



EXPEDITIONARY AIRMAN

United States Air Force Expeditionary Center's Official Publication

BEHIND THE LINES



Center warriors earn stripes



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AMB initiative saves time, money



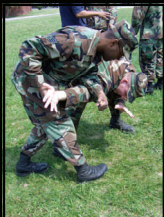
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MOS course builds mobility leaders

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Raven program observes 10th year

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Change of command

New commander takes reigns at U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Malinda Julian

Gen. Duncan McNabb, Air Mobility Command commander, hands the flag and leadership of the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center to Brig. Gen. Kip Self during a change of command ceremony May 23. Chief Master Sgt. Jeffrey Helm, USAF EC command chief, stands ready to receive the final flag pass from General McNabb.

By Lt. Col. Christie Dragan
U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center
Public Affairs

During a change of command ceremony May 23, Brig. Gen. Kip L. Self took command of the United States Air Force Expeditionary Center from Maj. Gen. Scott Gray. The presiding officer was Gen. Duncan McNabb, Air Mobility Command commander from Scott Air Force Base, Ill.

In his remarks after accepting command, General Self told the audience it was “an honor to be back home and good to see friends,” referring to his time as the 621st Air Mobility Operations Group commander at McGuire Air Force Base from June 2000 to June 2002.

Speaking to the members of the organization about his eagerness to learn his new job as head of AMC’s premier educational, training and innovation institution, General Self told them, “I have a lot to learn.”

He recognized the “many accomplishments” under previous commanders and added, “I want to keep the momentum going.”

General Self departed his position as commander of the 314th Airlift Wing at Little Rock AFB, Ark., where he was responsible for the wing’s mission to train C-130 aircrews for all services in the Department of Defense, Coast Guard and 28 allied nations, as well as C-21 aircrew through the 45th Airlift Squadron at Keesler AFB, Miss. In concert with the 463rd

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Congratulations! The U.S. President nominated and Congress confirmed Brig. Gen. Kip Self for a second star!



From the USAF EC Commander ...

By Brig. Gen. Kip Self

U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center
Commander

I want to first say I am proud to have an opportunity to serve as the commander for the United States Air Force Expeditionary Center. Sue and I are excited about joining you.

In my short time here, I am impressed by the vast experience of our instructors and staff. Our mission is one of excellence for expeditionary training. The reason we're that good is our people.

First, the Air Mobility Battlelab is accomplishing initiatives that will continue to help the 21st century Airman even better through innovation and technology. They build on a mission that will continue to make the Air Force's mobility warriors the best in the world well into the future. In the Mobility Operations School, through 57 on-line and in-residence courses, they are paving the way for future mobility leaders to achieve limitless success. Not only does the school train

mobility Airmen in topics including operations, tactics, intelligence, transportation, maintenance, aircrew resource management, and command and control from both a global and theater perspective, but it is also the Center's focal point for instructor and curriculum development and student logistical support.

The Expeditionary Operations School is no different. Through programs such as Air Force Exercise Eagle Flag, Advanced Contingency Skills Training Course, Phoenix Warrior and Phoenix Raven, they are equipping the warfighter Airman with the ground skills necessary to survive and operate in a hostile environment.

As I stated when I arrived here, it is all of the men and women warriors of the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center who make this place the best. Our motto of "Enabling Expeditionary Success" is driven by all of the people who make this place special.

What the Center does is important to the survival of our Airmen. We educate, exercise and execute a vital mission in



support of our brave and patriotic Airmen whose next stop is in the combat environment.

I salute all you do in making the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center a great place to train and learn for all Airmen. Thank you for welcoming us so warmly to a varsity team.

Will your career be 'Grand?'

By Chief Master Sgt. Jeffrey Helm

U.S. Air Force Expeditionary
Center Command Chief Master
Sergeant

On June 15, I had the honor of attending a ceremony in honor of Mr. Nick Grand, President of the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center Foundation. Fort Dix renamed Cam-

bridge Street to "Nick Grand Street" to honor and thank him for all he has done for the military over the past 62 years.

During Mr. Grand's speech, he talked about how he processed through Fort Dix 62 years ago when he joined the Army, and now he was standing there having a street named in his honor.

During that time, I started

thinking about the countless numbers of people who will serve in the Air Force honorably and faithfully but never have a street named after them. We can't all be Nick Grand, but we can all leave an impact on the Air Force and have a great career.

First of all, make a commitment to give 100 percent everyday. Tonight while

you're brushing your teeth, you need to look in the mirror and ask if you gave 100 percent today. If the answer is no, change what you're doing.

If you look at yourself and honestly answer "yes", then you're on your way to having a "Grand" career.

Next, always leave your assignment better than you

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THE EXPEDITIONARY AIRMAN

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 Airlift Group (Air Mobility Command), 189th Airlift Wing (Arkansas Air National Guard), and USAF Mobility Weapons School, General Self oversaw the nation's "Center of Excellence" for tactical airlift at Little Rock.

General Self is a 1978 graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in psychology and management. He has held a variety of flying assignments as a helicopter and fixed wing instructor pilot. The general's staff assignments include political-military planner on the Joint Staff, Country Director in the Office of the Secretary of Defense and Deputy Director of

Operations at Headquarters Air Mobility Command. He has also commanded the 16th Airlift Squadron at Charleston AFB, S.C., and the 621st Air Mobility Operations Group at McGuire AFB, N.J.

General Self served as special operations mission commander in support for Operation Joint Endeavor, and he deployed as Director of Mobility Forces in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. During Operation Iraqi Freedom, he was Commander of Expeditionary Air Forces in Southwest Asia. General Self is a command pilot with more than 4,000 hours in UH-1, T-38, C-141B, C-17 and C-130 aircraft.

General Gray will become Director, Global Reach

Programs, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force

for Acquisition, the Pentagon, Washington, D.C.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Scott Sturkol

Brig. Gen. Kip Self, U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center Commander, and his wife, Sue, greet Master Sgt. Robert Vaverchak and Mr. Art Tollefson, USAF EC Air Mobility Battlelab members, in a receiving line following the change of command ceremony May 23.

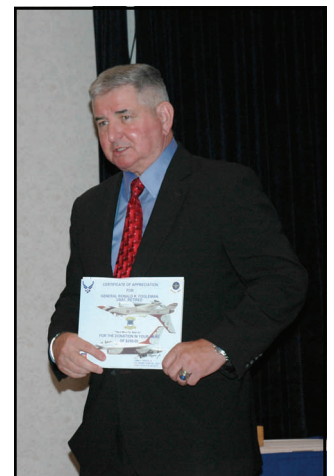
General Ronald Fogleman speaks at Advanced Study of Air Mobility Class graduation



Photos by Staff Sgt. Sonya Wratchford

Gen. Ronald Fogleman (front row, center), former Air Force chief of staff sits with the 13th graduating Advanced Study of Air Mobility class during the ceremony held June 15 at the McGuire Air Force Base, N.J., Club. Also pictured, from the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center, is Maj. Phil Heseltine (front row, far right), the newly selected executive officer for the Center commander. The ASAM program is a 13-month in-residence course offering a graduate degree and intermediate developmental education credit. Students study five core courses in addition to 14 Air Force Institute of Technology courses.

(Right) General Fogleman, ASAM graduation guest speaker and the visionary behind the creation of the ASAM program, holds a gift from the class — a certificate of donation to his favorite charity.



Twenty-four USAF EC warriors selected for promotion

Twenty four members of the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center were selected for promotion to master and technical sergeant June 14.

Technical sergeants selected for promotion to master sergeant include: **James D. Caywood Jr., Derrill D. Lowry, Jennifer A. Mastan, Todd Charlesworth, Marcus Hughes III and John D. Pickford.**

Staff sergeants selected for promotion to technical sergeant include: **David G. Balista, Wyatt L. Bloom, Mathew P. Butler, Angenette Caballero, Donice J. Colbert, Kerry M. Cook, Jonathon Cruikshank, David L. Ducheny, Gregory Hasecuster, Anna L. Jordan, Rayshawn King, Randal K. Komaki, Timothy S. Land, Robert M. Metrision, Norman E. Ramos, Rudolph L. Stuart, Jason J. Venturella and Daniel Williamson.**

According to the Air Force Personnel Center, the Air Force selected 6,002 of 24,115 eligible technical sergeants for promo-



tion to master sergeant, and 7,314 of 39,797 eligible staff sergeants for promotion to technical sergeant.

The master sergeant selection rate, 24.89 percent, rose 5.03 percent from last year, while this year's technical sergeant rate, 18.38 percent, rose 1.62 percent.

The average master sergeant selectee score for the 07E7 master sergeant test cycle was 339.07 points. The average technical sergeant selectee score for the 07E6 technical sergeant test cycle was 317.17 points.

"There are approximately 5,900 non-commissioned officers who haven't tested yet because they are currently deployed or have just returned from a deployment," said Chief Master Sgt. Rusty Nicholson, enlisted promotion branch chief at the Air Force Personnel Center. "They will be allowed to test once they return and will automatically be considered for supplemental promotion."

(Portions of this article courtesy of Air Force Personnel Center News Service)



Air Force releases criteria for Combat Action Medal

By Staff Sgt. J.G. Buzanowski
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON (AFNEWS) — Air Force officials at the Air Force Personnel Center recently released criteria for award of the new Combat Action Medal, an award for Airmen who have been involved in direct fighting situations where they risked their lives in an enemy engagement.

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley authorized the medal's creation March 15. Any Airman who believes he or she may be eligible can now submit an award package for consideration.

Airmen are eligible for the combat action medal "if their primary role includes performing duties in a combat zone, either on the ground or from the air, by entering into an unsecured area away from an established installation," Mr. Balducci said. "While performing their duties, they must have come under fire or fire upon an enemy to qualify."

A combat zone is defined as a geographic area for which an Airman receives imminent danger/hostile fire pay.

In addition, while encampments,

compounds and protected areas aren't normally qualifying locations for the AFCAM, Airmen augmenting a defensive fighting position could be eligible should they meet the award criteria, Mr. Balducci said.

Aircrew members must be flying in direct support of a combat zone and in combat. They also must be performing official duties and not manifested as a passenger. While performing close air support, taking fire from an enemy is not a prerequisite as long as the Airman is at "great risk," Mr. Balducci said.

"For Airmen still on active duty who believe they may be eligible for the medal, their submission must include a narrative explanation of circumstances on an Air Force Form 3994 describing the event, to include date, time, location and incident details, as well as witness statements," Mr. Balducci said. "That package should be submitted to the first O-6 (colonel) in their operational chain of command, who will submit it to the commander of Air Force forces."

Award eligibility is retroactive to Sept. 11, 2001, through a date to be determined and is available across the total

force. Personnel no longer on active duty can submit packages to the Board for Correction of Military Records. This will apply to posthumous awards as well, he said.

The medal does come with some restrictions. For example, only one can be awarded during a qualifying period, and for now, Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom count as one eligible time frame. In addition, there are no promotion points for the AFCAM. However, events that garner the combat action medal also can be referenced for other decorations, Mr. Balducci said.

The AFCAM is worn between the Air Force Achievement Medal and the Air Force Presidential Unit Citation. The medal is designed to evoke Air Force heritage, scarlet with diagonal yellow stripes — adapted from the art insignia on the aircraft of Gen. Billy Mitchell, who coordinated the first air-to-ground offensive in history.

Further, the AFCAM features an eagle grasping arrows in one talon and an olive branch in the other, the arrows reflecting preparedness for war while the olive branch represents a goal of peace, according to official Air Force wear guidance. For more information, Airmen should contact the Air Force Contact Center at DSN 665-5000 or (800) 616-3775.



Air Force fosters 'warrior ethos' in all Airmen

By Master Sgt. Mitch Gettle
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AFNEWS) — Whether it's the recent changes to basic military training, continual preparation for deployments, engaging in combat or new and better uniforms, Air Force leaders are instilling a warrior mindset in Airmen.

That warrior ethos — the foundation of what it means to be an Airman — traces its roots to the era when the Air Force first became an independent service. Since the days when bombers and fighters first soared into the wild blue yonder, Airmen have trained for or engaged in combat.

"The warrior ethos has always been a part of an Airman's character, but some people may have lost sight of it," said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley. "This warrior ethos exhibits a hardiness of spirit, and moral and physical courage."

FROM HERITAGE...

Understanding history is key to seeing the warrior ethos in Airmen today, General Moseley said.

"If we don't understand our history, we cannot understand the warfighting contribution that we make," General Moseley said. "During World War II, more 8th Air Force Airmen died than the total number of Marines killed in the war, and today a few people look at us as sideline watchers.

"In World War II it took hundreds of bombers to drop hundreds of thousands of bombs on a city, flying into harms way with a realization that the aircraft may not



Graphic by Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

return," he explained. "Today, with the air supremacy we provide and the technology we use, we are far more lethal and effective."

The world and warfare have changed in the last 40 years and the Air Force has adapted and changed with it, he said.

"The role of the Air Force has expanded with the new domains in which we fly and fight," General Moseley said. "Precision air strikes against the enemy save American and coalition lives. Taking out a target with a precision-guided missile or bomb, versus sending troops in to take out the same target, saves valuable ground forces. We own the air that provides ground forces a measure of safety. Our Airmen use innovative measures to carry out the Air Force's mission. Our Airmen bring more to the fight today than ever in Air Force history, but we do it in a way that puts our people in less danger."

The Air Force has been in combat operations for more than 16 years, never leaving Iraqi airspace after Operation

Desert Storm, and has provided continuous air superiority over that region. Airmen perform missions in the air, on the ground, in space and cyberspace that sometimes may be overlooked by the casual observer, General Moseley said.

...TO HORIZONS

Airmen "exemplify the warrior ethos in every Air Force specialty" by deploying to the corners of the Earth in support of the Air Force Mission: to fly and fight in air, space and cyberspace. Battlefield Airmen deliver expertise in ground combat environments. Space Airmen use surveillance and Global Positioning System technology to enhance warfighting capabilities. Operations Airmen carry out strategic air strikes, maintain the air bridge by moving millions of tons of cargo and thousands of personnel into and out of the AOR, and deliver fuel to the fight, all with aging equipment, he said.

"Sometimes we make it look easy, and some people ask why we need better aircraft when we make it look

easy," General Moseley said. "It's really a compliment to our Airmen. Everything we accomplish revolves around educated, innovative and disciplined Airmen operating technology."

"Our Airmen's mission is global. Through our space assets we can see anything on the earth, we can conduct surveillance, we can fly there, we can hold an area at risk, and with command and control we can access situations and we can bring arms to bear if need be."

The warrior ethos is also tied to the Air Force priorities: fighting and winning the war on terrorism, developing and caring for Airmen, and recapitalizing and modernizing aging aircraft and space inventories.

"I'm frustrated that we have to fly missions using aircraft that were first delivered to us 40 or 50 years ago," General Moseley said. "So, I'm concerned about our crews flying missions in these airplanes 15 minutes from now and what they'll be flying in 15 years from now. They deserve

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Ethos, from Page 5

the best equipment we can get our hands on to win our nation's wars."

General Moseley emphasized that recapitalization is about dissuading and deterring an enemy from starting the next war, as well as training Airmen for the future.

"We need to ensure that our Airmen have the best training and best equipment today and in 2020 to deter any enemy force from wanting to fight us," he said. "It is not about the machine, but about the desired effect to deter and dissuade. The point of having a far superior Air Force is to deter anyone from engaging us in combat because they know they will lose.

"If we cannot train the way we fight due to budgetary constraints or aging equipment, this can degrade the Air Force's operational and combat capability," he continued. "We have to be able to pull the trigger in training to ensure we can do it in combat."

General Moseley said it's imperative that Airmen understand that cultivating a warrior ethos drives the decisions of today's Air Force leaders.

The following are some brief examples of current and future initiatives which incorporate a Warrior Ethos:

Education and Training:

- The Air Force Academy, Officer Training School and basic military training have incorporated more warfighting skills training.
- In-lieu-of training prepares Airmen for combat environments, supporting requirements where Airmen deploy to assist Army personnel.

Uniform:

- A distinctive Airman Battle Uniform has been designed to help Airmen survive and win on the battlefield.
- The "Heritage Jacket" has been developed as a new service dress uniform with a distinctive military design honoring Air Force heritage.

Culture:

- The Air Force Memorial was dedicated as a permanent reminder of Airmen's courage, valor and sacrifice.
- An Airman's Creed has been created to reinforce an Airman's service and conduct, fueled by a warrior ethos aimed at serving and defending the country, the Constitution and the people.

Evaluations:

- Deployment history has been added to the officer selection brief, reinforcing the service's expeditionary nature.
- Physical fitness blocks have been added to enlisted and officer performance reports stressing the importance of physical readiness.

Other Initiatives:

- The Core Values Handbook is being revised to include aspects of courage, valor and sacrifice.
- "Airmen's Perspective" is being added to Air Force basic doctrine, clarifying the warrior concept.
- The Air Force Combat Action Medal was created to recognize Airmen who performed honorably in combat.



The Airman's Creed

**I AM AN AMERICAN AIRMAN.
I AM A WARRIOR.
I HAVE ANSWERED MY NATION'S CALL.**

**I AM AN AMERICAN AIRMAN.
MY MISSION IS TO FLY, FIGHT, AND WIN.
I AM FAITHFUL TO A PROUD HERITAGE,
A TRADITION OF HONOR,
AND A LEGACY OF VALOR.**

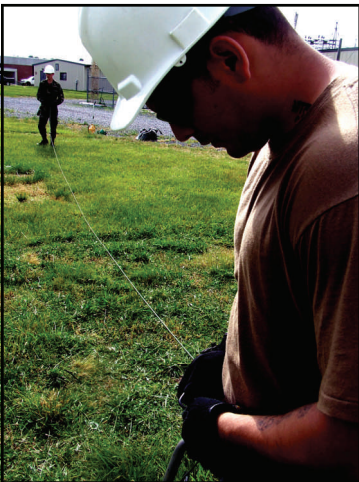
**I AM AN AMERICAN AIRMAN,
GUARDIAN OF FREEDOM AND JUSTICE,
MY NATION'S SWORD AND SHIELD,
ITS SENTRY AND AVENGER.
I DEFEND MY COUNTRY WITH MY LIFE.**

**I AM AN AMERICAN AIRMAN:
WINGMAN, LEADER, WARRIOR.
I WILL NEVER LEAVE AN AIRMAN BEHIND,
I WILL NEVER FALTER,
AND I WILL NOT FAIL.**

Mobile communicators train at Fort Dix



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol



(Clockwise from left) Senior Airman Nick Snowden, 573rd Global Support Squadron, Travis Air Force Base, Calif., and another student prepare stabilization lines during the Advanced Mobile Command and Control Communications Course at the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center, Fort Dix, N.J., June 12. Staff Sgt. Jed Bigler, 819th GSS, McGuire AFB, N.J., and Airman Snowden push up an antenna pole. Other students prepare the antenna pole. Senior Airman Brandon Smith, 573rd GSS, Travis AFB, prepares stabilization lines for the antenna pole.

The course, taught by the USAF EC's Mobility Operations School, prepares communications Airmen assigned to contingency response units on advanced mobility communications.



AMB initiative for flight information management system saves time, money

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

The U.S. Air Force's Air Mobility Battlelab successfully completed an initiative named the Comprehensive Combat Flight Information Management System, or CCFIMS, at the Rockwell Collins International, Inc.'s aviation laboratory in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

"The initiative aided Air Mobility Command headquarters in avoiding an estimated three years and \$1.8 billion in early development costs," said Maj. Daniel Cozzi, project officer for the initiative. The CCFIMS initiative uniquely combined commercial and government systems — demonstrating that industry can readily meet AMC's needs.

The Air Mobility Battlelab partnered with Rockwell Collins International, Inc. and the Air Force Research Laboratory, located at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, to demonstrate that current commercial and government systems could meet the needs of the Air Force. In April, the battlelab briefed the demonstration results of the September 2006 demonstration to Air Mobility Command's leadership.

The CCFIMS demonstration successfully displayed simulations of real-time aircraft position and encrypted threat and friendly force information in an aircrew friendly display.

Aircrew members from Air Force operational units participated in the demonstration. Air National Guard Lt. Col. James Stevenson, 173rd Air Refueling Squadron, Nebraska Air National Guard, Lincoln, Neb., participated in the demonstration and said, "The concepts proven in the CCFIMS demonstration promise a significant increase in aircrew situational awareness ... and will improve integration between combat and mobility aircraft." In his assessment, Colonel Stevenson said a CCFIMS type of system which is usable on multiple aircraft and contains these capabilities will further enhance a Single Mobility Culture for AMC.



Air Force photo

Maj. Daniel Cozzi, Air Mobility Battlelab, tests the Comprehensive Combat Flight Information Management System during an equipment demonstration at the aviation laboratory of Rockwell Collins International, Inc.'s facility in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, in October 2006.

The other operational participant in the demonstration, Capt. Ron Lecza, 91st ARS, MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., said he was impressed by what he called a demonstrated potential to "not only enhance safety of flight, but also lessen the dependency of AMC assets on airborne radar warning systems such as that provided by the E-3 Airborne Warning And Control System aircraft." Overall, all participants in the demonstration said they were impressed by the system.

"Critical to successful military operations around the world, AMC's large and widely employed aircraft and their missions require secure contact with their command centers and other aircraft," Major Cozzi said.

Currently, AMC's aircrews maintain this contact using a combination of encrypted radio transmissions using Cold War-era equipment combined with limited numbers of laptop computers communicating via temporarily installed

satellite communications equipment. The limited bandwidth and transmission range in this combination of systems hampers information flow distracting aircrews from essential tasks during demanding combat missions.

The Air Mobility Battlelab, in consultation with AMC, designed the CCFIMS initiative to see if currently-available commercial technology was ready to resolve this deficiency.

Col. Phil Bradley, then commander of AMB said, "The demonstration's results informed AMC leaders and is accelerating the integration and fielding of military data links and airborne networking capabilities for AMC's mobility aircraft. The successful demonstration of the CCFIMS initiative met the Air Mobility Battlelab's mission to evaluate the military utility of today's technology providing solutions for the Air Force warfighter today."
(The Air Mobility Battlelab contributed to this story.)

AMB demonstrates digital acoustic video inspection camera at Grand Forks AFB



Air Force photos

(Left and above) Senior Airman Christopher Daniels, 319th Maintenance Squadron, Grand Forks Air Force Base, N.D., uses a digital video acoustic camera as part of an Air Mobility Battlelab demonstration May 31 at Grand Forks AFB. The demonstration was for the Digital Acoustic Video Inspection Camera, or DAVIC, initiative that will help aircraft maintenance personnel with more thorough aircraft inspections. Airman Daniels works in one of Grand Forks AFB's isochronal hangars for KC-135R Stratotankers.

Battlelab 'BrightEye' initiative in use by CRG units in Eagle Flag exercises



Photos by Master Sgt. Michael Harris

(Left and right) The Air Mobility Battlelab's BrightEye System initiative is seeing use in the field. During Eagle Flag 07-4 at Naval Air Engineering Station Lakehurst, N.J., the 817th Contingency Response Group, McGuire AFB, N.J., used the system with its eight-person advance team for the exercise.

"The BrightEye System is a high-powered, portable battery-powered lighting system that is a more cost-effective, energy-efficient solution for portable lighting needs than the current FL-1D floodlight used by the various military branches," said Master Sgt. Michael Harris, AMB initiative project officer. "The BrightEye utilizes patented designs with high-power LED lighting elements that consume 75-percent less energy than traditional incandescent bulbs and lasts up to 25,000 hours of operation for significant long-term operating advantages."

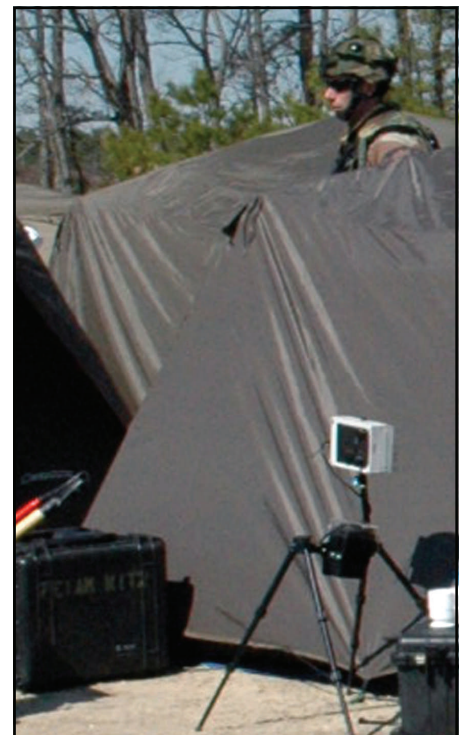


Photo by Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

Competitors set for Rodeo 2007

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill. — More than 55 U.S. and international teams will participate in Air Mobility Command's Rodeo 2007 July 22 to 28 at McChord Air Force Base, Wash. The competition focuses on readiness and features airdrop, air refueling and other events showcasing security forces, aerial port, maintenance and aeromedical evacuation personnel.

There are 45 U.S. teams including three from the U.S. Marine Corps and one from the U.S. Coast Guard as well as international competitors from Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Egypt, Germany, Netherlands, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates. Nineteen other countries are sending observer teams.

"The diversity of this year's competition shows the importance of having such an event," said Lt. Col. Chris Duffek, Rodeo 2007 Director. "In today's climate we are working more and more with other branches of service and other countries. Competitions such as Rodeo give us a chance to focus on improving our worldwide air mobility forces' professional core abilities."

Rodeo's roots began in 1962 as a combat skills competition designed to develop and improve techniques/procedures while enhancing air mobility operations, and promoting esprit de corps. In 1979, Rodeo was expanded to include international air mobility partners. Rodeo tests the flight and ground skills of aircrews as well as the related skills of security forces, aerial port operations, aeromedical evacuation and maintenance team members. It also provides valuable joint and combined training for all participants.

An important long-term benefit is increased cooperation among international air mobility forces. Collectively, the ultimate goal of the competition is to develop and improve techniques and procedures that enhance air mobility operations. Spirited competition furthers that aim, while strengthening the mutual goals and bonds of friendship developed between competing teams. *(Courtesy AMC News Service)*

Rodeo commander praises competition preparation efforts

By Capt. Suzanne Ovel
62nd Airlift Wing
Public Affairs

MCCHORD AIR FORCE BASE,

Wash. — More than 80 people convened in Hangar 4 this week [June 3-5] as part of a planning think tank for the Rodeo 2007 competition to be held here July 22 to 28.

Rodeo is the Mobility Air Force's (MAF) readiness competition that focuses on improving worldwide air mobility forces' professional core abilities. Career-field experts and logistical planners from Air Mobility Command, the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center and McChord participated in a three-day in-progress review to solidify plans for the international mobility competition and to brief the new Rodeo Commander, Brig. Gen. Kip Self, on these plans.

"This was an eye-opening experience. I mean that from the second of day one that I walked in, Team McChord was evident," said General Self, noting the total force contribution to coordinating the event.

"There's a great synergy here, and in a team this size, it's essential." In addition to solidifying the schedule of Rodeo week, the planning team made real progress, said Lt. Col. Chris Duffek, AMC Rodeo director.

"We fine-tuned the in-processing procedures to check in the more than 3,000 competitors and staff for the competition; we finalized change two to the operation order which will go

out to the competitors next week; and we prepared our way ahead for the Rodeo briefing to [AMC Commander] Gen. Duncan McNabb on June 18," Colonel Duffek said.

With more than a year and a half of Rodeo planning already accomplished, the Rodeo team is well-prepared to host the teams and observers from nearly 30 countries.

"Really all we have to do is polish a few areas, just tie up a couple of loose ends, and we'll be ready to go, which is a nice place to be. We've been planning this event since October 2005, and it's time to execute," Colonel Duffek said.

That sense of accomplishment is echoed by the McChord Rodeo staff.

"The McChord Rodeo planning staff has done an outstanding job preparing and planning for this AMC Rodeo 2007, and we are excited to execute over the next few weeks and determine who is the best of the best," said Lt. Col. Bryan Huntsman, McChord Rodeo director.



AMC commander discusses Rodeo 2007

By Staff Sgt. Tiffany Orr
62nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

MCCHORD AIR FORCE BASE, Wash. — Following is an interview by 62nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs with Gen. Duncan J. McNabb, the commander of Air Mobility Command, on AMC Rodeo 2007.

Q. As AMC commander, are you looking forward to hosting Rodeo?

A. This is a special time for the mobility forces as we try to figure out new and better ways of carrying out our global mission. By bringing teams in for Rodeo both Total Force — active duty, Guard and Reserve — and international you really get to see not only some great camaraderie, you also get to see who does it better, and it takes the bar up for everybody, and it does an awful lot for the mobility air forces in not only raising that bar but also (creating) tremendous camaraderie and international goodwill. It also enhances interoperability, so we end up getting to see how other folks do that, take the best of the best, and again it takes the whole force forward.

Q. How does Rodeo demonstrate the air mobility capabilities available to the warfighter?

A. If you think about what we are being tasked in this global war on terrorism, and you think about getting convoys off the road, and you think about how we are constantly trying (to) make our mobility chain faster and better. Basically we talk an awful lot about velocity, making everything go quicker, and precision, making everything precise, and this allows us to go test different concepts.

See our very best Airmen figure out, "Hey, here's the next step; here's how I can do this even better than I've done it before." And then we get to kind of watch that and go "wow" and watch and learn. When I think of the responsibilities of the air mobility forces to do the air bridge and tanker bridge, this is the kind of competition that allows us to take us to a whole different level. And in the end, we use this same thing to give greater capability for the dollar or look for ways to save even more lives-- in essence, create warfighting effect.

Q. What benefits do you see by including our international partners in this spirited competition?

A. We have some very good examples. The Pakistanis sent an observer team to come and watch us in the last Rodeo. They also spent some additional time after Rodeo to stay at McChord to



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

"This is a special time for the mobility forces as we try to figure out new and better ways of carrying out our global mission."

Gen. Duncan J. McNabb
Commander,
Air Mobility Command

learn about airdrop. And then they actually put all that to good use when they used their own 130s to drop earthquake relief in the Pakistan earthquake. So they came, and they took what they already knew how to do. They watched other nations and how they went about that and then kind of took advantage of what they could from others.

The Danes have also done the same thing. They sent an observer team on the 130-J, and as they get their own 130-Js, it allows them to go look at how we employ the 130-J, and it allows them to look around and say, "Okay, other countries that have had this longer; how are they taking advantage of this new weapon system?"

There are lots of examples of that where we have allies and friends around the world who are trying to figure out different ways to employ their mobility aircraft. Whether that's for special operations or maybe doing some more vertical resupply-like airdrop that maybe traditionally they had not done but now they're realizing that they really need that capability. It allows them to come and kind of say, "How would I go about this?"

The goodwill that it engenders is immeasurable. There's an awful lot of our allies and friends who I have talked to and said, "Hey, we would love for you to come, and if you just want to send an observer team, great. If you want to send a full up team, we welcome that as well." But what we want to do is get us all together so that, together, we take mobility air forces into the future.

Course prepares mobility team leaders in deployment command and control

By Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center Public Affairs

FORT DIX, N.J. – Of the 57 in-residence and on-line courses offered in the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center’s Mobility Operations School, one course targets future leaders in mobility command and control.

The Mobility Air Forces Mobile Command and Control Leadership Course, offered in four sessions a year with 16 officer and enlisted students in each seven-day course, “provides leaders of the mobility air forces mission support forces training on operating in the deployed environment,” said Tech. Sgt. Charles Sherman, course director.

“Students are trained in Air Force doctrine, pre-mission planning, deployment, employment, mission management, reporting, force protection, airfield surveying, financial planning and deployed legal responsibilities,” Sergeant Sherman said. “For many of our students, this is the first chance they get to fill a leadership position and be responsible for Airmen in the field.

“Also, for many of them, it is a revelation because they begin to see things from the eyes of a team leader,” Sergeant Sherman said. “It’s rewarding to see them transform from thinking like members of a team to thinking like leaders of those teams in the field.”

Many of the students have backgrounds in some of the Air Force’s newest organizations – contingency response wings and contingency response groups. Sergeant Sherman said the course is required for all contingency response element commanders and contingency response team chiefs.

“We teach these future mission commanders and team chiefs all the fundamental aspects of mission planning – from gathering information about the location, to identifying the mission requirements, to building the team they need to do the job.”

Students in the course come from all around the Air Force – to include Air Mobility Command, U.S. Air Forces in Europe, Pacific Air Forces, and the Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve, Sergeant Sherman said. It’s the class diversity of shared experience and ideas that also helps groom the future leaders.

“This class teaches the Total Force, not just select personnel from a certain command,” Sergeant Sherman said. “We strive for the best student environment we can provide.”

Staff Sgt. Jason Trussell, 573rd Global Support Squadron, Travis Air Force Base, Calif., who was a student from the most recent course completed in early June, explained what he learned in the course.

“This course helped me to be better prepared for mission deployments and gave an understanding of the working process of a CRG,” Sergeant Trussell said. “The course gives students the necessary skills and guidance for future missions or exercises. Additionally, the capability (the class has) to bring real world deployment experiences into the classroom from other students



Photo by Kenn Mann

Master Sgt. Michael Deehr, 819th Global Support Squadron, McGuire Air Force Base, N.J., uses a measuring wheel while participating in an airfield survey exercise for the Mobility Air Forces Mobile Command and Control Leadership Course June 4, 2007, on the McGuire flightline. The course, taught by the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center’s Mobility Operations School at Fort Dix, N.J., teaches officer and enlisted Airmen to become better leaders as contingency response element commanders or contingency response team chiefs.

also aids in student preparation.”

As one of the class’ field exercises, students go to the McGuire Air Force Base flightline and practice performing an airfield survey. Sergeant Sherman said this type of hands-on training aids in supporting classroom instruction.

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“The airfield survey exercise shows the students how to perform an initial inspection of the airfield,” Sergeant Sherman said. “The students are taught to construct aircraft parking plans to maximize space and still maintain safe conditions. Creating a parking plan is one of the first tasks accomplished at a deployed location.”

It’s those initial deployment requirements that students find to be the most useful.

“A practical exercise like that gives us the chance to mission plan before the real thing,” Sergeant Trussell said.

Building successful mobility team leaders for tomorrow is the ultimate goal of this course, Sergeant Sherman said. “Like everywhere else in the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center and the Mobility Operations School, we want to give the best training possible, and I think this course is a great example of that achievement,” he said.

According to its mission statement, the USAF EC’s “Mobility Operations School is an Air Force Center of Excellence dedicated to prepare every graduate to perform their mission by educating, training and exercising Department of Defense personnel in the full range of expeditionary operations. Using both resident and Web-based instructional media, the MOS offers 57 courses, including 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 from both a global and theater perspective. In addition, the MOS sponsors a range of exercises and the mobility piece of Joint Readiness Training at Fort Polk, La. Finally, the MOS is the USAF EC’s focal point for instructor and curriculum development and student logistical support.”



Photos by Kenn Mann

Senior Master Sgt. Robert Finney, Mississippi Air National Guard, uses a laser distance measuring device as part of an airfield survey exercise for the Mobility Air Forces Mobile Command and Control Leadership Course June 4 on the McGuire Air Force Base, N.J., flightline.



Students in the Mobility Air Forces Mobile Command and Control Leadership Course record information as part of an airfield survey exercise at McGuire.

Services Airmen train, practice use of expeditionary kitchen at Eagle Flag

By Senior Airman Joel Mease
7th Bomb Wing Public Affairs
Dyess Air Force Base, Texas, and
Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol
U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center
Public Affairs

NAVAL AIR ENGINEERING STATION LAKEHURST, N.J. – Some Airmen might not think a hot meal is a big deal, but for Airmen at a bare base a meal not named “MRE” can bring a few happy and hungry faces to the dinner table.

That’s where Airmen from the Air Force services career field deployed to Eagle Flag come in to play. When service members arrive at a bare base location, the first food they have to eat are usually meals ready to eat, or MREs.

After the initial base infrastructure is built up, they are able to set up a field kitchen, said 1st Lt. Darryl Hebert, services officer from the 2nd Services Squadron, Barksdale Air Force Base, La., who deployed to Air Force Exercise Eagle Flag 07-4 April 16 to 26. Eagle Flag is an exercise that tests and trains Airmen in a bare base environment of which more than 30 services members deploy to each exercise.

When services Airmen deploy to Eagle Flag, they receive training to set up and feed several hundred Airmen using a field kitchen called the single pallet expeditionary kitchen, or SPEK, said Tech. Sgt. Roy Johnson, lead services instructor for the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center’s 421st Combat Training Squadron.

“Services members receive more than just services-related training when they come to Eagle Flag,” Sergeant Johnson said. “In addition to a special two-hour block of training on the introduction and set up of the SPEK, they attend training for defensive operations, field craft, cross cultural communication, and training on setting up a small Alaskan shelter system.”

Sergeant Johnson said during the two-hour class on the SPEK, which has the



Photo by Senior Airman Jared Marquis

Airmen deployed to Air Force Exercise Eagle Flag 07-4 serve up food to exercise students during an evening meal April 25 at Naval Air Engineering Station Lakehurst, N.J. The food was prepared in the Single Pallet Expeditionary Kitchen, or SPEK, by services Airmen. During each Eagle Flag, more than 30 services Airmen deploy to support the exercise. The exercise is operated by the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center’s 421st Combat Training Squadron, Fort Dix, N.J.

largest impact on Eagle Flag students, involves an initial briefing and then out to the field where they will actually set up the expeditionary kitchen.

“For the service Airmen who have experience with the SPEK, the class serves mostly as a refresher course,” Sergeant Johnson said. “However, for those services Airmen who have never seen or set it up, this class allows them to get familiar with the SPEK and gain that experience in building it. The version we use for Eagle Flag – the container SPEK, is also different than they may see at their home station – usually the palletized SPEK.

The SPEK uses utilized group rations, or UGRs, which allows for the ability to support 1,600 people in just one pallet, Lieutenant Hebert said.

“A UGR is like a big MRE, but the big difference is it gets served with a

plate, knife, fork and you get it hot to begin with,” said Tech. Sgt. Johnny Lasswell, services craftsman from the 377th Services Squadron, Kirtland AFB, N.M., who also deployed to Eagle Flag 07-4. “The UGRs include 14 different menus that support both breakfast and dinner. Items like beef enchiladas, scrambled eggs, sausage links and spaghetti along with coffee and fruit drinks are what Airmen can expect when visiting a field kitchen.”

The smaller field kitchens used at bare base operations however, are only meant to be temporary, Sergeant Lasswell added.

“Usually after 30 days a larger kitchen is built and can support three meals a day and approximately 1,100 people,” Sergeant Lasswell said. “The field kitchen used during Eagle Flag is smaller and can

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Kitchen, from Page 14

only support two meals a day and around 500 people.”

A lot of hard work and preparation goes into first building the dining tent and kitchen area, along with multiple hours to cook the food. However, Sergeant Lasswell says the effort is well worth his time during Eagle Flag.

“I particularly like when we get a field kitchen running, because ultimately the military runs on its stomachs,” Sergeant Lasswell said. “I enjoy feeding the Airmen, even if it means I have to wake up at 3 a.m. for a 5 a.m breakfast. That’s what it’s all about, because in the end Airmen are less productive without a full meal.”

Lieutenant Hebert agrees with the sergeant’s assessment.

“For me it’s the experience to finally sit down with a plate, fork and knife and finally enjoy a real meal – whether I’m on a real-world deployment or at Eagle Flag,” Lieutenant Hebert said.

(Right) Airmen deployed to Air Force Exercise Eagle Flag 07-4 serve up food to exercise students during an evening meal at Naval Air Engineering Station Lakehurst, N.J., in April.



Photo by Senior Airman Jared Marquis



(Left) Airmen deployed to Air Force Exercise Eagle Flag 07-4 work on building the dining tent during operations for the exercise April 24 at Naval Air Engineering Station Lakehurst, N.J. Airmen in the Air Force Services career field receive specific training on setting up a deployed dining facility as part of Eagle Flag training.

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

Images from Eagle Flag 07-4



A C-17 Globemaster III from the 305th Air Mobility Wing, McGuire Air Force Base, N.J., flies overhead while a pilot prepares an A-10 Thunderbolt II from Willow Grove Naval Air Station, Pa., for parking during operations for Air Force Exercise Eagle Flag 07-4 April 25.

Photos by Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

Senior Master Sgt. Randy Perrault, 818th Contingency Response Group, McGuire Air Force Base, N.J., responds to a scenario during operations for the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center's Exercise Eagle Flag 07-4 April 21 at Naval Air Engineering Station Lakehurst, N.J.



A U.S. Air Force Airman playing the role of a host nation military "conscript" stands guard during a joint host nation military-U.S. Air Force visit to the fictional village of Citheron during a scenario for Eagle Flag 07-4 April 21.



(Above) Airmen respond to a scenario for Eagle Flag. (Left) Airmen build tents for the exercise.

Eagle Flag assists CRGs in preparation for real-world success

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

FORT DIX, N.J. – Air Force Exercise Eagle Flag is designed to bring together expeditionary combat support skills a combatant commander needs to open an air base, provide command and control, and to establish an air base in a realistic contingency environment.

It's a natural match to include in that exercise a contingency response group, or CRG, unit. According to Air Force doctrine, a CRG is essentially the Air Force's standing initial airbase opening response force, scalable to fit the mission. These units are designed as organic, rapid response, initial airbase opening units.

Col. Richard Walberg, commander of the 818th Contingency Response Group, McGuire Air Force Base, N.J., has taken his unit to places around the world doing what it was designed to do – open an air base and begin operations.

With deployments to places like Pakistan for earthquake relief and New Orleans to support Joint Task Force Katrina, the 818th is no stranger to quick response air mobility. In between those real-world deployments, Colonel Walberg said it's important to maintain readiness. He added that Air Force Exercise Eagle Flag, operated by the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center here, offers an "excellent" opportunity for CRG units to practice their readiness.

"The way Eagle Flag is set up – they have approximately six exercises a year," Colonel Walberg said. "It works out to where each CRG participates in one of those exercises."

Colonel Walberg said Eagle Flag isn't the starting point for readiness, but more the ending point to test their capabilities.

"If you're going to do this and do it right, you can't wait for your turn at Eagle Flag to get ready," Colonel Walberg said. "You have to get out of wherever you are in garrison and practice to be ready. You need to get out and practice things like small arms tactics and building Alaskan tents. You essentially need to be expeditionary ready 365 days a year."

Col. Raymond Torres, commandant of the Air Force Expeditionary Operations School which coordinates Eagle Flag through the 421st Combat Training Squadron, said the Air Force decision to organize contingency response groups for the air base opening mission has enhanced expeditionary capabilities and makes sense to include them into Eagle Flag.

"Examples, such as the use of CRGs in Pakistan following their earthquakes and in New Orleans following hurricanes Katrina and Rita, validated we are on the path to success," Colonel Torres said. "Our Chief of Staff of the Air Force-directed Eagle Flag exercise allows CRGs to execute their skills in the field, opening an airbase, and adds the air expeditionary group into the mix to work the follow on forces and plan for a robust



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

Airman Natasha Mitchell, 818th Contingency Response Group, McGuire Air Force Base, N.J., watches over a checkpoint during operations for Air Force Exercise Eagle Flag 07-4 April 21, 2007, at Naval Air Engineering Station Lakehurst, N.J. The exercise is operated by the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center's 421st Combat Training Squadron, Fort Dix, N.J.

airbase, ready to conduct air base operations."

Colonel Torres said the exercise is stressful, but it benefits the deployed colonels and all Airmen who deploy to Eagle Flag.

"They get to practice their expeditionary skills in a real deployed environment," Colonel Torres said. "They learn not only their functional field craft, but also how to work together in an expeditionary environment, team build to conduct airbase opening and work the seams between CRG handoff to an AEG which then turns over operations to the incoming air expeditionary wing commander."

Colonel Walberg has taken his CRG unit to Eagle Flag more
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CRGs, from Page 17

than once and said he's convinced the exercise has aided his unit's success when they've been called upon to deploy.

"Based on my experience in both humanitarian relief operations from the last 20-plus years and in combat situations in this business, Eagle Flag is the best training I have ever seen."

The composition of a CRG "open the airbase" team will vary depending on mission requirements, but will normally include all core capabilities, doctrine shows.

In Eagle Flag, scenarios are built to prepare CRG units for those possible situations they might encounter to include a humanitarian relief operation or an airfield seizure.

"The Center's cadre who holds this field training work very hard with you and watch you," Colonel Walberg said.

If a CRG unit is very good, for example, at different types of force protection actions, the cadre are going to recognize that unit for doing the work correctly, Colonel Walberg said.

"If you show them that you have taken to heart the training in Air Force Manual 10-100 (the Airman's Manual) for example, have listened to what the security forces tell you, the Eagle Flag cadre will let you know you have met the training objective and were successful," Colonel Walberg said. "However, if you are doing something wrong, the cadre are excellent at zeroing in on that defect and helping you learn what went wrong."

Colonel Walberg said the Eagle Flag training "mirrors reality," as opposed to "following a script."

"The Eagle Flag training is adjusted on the fly based on the capabilities of the CRG commander in the field and his team," Colonel Walberg said. "Some units are better than others, but the point is the training stresses you accordingly and makes you better overall."



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

Tech. Sgt. Jesse Pate and 1st Lt. Keryn Ross, 818th Contingency Response Group, McGuire Air Force Base, N.J., drive all-terrain vehicles as part of a security assessment for operations for the CRG for Air Force Exercise Eagle Flag 07-4 April 20 at Naval Air Engineering Station Lakehurst, N.J. Sergeant Pate and Lieutenant Ross were part of an eight-person advance team for the 818th CRG participating in the exercise.



Airmen assigned to the 818th Contingency Response Group, McGuire Air Force Base, N.J., carry mobility bags on to a C-17 Globemaster III, also from McGuire, as part of operations for Air Force Exercise Eagle Flag 07-4 April 25.

Phoenix Warrior 07-4 at Eagle Flag



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

Students in the Air Force Phoenix Warrior Training Course 07-4 drive in a convoy as part of class operations April 24 at Naval Air Engineering Station Lakehurst, N.J. Phoenix Warrior students integrate into every Eagle Flag exercise as part of their field training requirement to complete the course. Phoenix Warrior is coordinated and taught by the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center's 421st Combat Training Squadron, Fort Dix, N.J.



A student in the Air Force Phoenix Warrior Training Course 07-4 rides in a convoy as part of class operations.



Students in the Air Force Phoenix Warrior Training Course 07-4 respond to a medical scenario as part of their training.

Phoenix Warrior students train for urban ops



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

(Above and right) Air Force security forces students in the Air Force Phoenix Warrior Course 07-4 practice clearing buildings as part of training in military operations in urban terrain, or MOUT, at a training area on Naval Air Engineering Station Lakehurst, N.J., April 18. The course is taught by the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center's 421st Combat Training Squadron and prepares security forces for upcoming deployments.



As seen from the lens of a training camera, security forces students in the Phoenix Warrior Course 07-4 clear the inside of a building during their Military Operations in Urban Terrain training at Lakehurst.

Team McGuire holds Media Day; USAF EC shows Eagle Flag



Photos by Kenn Mann

(Above) Staff Sgt. Michael Tesch, U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center's 421st Combat Training Squadron explosive ordnance disposal technician, gets swarmed by the local media to answer questions about explosive ordnance devices during the Team McGuire Media Day held June 25 at the EC's simulated Citheron Village at Naval Air Engineering Station Lakehurst, N.J.



(Above) Capt. Rob Prausa, USAF EC's 421st CTS Eagle Flag flight commander, holds up a simunition so the local media can get a close-up shot of the ammunition used during military operations in urban terrain training. Local media attending the Team McGuire Media Day included Asbury Park Press, N.J. Network, NBC-10, ABC-6, Press of Atlantic City, Atlas Press Photo, Top Cover Photo and Semper Apollo, LLC.



(Below) Brig. Gen. Kip Self, USAF EC Commander, tells the media about the USAF Expeditionary Center's mission.

(Above) A Philadelphia NBC-10 reporter films the Phoenix Warrior 07-5 students response to a roadside mortar attack at Lakehurst. The security forces team demonstrated how quickly they treat a wounded Airman and transfer all passengers to another HMMWV, while protecting the convoy and defeating ambushers. The scenario gave the media a sense of the danger Airmen face while deployed to the Middle East in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and how the Air Force's security forces handle a convoy attack.



Airmen with a nose for danger

By Maj. Michele Gill

U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center
Public Affairs

A Blackhawk helicopter lowers itself to the ground—voices are drowned out by the running rotors. Some of the soon-to-be passengers are muzzled. Waiting patiently, they are in a staggered formation to board the helicopter that will take them on a training flight over Fort Dix, N.J. No ordinary Airmen are about to board—these Airmen are military working dogs and their security forces handlers, who are students in the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center's Phoenix Warrior Course at Fort Dix, N.J., held June 15 to 28.

The Phoenix Warrior class included its first canine training track as part of the USAF EC's initiative to provide advanced pre-deployment training to military working dogs and their handlers

assigned to Air Mobility Command.

To prepare them for a deployment to the Middle East, the six dogs got a chance to experience sights and sounds they had never been exposed to in their previous training.

"Dog handlers are getting taskings to support the Army and Marines in Southwest Asia," said Staff Sgt. Mark Ochoa, 319th Security Forces Squadron from Grand Forks Air Force Base, N.D.

"This training exposed our dogs to more than 10,000 rounds of live weapons fire. It was good training to see how they would react."

Riding in a tactical vehicle while an automatic weapon delivers hundreds of rounds from the turret, the dogs got a sense of the fog and friction of war. This was the first time they ever heard so much gunfire, both live and blanks, during training.

Also, during their 16-day course, the

military working dogs were exposed to a large quantity of explosives to see how they would respond.

"At home station, our dogs typically detect (a small quantity) of odor at one time," said Staff Sgt. Derrick Bowen, 60th SFS, Travis AFB, Calif. He added they were exposed to explosives more than 15 times what they usually detect at one time – this represents what the dogs may detect while deployed.

Another security forces dog handler, Staff John Havlik, 319 SFS, said the urban training at the USAF EC's simulated Middle Eastern village located on a Fort Dix range was a realistic environment.

"The dogs walked through a dirty village and in buildings with dirt floors and thin walls," commented Sergeant Havlik.

The handlers said although the dogs
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Photos by Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Dean

(Front, counterclockwise) Staff Sgt. Jason Sheldon, 22nd Security Forces Squadron, McConnell Air Force Base, Kan., holds his military working dog, Exa/E284, while waiting to board a Blackhawk helicopter at Fort Dix, N.J. Staff Sgt. Mark Ochoa, 319th SFS, Grand Forks AFB, N.D., kneels next to his dog Borek/J077, while Staff Sgt. John Havlik and Aladar/E097, also from the 319th SFS, get in position to board the aircraft. Six military working dogs and their handlers attended the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center's first military working dog training course as part of Phoenix Warrior Course 07-5 held June 15 to 28.



Staff Sgt. Mark Ochoa, 319th SFS, Grand Forks AFB, N.D., sits with his military working dog, Borek/J077, during a Blackhawk flight to prepare for transportation between forward operating locations when deployed to the Middle East.

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Photos by Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Dean

Military working dog, Borek/J077, 319th SFS, Grand Forks AFB, N.D., detects a training aid in a field near a road at Fort Dix, N.J. The dog and handler participated in explosive detection training as part of the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center's Phoenix Warrior 07-5 Course in June.

do building searches as part of their home base training, the sound of gunfire in the background further helps them prepare for future deployments.

While deployed in support of the Global War on Terrorism, often the only means of transportation between forward operating locations is the Blackhawk helicopter.

The Trenton Army National Guard partnered with the USAF EC and provided a Blackhawk crew for this element of preparation.

Staff Sgt. Jason Sheldon, 22nd SFS, McConnell AFB, Kan., said he had a chance to observe how his dog would board the aircraft with the rotors running.

"It's good to know how the dogs will react now, rather

than them doing it for the first time down range," Sergeant Sheldon said.

The military working dog lead trainer couldn't agree more with Sergeant Sheldon's observation.

"The greatest training the

handlers will receive while attending the Phoenix Warrior course is to learn how to board the Blackhawk helicopter, with rotors turning, and deal with the animals' reaction during boarding and the flight," said Technical Sgt. Jeffrey Dean, USAF EC's 421st Combat Training Squadron non-commissioned officer in charge of military working dog operations.

Sergeant Dean is the founder of the USAF EC's military working dog training program. He said he arrived at the USAF EC in February 2007, shortly after AMC asked Center to integrate a military working dog pre-deployment training program into the Phoenix Warrior course – a course designed to provide advanced training for AMC's security forces Airmen.

"When I arrived here, I was informed of the great responsibility I was going to be taking on," Sergeant Dean enthusiastically said. "I was told, 'You have a meeting with the 421st CTS commander in an hour.'"

He said he hit the ground running and hasn't stopped for a minute. He said he's thankful for the help from his staff, Staff Sgts. Brennon Pierce and Luke Plemons who completed the remarkable task of planning and successfully

executing the first USAF EC military working dog pre-deployment training program without a hitch.

After collecting information from those who have been deployed to the Middle East, Sergeant Dean developed a realistic training course that focuses on the areas that military working dogs teams cannot get at their base, including live ammunition training, mass odor, pyrotechnics exposure, helicopter transportation and theater-specific explosive detection.

His goal was to offer much needed training to MWD teams who may encounter similar scenarios while deployed in support of the war.

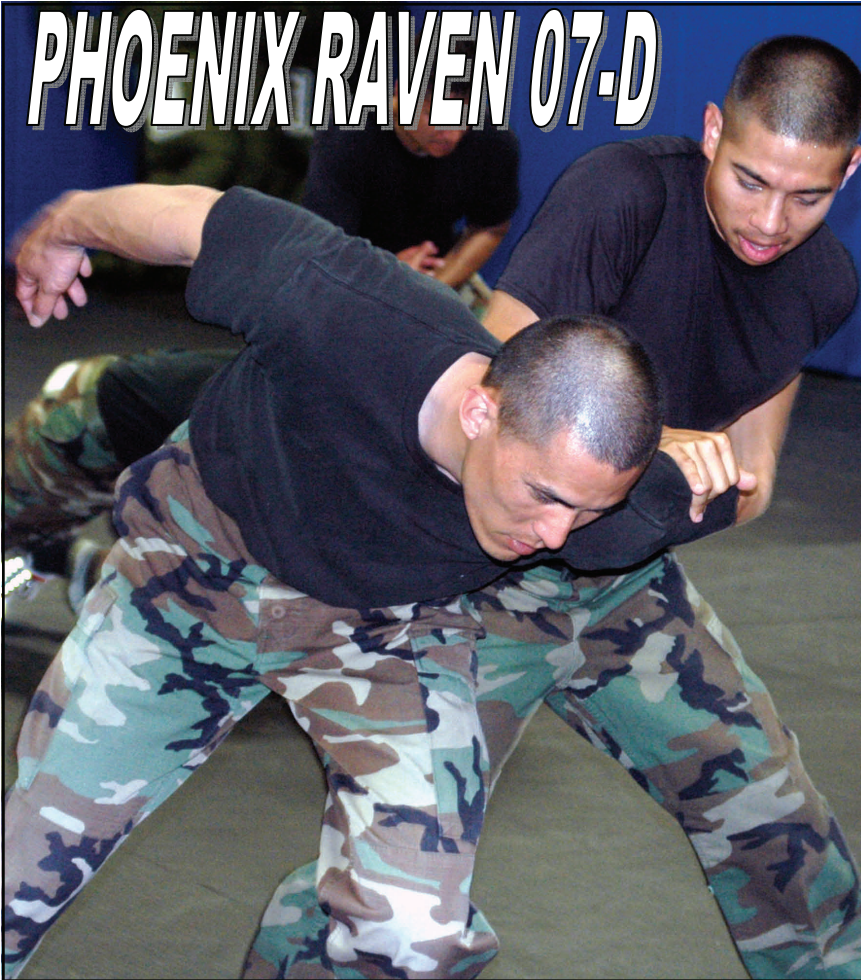
The first graduating class agreed the training was exactly what they needed to test their dogs' reaction before deploying to unfamiliar environments.

Sergeant Bowen thought the dogs did quite well during the training. "There were times they were a little confused, but that's expected in a new training environment," he said.

"The training we received here is real indicative of what we'll see down range," said Sergeant Bowen. "This is a phenomenal course."



Staff Sgt. Jason Sheldon, 22nd Security Forces Squadron, McConnell AFB, Kan., watches his military working dog, Exa/E284, prepare to do her final response after detecting a training aid along a roadside at Fort Dix, N.J.



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

Students in the Air Force Phoenix Raven Course 07-D practice self defense moves May 9 in the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center at Fort Dix, N.J. The course, taught by the USAF EC's 421st Combat Training Squadron, trains security forces Airmen in everything from self defense to aircraft security.



Raven students practice self defense moves at the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center's 421st Combat Training Squadron, Fort Dix, N.J., May 10.



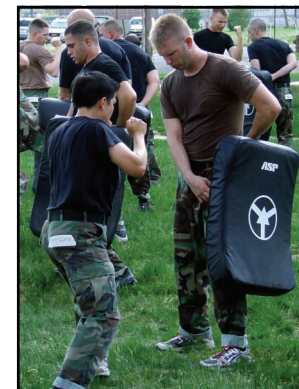
Instructor Tech. Sgt. Aubrey Vasquez, 421st Combat Training Squadron, shows Raven students how to properly execute a self defense move May 9.



Students practice exercising leg lifts as part of conditioning for the course May 9.



Instructor Staff Sgt. Rudolph Stuart, 421st Combat Training Squadron, leads Raven students as they practice self defense moves May 9.



Raven students practice self-defense moves May 10.

Raven students, instructors remember 10 years of history

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

FORT DIX, N.J. – Whether it’s Raven #1 or Raven #1564, students and instructors from the Air Force Phoenix Raven Training Course say the course has made a lasting impact on their lives and the Air Force.

The course, taught by the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center’s 421st Combat Training Squadron, was implemented in 1997 to specially train security forces members to provide security for Air Mobility Command aircraft transiting to and from high terrorist and criminal threat areas.

According to the course description, Phoenix Raven is an “intensive” two-week, 12-hour-a-day course covering such subjects as cross-cultural awareness,



Photo by Staff Sgt. Sonya Wratford

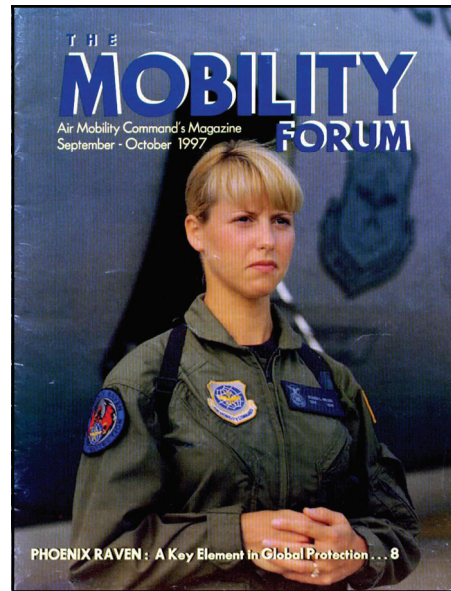
Retired Col. Lawrence “Rocky” Lane, former chief of Air Mobility Command security forces and Air Force security forces officer, smiles during his speech to Air Force Phoenix Raven Program students during a graduation for the Raven Class 07-D May 24 in the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center, Fort Dix, N.J. Colonel Lane started the Raven program in 1997 and earned the Raven #1 designation after graduating in the first Raven class that year. He was the featured guest speaker for the 10th anniversary of the Raven program.

legal considerations, embassy operations, airfield survey techniques, explosive ordnance awareness, aircraft searches and unarmed self-defense techniques. Students are exposed to more than 70 use-of-force scenarios where stress is simulated through the use of role players. Training includes instruction and realistic practical exercises in verbal judo, defensive tactics, armament systems and baton training and advanced firearms training.

Retired Col. Lawrence “Rocky” Lane, former security forces officer and one of the original creators of the Phoenix Raven program while serving as Air Mobility Command’s top SF officer in 1997, said over the last 10 years the program has been a proven asset to the Air Force.

“I think the success of the mission of the Raven Program is that it speaks for itself,” said Colonel Lane, who also was the first Raven student to graduate the course achieving Raven #1. “Of all the thousands of missions that have been flown by AMC and other commands throughout the world that have had Ravens with it, we haven’t lost a single aircraft. We also haven’t had a single aircrew member killed or wounded or anything that’s been in the care and protection of a Raven or a Raven team. I think that speaks for itself.”

Colonel Lane added, “Now I am not



Air Force Photo

The Phoenix Raven Training Program was highlighted in Air Mobility Command’s magazine, The Mobility Forum, in the fall of 1997 – the year the program opened.

going to say that no one was killed or wounded only because Ravens were on board. But I will tell you this – if adversaries are going to look out there and see an aircraft protected by professionals, they’re going to look for an easier target. So, in all that I said, I think the Raven program is more than justified.”

In the summer of 1997, the same cadre Colonel Lane appointed to work in the then Air Mobility Warfare Centers 421st Ground Combat Readiness Squadron had the privilege to instruct Raven #1.

“We had to use the instructors who were already here,” Colonel Lane said. “They went through a little pre-program – the instructors did – and from the AMC SF staff, of which I was member, and we went through the first class. So members

See **Raven**, Page 26



Air Force Photo

A student in a July 1998 Air Force Phoenix Raven Training Course class exercises with a push-up as part of physical training.

Raven, from Page 25

of the (AMC) staff and the 421st went through the initial and had our cadre start teaching the other members who would come through as students.”

Tech. Sgt. Enrico Catubo, 60th Security Forces Squadron, Travis Air Force Base, Calif., attended Raven training as a student in 1997 where he earned Raven #191. He later served as a Raven instructor from 2002 to 2006 and gave his definition of what a Raven truly is. “I think a Raven defines everything under force protection – anti-terrorism, security and strength,” he said.

Sergeant Catubo said Raven training is something that can benefit every Airman – not just security forces.

“I think the training they receive here as Ravens should go across the board for Air Force people in all career fields,” Sergeant Catubo said. “I say that just because of the force protection aspects of it. With increased threats in our current environment, it’s going to get worse – not better. The training Ravens receive consistently changes to mitigate any threats to U.S. personnel or resources. And so I do encourage not just security forces, but other career fields, to get a little familiarization of what is taught in Raven training.”

Former Staff Sgt. Kerry Patton, who earned Raven #448 in 1999 as a student and served as a Raven instructor from 2003 to 2007, said he learned a lot at the training and on Raven missions that took him all over the world to places like South and Central America, the Middle East, Europe and Africa.



Air Force Photo

Students in a January 2000 Raven class practice close combat shooting with shotguns on a Fort Dix, N.J., range.



Air Force Photo

A student in a January 2000 Phoenix Raven Training Course fires an M-9 pistol as part of training.

“The biggest thing I learned was that every Raven brings something unique and different to the security of the country and aircraft they’re protecting,” Sergeant Patton said. “Every Raven has their own key traits and personalities for getting the job done. Being a Raven means testing your own physical and mental abilities.”

Every Raven who earns a number has that number for life. Colonel Lane said five former Ravens had their numbers “blacked out” because they brought disgrace to the program. Being a Raven, he says, means staying true to core values and the Raven creed.

“Never forget the Raven creed,” Colonel Lane said. “Everything you do, every action you take, reflects on every Raven in the United States Air Force. It is reflected by your conduct and behavior under stressful situations. That includes combat and any other related situation.

“Just remember who you are and what you stand for and never forget it,” Colonel Lane said. “When a Raven gets his number, unless it’s taken away from him for disgracing the program, that number stays with you the rest of your life – even if you retire or get out of the military. That’s something you own and you earned. It’s yours – don’t disgrace it.”

Senior Airman Nick Torrez, a security forces journeyman from the 353rd Special Operations Group, Kadena Air Base, Japan, received the most current Raven number -- #1564 – after graduating from Class 07-D May 24. He said earning his Raven qualification on the 10th anniversary of the program is something

special, and he promises to make good on what being a Raven is all about.

“To be able to come to this course and to be able to be called a Raven, as everyone in the Air Force should know, is something special,” Airman Torrez said. “It’s a very good feeling. I feel like I accomplished something, and I’m ready to go on to my next goal. To me, getting my number is very special because that’s my number, and no one else will be able to carry it. That’s means I have my own number, and now I have to stay true to it as a Raven and stay true to who I am.”

Airman Torrez said the training was tough and rewarding, and in the end, he knows this program creates Airmen of a special breed.

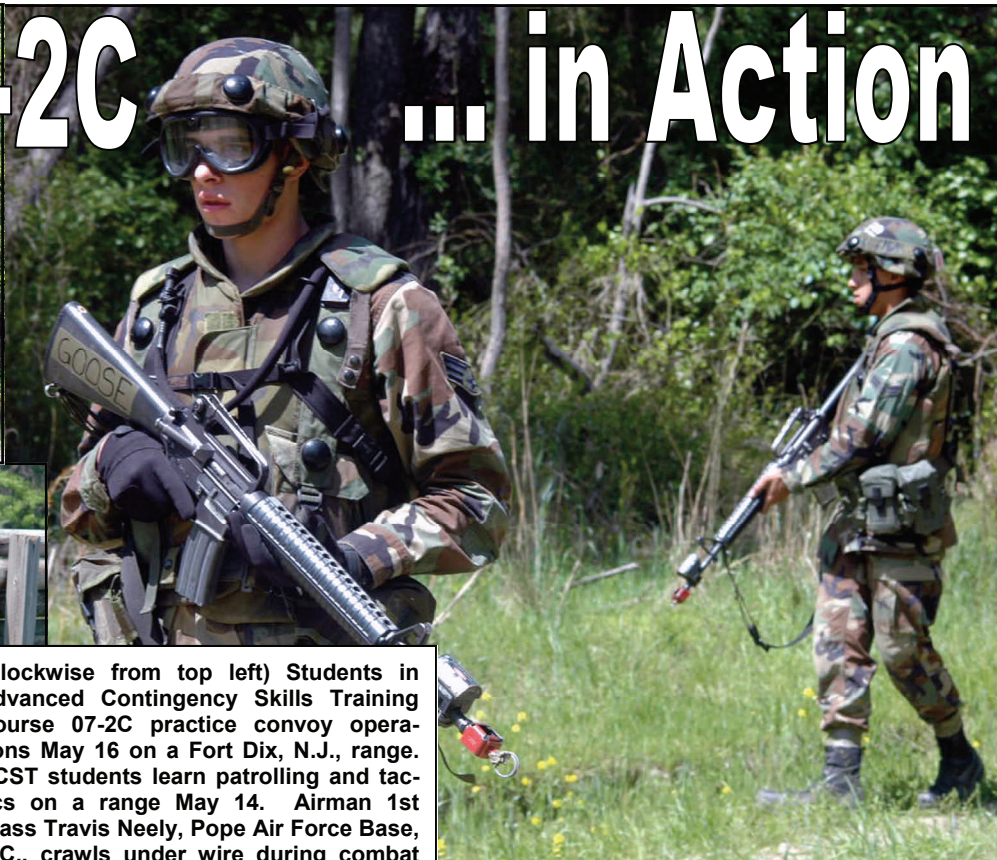
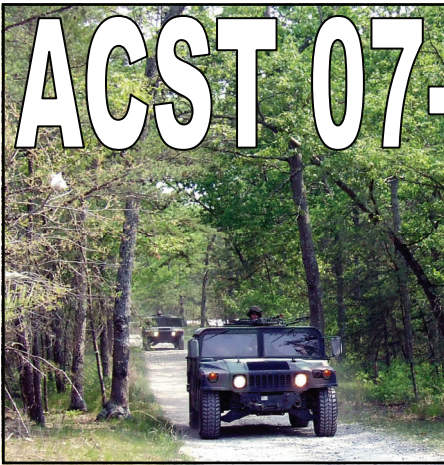
“When I first came here, I didn’t think it would be as hard as it was, and it did turn out to be very stressful and very physical,” Airman Torrez said. “But, after it’s all said and done, you feel good because you made it through, you graduated and you got your own number. I can be called a Raven now.”



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

Senior Airman Patrick Kaley, 913th Security Forces Squadron, Willow Grove Air Reserve Station, Penn., works on defusing a situation with a “hostile suspect” during student evaluations for the Air Force Phoenix Raven Training Course 06-E May 18.

ACST 07-2C ... in Action



(Clockwise from top left) Students in Advanced Contingency Skills Training Course 07-2C practice convoy operations May 16 on a Fort Dix, N.J., range. ACST students learn patrolling and tactics on a range May 14. Airmen 1st Class Travis Neely, Pope Air Force Base, N.C., crawls under wire during combat first aid training May 16. ACST students prepare to engage hostile forces during military operations in urban terrain training May 16 at Naval Air Engineering Station Lakehurst, N.J. Students provide security during combat first aid. Also during combat first aid, students aid an "injured" civilian.



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

Self-defense course aids ACST training

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

Traditional thinking of Air Force pre-deployment preparation may have Airmen reading the Airman's Manual from front to back and getting in some form of combat skills training at home station.

Would that same effort include learning about a form of self-defense based on years of traditional martial arts and military close combat training? Probably not, but leadership in the Air Force Expeditionary Operations School here introduced a new course for Air Force Advanced Contingency Skills Training taught by the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center's 421st Combat Training Squadron in March. The results were positive.

Lt. Col. Kevin Krause, deputy commandant of the EOS, introduced the training to ACST and took the self defense instructor certification course while attending the Army Command and Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., in 2004.

"After that, I took the training to my next assignment and taught more than 200 Airmen at MacDill Air Force Base (Fla.) while serving as the 6th Communications Squadron Commander," Colonel Krause said. "I conducted seven initial training courses there and we taught it at squadron physical training sessions. We also ran one instructor course before I left MacDill."

Colonel Krause said he always received tremendous feedback from the course, and he noticed the impacts were immediate with his students.

"There were obvious improvements in self confidence and overall military performance from my graduates in all of their duties," Colonel Krause said. "I had one lieutenant who had to fend off an attacker on a temporary duty assignment a week after completing the instructor course and she performed exactly as we had taught her and escaped harm."

The self defense course made its way into ACST in March, however, Colonel Krause said he ran an initial basic level course in November 2006.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

Master Sgt. Jack Smith, U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center first sergeant, teaches students in the Advanced Contingency Skills Training Course 07-2C one of the moves in the self-defense training, May 16, at the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center, Fort Dix, N.J.

"That first course was to expose interested members of the then Air Mobility Warfare Center – particularly the cadre from the 421st CTS and EOS," Colonel Krause said.

In January, a self defense instructor course was approved and given as a "test bed" to provide more exposure to cadre and to determine where it would best fit. In the instructor course were students from the 816th and 818th Contingency Response Groups and 305th Communications Squadron from nearby McGuire Air Force Base, 1st Combat Camera Squadron from Charleston AFB, S.C., and from the USAF EC, students from the Air Force Office of Special Investigations

Detachment 1, EOS and the 421st CTS.

One of the students in the instructor course, Master Sgt. Jack Smith, U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center first sergeant, recommended using the March ACST 07-2B class as another test bed for training of students prepping for upcoming deployments.

"We used three to six primary instructor graduates along with helpers from an executive level course we held and taught six hours of self defense training to all ACST students," Colonel Krause said.

Colonel Krause said the full course has 27 techniques and counters to attacks for self defense.

See **Defense**, Page 29

Defense, from Page 28



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

(Above and right) Students in the Advanced Contingency Skills Training Course 07-2C practice one of the moves for self-defense training May 16 at the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center, Fort Dix, N.J.

“With only six hours available in ACST for this type of training, we focused on 10 of the techniques,” Colonel Krause said. “A full basic level course takes about 22 hours while the instructor course takes 50 hours.”

Capt. Nora Eyle, a student in the ACST 07-2B class from F.E. Warren AFB, Wyo., who received the training, said she enjoyed the “realness” of the instruction.

“It’s about how it may come down to you or your enemy – it’s as simple as that,” Captain Eyle said. “When someone’s holding a knife to your throat, for example, it clicks that you may have to defend yourself and ultimately end someone else’s life to save your own. That was very sobering for me.”

Sergeant Smith, now a certified instructor, said the greatest benefit from the course is a basic level of self defense skill – enhanced self confidence – as well as a venue to think about facing a violent situation. “This mindset applies whether you’re using your hands to defend yourself or your M-16,” Sergeant Smith said.

“We look at people as two types – wolves and sheep,” Colonel Krause said. “Most of us are sheep by nature – a fact well explained by retired Lt. Col. David Grossman in his series of books. Our enemies are thinking like wolves and the scrawniest

wolf isn’t afraid of the biggest sheep.

“Our Airmen are entering the wolf’s den on deployments, and they need to understand this,” Colonel Krause continued.

“Thinking through how you would react in the face of a violent attacker – whether on the streets of Baghdad or in a department store parking lot in the U.S. – must happen now if you are to succeed when the time comes.”

“The course provides the perfect baseline set of self defense skills to all full duty military personnel regardless of age or Air Force specialty,” Sergeant Smith said.

“It can be safely taught anywhere with no special equipment required. This training can go far in giving Airmen a true expeditionary warrior mindset.”

“This training can go far in giving Airmen a true expeditionary warrior mindset.”

Master Sgt. Jack Smith
U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center
first sergeant

JAG deployers receive in-depth training on Task Force 134, rule of law missions

By Tech. Sgt.

Scott T. Sturkol

U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center Public Affairs

An unprecedented number of Airmen deploying to Iraq and Afghanistan from the Air Force Judge Advocate Corps are taking on roles to support “rule of law” missions in those theaters of operation.

Because of that effort, the JAG Corps developed a new course focusing on Task Force 134 – the task force charged with detainee command and control, ensuring due process and assisting Iraq rebuild its judicial, correctional and law enforcement system. Task Force 134 supports Multinational Forces – Iraq.

The Task Force 134 Course made its debut during the functional training of deploying JAG students attending the Advanced Contingency Skills Training Course here in late March.

“The course included training on the detention process and the Magistrate’s Cell, the Combined Review and Release Board, the Joint Detention Review Committee, and the treatment of detainees, among other things,” said Capt. Robert Jarman, legal advisor and contingency skills training instructor for the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center. “It also included a video teleconference with Task Force 134 attorneys and paralegals currently in the deployed environment.”

Instructors from Air Force Judge Advocate General’s School, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., along with adjunct



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

Tech. Sgt. Brian Mayhew, a paralegal from Andersen Air Base, Guam, takes a defensive position in a scenario for the defense of a camp during the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center’s Advanced Contingency Skills Training Course 07-2B March 21 at Fort Dix, N.J.

faculty from the Air Force Operations Law Division and Office of the Secretary of the Air Force traveled to Fort Dix to present the course.

“All of the instructors who taught at the Task Force 134 Course have deployed to Task Force 134 within the last two years,” said Capt. Jim Annexstad, an instructor in the International and Operations Law Division, AFJAGS, who taught part of the course. “It’s important the students are being taught by people who have been there.”

Captain Annexstad deployed to Task Force 134 from February to June 2006, where he

prepared and presented cases to the Central Criminal Court of Iraq. He said this course is a great example of AFJAGS commitment to maintaining a faculty with current real-world expertise in on-going missions so they can assist other training centers like the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center. He also said the students who completed the course are better prepared for the tough mission ahead of them.

“The judge advocates and paralegals who completed the two-day training are ready to hit the ground running once they get to Iraq,” Captain Annexstad said. “Task Force 134

will not have to take a step back when Airmen rotate in because these folks know what they are supposed to do when they show up for work. That means that individuals detained in Iraq will receive the due process they are entitled.”

Capt. Cynthia Kearley, honors law clerk for the Air Force Court of Criminal Appeals, Bolling AFB, D.C., and a student in the Task Force 134 Course, said she will be working in support of the Central Criminal Court of Iraq on her upcoming deployment. She said the course, and ACST in general, was a great help in getting ready to do her deployed job.

“Performing the actual duties necessary to prosecute insurgents and terrorists is only part of the job for me on my deployment,” Captain Kearley said. “On a broader scale, after having this course, I know the duties I perform and the manner in which I perform them will also serve as an example to the Iraqis and coalition partners of how America provides due process.”

“I am not only a lawyer or an Air Force officer,” Captain Kearley said. “I am also a representative of the United States. How others view me and those who deploy with me will color how they view America. Ensuring that they receive an accurate and positive view is as important as the individual task which I am performing.”

Captain Kearley said she understands the rule of law is essential to the restoration of security and economic and political progress in Iraq as it

See **JAG**, Page 31

JAG, from Page 30

would be anywhere else.

“Without the rule of law as an underpinning to any society, the fundamental rights and due process recognized by civilized society are at risk,” Captain Kearley said. “It is essential to be prepared for this type of mission. Because the objectives of Task Force 134’s mission represent only one type of rule of law mission, it is important that we receive training tailored to its requirements.”

In addition to Captain Kearley’s feedback, Captain Annexstad said they received “outstanding” feedback from the students who attended the course.

“Now the students who completed the training understand what they are going to be asked to do and how to do it,” Captain Annexstad said. “This course also benefited the students because it took away the fear of the unknown. If we can teach them how to do their job and relieve their pre-deployment anxiety, we have accomplished our mission. I wish I had this course before I deployed to Task Force 134.”

Captain Jarman said, like other classes given as part of ACST, they are always looking to improve and provide the most current information available so students are highly training and prepared for their deployments.

Over the past two years, we have partnered with the experts in the JAG community to provide a range of innovative programs,” Captain Jarman said. “These include rules of engagement-rules of use of force tactical training, classified instruction, video teleconferences with JAG personnel in theater, classroom instruction and most recently, the Task Force 134 training for 40 personnel deploying to Iraq to work detention operations.

“The Task Force 134 training was provided for the first time ever as part of our ACST course,” Captain Jarman said. “It was a great addition, as we are deploying more of our folks to support this very important mission in theater.”

Eagle Flag

Soaring expeditionary combat support Airmen to new heights

By Maj. Michele Gill

U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center
Public Affairs

I’m amazed how much pre-deployment training and exercises have changed since my first days as an Airman.

When I enlisted in the Air Force in 1987, the Cold War was coming to an end, and the Air Force was very different than it is today. We had commands like Military Airlift Command, Strategic Air Command and Tactical Air Command. There was no such thing as Air Force Exercise Eagle Flag, and I wasn’t aware of any courses like the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center offers now.

By 1990, I was assigned to the 1st Combat Communications Group at Lindsey Air Station, Germany. Soon after arrival, I deployed in support of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

I felt the 1st CCG had prepared this young Airman well for the deployment, because we did a lot of field training to prepare for the “call.”

Fast forward 16 years to today when I recently joined the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center staff. I had the opportunity to witness Exercise Eagle Flag from the public affairs cadre perspective for the first time.

Today, I would definitely have to say the level of training has greatly improved since the days of Desert Shield/Desert Storm.

From watching the Eagle Flag build-up over the course of 10 days and witnessing the building of a bare base, I noticed how the scenarios seem to be more realistic and relevant to where the Air Force sends its Airmen – whether it’s to an airfield or to an urban setting with the Army.

I also tagged along with our incoming commander as he received briefings on the “big picture” of Eagle Flag. I was impressed with how the scenarios

were filled with realism and detail. The instructors and role players were equally impressive and seemed to really love what they do.

Whether it was the public affairs media role players covering an event or the village citizens acting out their parts, enthusiasm was the dominant theme.

The Eagle Flag instructors and role players worked together as a team to carry out the scenario from beginning to end. Often, people from various career fields coordinated to make the scenarios more realistic.

For example, an information operations team supporting Eagle Flag asked the public affairs cadre to communicate to the deployed air expeditionary group via the “international embedded media.” When the embedded reporters received the enemy’s video message via the Internet, they scrambled and ran it over to the deployed public affairs staff, which, in turn, got the commander and the Air Force Office of Special Investigation agents involved immediately.

At the end of the week, it was fascinating to see how that whole scenario had built up and been carried out to test the response of the deployed Airmen.

One element of the training I found quite interesting was how the different units, or force modules, came in at different times to accomplish specific missions. The Contingency Response Group was one of the first groups to deploy to open and assess the air base and establish initial command and control.

Then, they made the airfield ready to welcome the supporting forces in the air expeditionary group or wing that would establish a more permanent airbase. Civil engineers set up the camp, communications technicians established means to communicate with higher headquarters, and Services Airmen worked hard to get the dining facility operating.

See **Eagle Flag**, Page 33

Grand, from Page 2

found it. I know you may be saying, "I would love to get new furniture or a new building for my Airmen, but I just don't have the budget."

Well, it doesn't have to be that big. It could be something as small as repainting the office or doing a self-help project for a break room. The possibilities are endless.

If you are thinking as big as an office full of new furniture or even a building, do the paperwork. You may never see it become a reality during your tenure, but future Airmen will see the result of your work and perseverance.

Just think, if you are sitting in a nice modern building today, it's because someone did the leg work many years before you.

Finally, take care of your Airmen. I can not think of a bigger honor than the mothers and fathers throughout America trusting us with their sons and daughters. Taking care of our people is our biggest responsibility.

We need to help them transition into the Air Force and learn their skills. We need to mentor them and help them to become the future leaders in the Air Force.

Sometimes that may mean a good swift kick in the butt, but if you do that early enough you can turn them around.

After all, you have no idea if one of your Airmen will grow up to be a future Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force.

In closing, when you hang up your Air Force uniform for the final time, you won't need to measure the success of your career by how many stripes you have on your sleeve or what duty positions you held.

All that will matter is did you give 100 percent everyday? Did you leave things better than you found them, and did you take care of your Airmen? If you can answer yes to these questions, then you can say you had a "Grand" career.

And finally to Mr. Nick Grand... thank you for all you have done for the military, you are truly a "GRAND" man.

Fort Dix renames street for USAF EC Foundation president



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

Officials from Fort Dix and McGuire Air Force Base join together in pulling off the sign cover during the unveiling of the newly named Nick Grand Street which runs adjacent to the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center at Fort Dix, N.J. Mr. Nick Grand is the USAF EC Foundation president and an honorary commander for two units on McGuire Air Force Base. He also serves as the Fort Dix and McGuire mobilization coordinator for the New Jersey Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve.



(Above) An image of the new sign showing Mr. Nick Grand's name. (Right) Mr. Grand stands next to the street sign across the street from the USAF Expeditionary Center, Fort Dix, N.J.



Courtesy Photo



Col. David McNeil, Fort Dix commander, remarks on Mr. Grand during the ceremony June 15.

Proud to be called 'Airman'

**By Tech. Sgt.
Scott T. Sturkol**

U.S. Air Force Expeditionary
Center Public Affairs

I know this old Marine who's been retired for years, but I still call him a Marine. It's simply out of respect.

He and I joke quite often about the differences in services and who did or does what better. But every time we greet each other, it's, "How are you Marine?" He replies, "What's new Airman?"

It's that greeting I often look forward to with him – mostly because he calls me "Airman." He obviously knows I respect for him being a retired Marine, and he returns the gesture. That's the way it is and the way I like it.

I'm proud to be called an Airman in every sense of the word. Everyone who has been tied to Air Force blue, officer or enlisted, went through a lot to become an Airman. Whether it was Basic Military Training,

the Air Force Academy, one of the toughest academic institutions in the country, the Reserve Officer Training Corps, Officer Training School, or some other avenue, getting in and building your life as an Airman is not by any means easy.

Our spouses, children, mothers, fathers and others tied to us have sacrificed too. Some more than others, but the point is for every Airman there is a family who supports that Airman.

To me, my family members are my personal wingmen. These are people who help me achieve and complete the things we need to do as Airmen. They may not wear the rank or title, but they sacrifice something like all Airmen do and they have earned a place of honor.

Now we are a country at war. We have Airmen who are dying doing things no one ever thought the Air Force would do. But like true patriots, the Air Force stepped up to the

plate again because we are warriors, and more importantly, wingmen.

You see, I believe the Air Force doesn't just look at fellow Airmen and their families as wingmen – they accept all of our comrades in arms in the active, Guard and Reserve forces from all the services. I've seen it first-hand all over the world at home station and while deployed. We are America's wingmen.

We've sacrificed for our service. We've done what we've been called to do and we're proud of it.

There is a high sense of honor in being an Airman that no one can take away. Some people may think otherwise, but if you ask me, I'll tell you different.

I believe our Air Force is the best in the world – period. I have no problem saying that because I am an Airman.

This year, the Air Force turns 60 as a service. Our heritage as a service for air and

space power is unrivaled anywhere.

We have warrior ethos, we have storied history and we have a reason to be proud. I know my family and friends back home in Michigan are proud to say their brother, son or friend is an "Airman." I hear it every time I go to my hometown.

The Air Force Chief of Staff, Gen. T. Michael Moseley, may have said it best in the CSAF's Vector entitled "Wingmen for Life."

In his words to America's Airmen, he said, "once an Airman, always an Airman." That is so very true.

I know when the years pass after I retire from the military and a younger, still active Marine approaches me, I'm going to say, "How are you Marine?"

I hope I'll hear back, "What's new Airman?"

Being an Airman, and a proud one, is something I will always treasure because I know it is more than a name.

Eagle Flag, from Page 31

It was obvious how the deployed Airmen counted on each other to not only do their mission but to make the base suitable for living for an extended period of time.

Almost 10 days after the first boots hit the ground, the CRG commander was able to confidently transfer the command and control over to the AEW commander. The mission was complete, and the exercise ended.

I saw how important it was for each deployed Airman to be prepared to "hold his or her own" to get their jobs done.

Airmen need to be fully trained in their specialties before they integrate with Airmen from other career fields to establish an air base. Every exercise provides some level of training, but

the purpose of Eagle Flag was to bring together many Airmen from around the world to test their ability to quickly establish an air base in a deployed environment.

Although I've received some contingency training in my prior-enlisted days, I had not seen this level of expertise or the integration between career fields before.

The teamwork was evident among the deployers, role players and the instructor staff.

Seeing how Air Force Exercise Eagle Flag ran from the cadre's perspective was eye-opening.

Things sure have changed since I enlisted in the Air Force. I would say that this exercise helps expeditionary combat support Airmen soar to new heights.

Guest Editorials

Members of the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center community are welcome to submit guest editorials for this quarterly Web-based publication. Prospective writers are also reminded that stories submitted will be edited for con-

tent and propriety. Send submissions to scott.sturkol-02@mcguire.af.mil, michele.gill@us.af.mil and christie.dragan@mcguire.af.mil. For details, call (609) 754-7013 or DSN 650-7013.

"Heritage to Horizons"... EC leaders celebrate 108 years of combined service



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Malinda Julian

Col. David Lawton and his wife, Susan, walk under an honor guard detail hoisting swords during his retirement from the Air Force April 6. Colonel Lawton was the Mobility Operations School Commandant and retired after serving 30 years.



Brig. Gen. Kip Self, U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center Commander, presents Col. Raymond Torres with the Legion of Merit, first oak leaf cluster, during his retirement ceremony May 30.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Sonya Wratchford

Col. Phil Bradley stands with his wife, Darla, during his retirement ceremony June 1. Colonel Bradley served as the Air Mobility Battlelab Commander. He retired from the Air Force after serving nearly 26 years.



Col. Raymond Torres' family were in attendance for his retirement. He served as the Expeditionary Operations School Commandant and retired from the Air Force after 26 years of service.



Senior Master Sgt. Peter Kraft poses with his son, Alexander, his wife, Jonnette, and his daughter, Samantha, during his retirement ceremony June 22. Sergeant Kraft served as the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center first sergeant. He retired after serving nearly 26 years.



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Malinda Julian

New leadership takes the reins

(Left) Col. Jennifer Pickett takes the flag of the Expeditionary Operations School from Brig. Gen. Kip Self, U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center Commander, to become the new commandant of EOS May 30. (Below) Colonel Pickett addresses the audience. She arrives to the USAF EC from Travis Air Force Base, Calif., where she served as the 571st Contingency Response Group commander.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Sonya Wratchford

Lt. Col. Jeffrey Lathrop takes the flag of leadership for the Air Mobility Battlelab from Brig. Gen. Kip Self, U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center Commander, during a change of command ceremony June 1. Colonel Lathrop previously served as the deputy commander of the AMB. He took command from Col. Phil Bradley, far right, who retired during a ceremony following the change of command.

Congratulations to U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center's promotees

May

Master Sgt. Jeffrey Norway
Tech. Sgt. John Barboni



July

Staff Sgt. Brian Lockhart

Staff Sgt. James Chubb

Staff Sgt. Jacqueline Baker

June

Master Sgt. Michael McHone
Staff Sgt. Abram Ranisate



Airman 1st Class
Zachary Palafox

July

Master Sgt. Jeffrey Ball
Tech. Sgt. Ryan Thompson

Airman 1st Class
George Son

USAF EC members presented with AF, major command awards



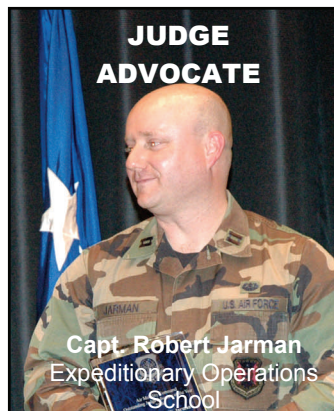
Air Force



Winners



2006 Air Mobility Command Winners



USAF EC Warriors team together for McGuire 'Runway Run'



Photos by Maj. Michele Gill

A full formation of people from the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center participate in the McGuire Air Force Base, N.J., five-kilometer "Runway Run" May 30 on the McGuire flight line. Approximately 1,012 runners from the Air Force and Army participated. Every month McGuire AFB holds a five-kilometer warrior run to promote health and fitness.



Running in formation, USAF EC participants keep in step to complete the run.



Brig. Gen. Kip Self, USAF EC Commander, encourages his flight to the finish line.



HABITAT FOR HUMANITY: Tech. Sgt. Jack Collier, U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center armory, uses a saw to cut wood for a Habitat for Humanity project in Burlington, N.J., May 5. Approximately seven people from the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center assisted in the project.

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Charles Glunt

GIVING BLOOD: Master Sgt. David Kanterman, Air Mobility Battlelab communications concept manager, donates blood with assistance from Kerri Ward, American Red Cross donor collection assistant, during a Red Cross blood drive June 15 at the McGuire Air Force Base Chapel.



Air Force photo

Kickstands up: McGuire Green Knights Motorcycle Club

By Rita Hess

Air Mobility Command
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According to the dictionary, family is defined as “an association of people who share common beliefs or activities.”

Nowhere is that more apparent than in the McGuire Green Knights Motorcycle Club at McGuire AFB, N.J.

The 2006 president of the McGuire organization, Tech. Sgt. Bob McWhorter of the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center’s 421st Combat Training Squadron, said that membership in the club is exactly like being in a family.

“Our mission statement says the organization was started ‘to establish and maintain a spirit of comradeship and esprit de corps that will enhance the prestige of all motorcycle riders...’ Basically, we are military bikers wanting to hang out with military bikers, and we watch out for one another,” Sergeant McWhorter said.

McGuire Green Knights, started in 1999 by founding father Adam Buehler, became the first of 30 motorcycle clubs at Air Force bases across the country.

Even though Buehler eventually went on to launch the national organization, known simply as the Green Knights, the McGuire group thrived.

“In the beginning, Green Knights were based on the same principles as the Blue Knights, which is the police officer’s motorcycle organization,” Sergeant McWhorter said. “They helped McGuire get started years ago, and we still ride with them today in some of their charity runs to show our support for helping us get started.”

What exactly do Green Knights do? At McGuire, rides occur on an impromptu basis almost every weekend.

“We meet on Sunday morning for breakfast. Sometimes there are 3-4 of us or there may be 20,” Sergeant McWhorter said. “During the meal, we discuss what we want to do that day. Before departing, we do a quick safety briefing for new members to review hand signals and how to ride safely in a group. From there, it’s kickstands up as we head out. We might ride to the racetrack – as spectators, not to



Courtesy photo

(Front row, far left) Staff Sgt. Jason Kreider, U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center’s 421st Combat Training Squadron, Tech. Sgt. Bob McWhorter, 421st CTS (front row, far right), Fort Dix, N.J., and other McGuire Air Force Base Green Knights members pose with Actor Vince Papale (back row, center) after participating in a toy drive in Philadelphia for the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia.

race – but we ride out to the track together. Sometimes we just ride to a local flea market to look for bike parts.”

“The main thing is we go together and come home together,” Sergeant McWhorter said. “We travel as a group to make sure everyone makes it home safely.”

Riders occasionally split into two groups if some members want to go one place and the rest want to go somewhere else. Each group has a designated road captain, usually the most experienced member, who rides out front keeping the group tight and making sure everyone stays safe during the excursion. The McGuire club welcomes anyone who is part of the military system, such as contractors working on base, civilians, retirees and dependents, regardless of bike style or brand.

Sergeant McWhorter said conveying that message is sometimes difficult.

“We have a lower percentage of sports bikes, but we’d like to have more. People think we aren’t open to sports bike riders because we don’t have many members

who ride them. But if we had more sports bike members, it would change that perception. We’d love for them to come out and join us.”

Membership fluctuates, but the group averages 50-60 members with 10-20 of those staying very active, participating in weekly trips. For special rides, the club usually sends out an email to determine how many members are interested.

“We did a toy run for kids at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia,” Sergeant McWhorter said. “Vince Papale, whose life story is told in the movie *Invincible*, met and shook hands with us while we were giving toys away. That was pretty cool.”

Staff Sgt. Jason Kreider, also from the USAF EC’s 421st CTS who was named Green Knights president for 2007, said motorcyclists from the USAF EC, Fort Dix and McGuire are all encouraged to join.

“We participate in a lot of exciting events,” Sergeant Kreider said. “If you own a motorcycle, here you have friends where you can have fun riding together.”



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