each other to become a cohesive team."

Whether winning a basketball game, flying an airplane, defeating an enemy in a combat situation, or completing a public affairs project, the results all have to be the same — the team has to come together with each player contributing to the success of the end goal. It's all about the team.

Guest editorials

Members of the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center community are welcome to submit guest editorials for publication in this newspaper. Prospective writers are also reminded that stories submitted will be edited for content and propriety. Send submissions to scott.sturkol@us.af.mil, or christie.dragan@mcguire.af.mil. For further details call (609) 754-7013 or DSN 650-7013.

'Fighting Eagles' battle for supremacy on flag-football gridiron



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol
 (Clockwise from top left) The U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center's Fighting Eagles quarterback Cecil Evans scrambles for some yardage against 305th Services Squadron on Oct. 22 at McGuire Air Force Base, N.J., during intramural flag football action. The Fighting Eagles line up for a play against Services. Jumar Simmons rolls for some yardage. Fighting Eagles teammates rally up during a time out. The Fighting Eagles stop for a team photo. The Fighting Eagles won this game 12-6 and finished the regular season 9-3. They also made it all the way to the semifinals of the intramural playoffs.



HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS



Photo by Staff Sgt. Bryan Harrison
"Eagle" family members attend the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center's Family Fall Festival on Oct. 23.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Nathan Bevier
"Eagles" gather for a potluck of food during the Expeditionary Center's Thanksgiving hall party Nov. 21.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Nathan Bevier
Mrs. Claus reads children a holiday story during the Expeditionary Center's children's holiday party Dec. 6.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Nathan Bevier
Expeditionary Center members gather to find better ways to take care of each other Nov. 26 as part of Wingman Day activities.



EC Holiday Party

(Left and right) Expeditionary Center "Eagles" gather for the center's annual holiday party Dec. 13 in the McGuire Club.



Photos by Staff Sgt. Nathan Bevier

U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center Phoenix Spouse



Mrs. Sarah Krzysik

Contact information

E-mail: sskrzysik@hotmail.com

About the Phoenix Spouse program

The program provides military families with someone who can assist them in channeling information for events and opportunities directly from the commander to the family member.

Quarterly Award winners

Congratulations to the following U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center quarterly award winners:

July to September 2008

Airman: **Airman 1st Class George Son**
NCO: **Tech. Sgt. Donice Colbert**
Senior NCO: **Master Sgt. Joseph Kazimer**
Company grade officer: **1st Lt. Eric Snelgrove**
Civilian, Category I: **Ms. Patricia Vance**

Civilian, Category II: **Mr. Michael Stewart**

October to December 2008

Airman: No award given
NCO: **Tech. Sgt. Jad Aoun**
Senior NCO: **Master Sgt. Jennifer Mastan**
Company grade officer: **Capt. Phong Thach**
Civilian, Category I: **Mrs. Paula Kaufman**
Civilian, Category II: **Mr. Vincent McCrane III**

New law allows salutes in civvies during anthem

Veterans and servicemembers not in uniform can now render the military-style hand salute during the playing of the national anthem, thanks to changes in federal law that took effect in October.

“The military salute is a unique gesture of respect that marks those who have served in our nation’s armed forces,” said Dr. James B. Peake, secretary of Veterans Affairs.

“This provision allows the application of that honor in all events involving our nation’s flag.”

Traditionally, members of the nation’s veterans service organizations have rendered the hand-salute during the national anthem and at events involving the national flag while wearing their organization’s official head-gear. (*Air Force News*)

Morale, welfare and recreation

To find out more about what events and opportunities are taking place on McGuire Air Force Base, N.J., visit the 305th Services Squadron Web site at: www.305services.com.

For events and opportunities on Fort Dix, visit its Web site at: www.dixmwr.com.

U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center First Sergeant



Master Sgt. Timothy Wasut

Contact information

Phone: (609) 754-7029

E-mail: timothy.wasut@us.af.mil

About the first sergeant

The first sergeant is your connection for help and support throughout the Expeditionary Center.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

Modeling for expeditionary art

Tech. Sgt. Ryan Thompson, from the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center’s 421st Combat Training Squadron, poses Dec. 11 with his “battle rattle” for a portrait in the center’s studio. Sergeant Thompson was one of nine people who were photographed and sketched by an artist for the Air Force Art Program. The artist is creating a large oil painting representing the center.

U.S. AIR FORCE EXPEDITIONARY CENTER



PUTTING THE
'EXPEDITIONARY' ...

IN EXPEDITIONARY AIRMAN

Photo by Staff Sgt. Nathan G. Bevier