



THE

Volume 1, Edition 3

EXPEDITIONARY AIRMAN

July to September 2007



Official Publication of the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center's "Ex-Men"



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

Classroom prep

Staff Sgt. Jonathon McClure, course director for the Mobility Operations School Mobile Command and Control Environmental Control Unit Course and an instructor for the Mobile C-2 Generator Course, works on a generator in his training facility preparing it for the next course Sept. 25. Sergeant McClure's instruction for mobile command and control Airmen prepares them for ground operations in a deployed environment.

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Living the Airman's Creed

By Lt. Col. Mitch Monroe
421st Combat Training Squadron
Commander

I recently had the honor of attending an NCO Academy graduation. During both the diploma ceremony and the formal banquet, the graduates all recited the new Airman's Creed from memory.

Hearing so many of our service's best NCOs all recite a creed introduced just six months ago really struck a chord within me. So, when I was recently asked to address a gathering of the New Jersey Civil Air Patrol, it was pretty easy to decide on a topic — I chose the Airman's Creed. My goal was to not only introduce the cadets to the Airman's Creed, but to make it real to them by using examples from history and my own career.

I am an American Airman. When I recite "American Airman," I think about the places I've flown as a C-130 navigator representing the United States of America. One of my favorite memories of this is hearing a throng of Rwandan refugees chanting, "USA! USA!," as we off-loaded pallets of humanitarian supplies onto the Goma airport.

I am a Warrior. Airmen have been on the battlefield since before we were a separate service. The first job I held as a young Airman was as a jump qualified terminal attack controller, part of a tactical air control party assigned to the U.S. Army's 82nd Airborne Division.

My job, as an Air Force guy living and working with the Army, was to advise the Army combatant commander and control direct and indirect fire support. What was a rarity in the 1980s, however, is now commonplace. Today's Airmen from nearly every specialty find themselves living and working in this sort of environment and facing contact with the enemy on a near daily basis.

I have answered my Nation's call. This, to me, is probably still the most striking line in the entire creed. We are a nation at war and have been so since Sept. 11, 2001.

That was over six years ago, and we have-



Photo by Capt. Anthony Duggan

Lt. Col. Mitch Monroe, new 421st Combat Training Squadron Commander, talks to the New Jersey Civil Air Patrol Sept. 27.

n't stopped taking the fight to the enemy since. We didn't just answer our nation's call once when we joined. As an all-volunteer force, we have a choice as to whether we answer every time the bugle sounds. We reaffirm our commitment to this great land every time we answer the call, and we're not alone.

The next generation of Airmen is stepping up to the plate without hesitation. It's no surprise that the Air Force has met their recruiting goals for the past seven years straight. Late last year, one of those Airmen answering our nation's call was my oldest son. Not only do I continue to answer my nation's call, but now my son is right alongside me.

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. Fly, Fight, and Win ... and do it better than any other nation's air force in the world. That's not an idle claim, either. You have to go back to the Korean War to find the last time American forces felt the sting from an enemy air attack. In the words of one of my close friends, who I still admit knowing even though he is an F-16 pilot, "*If it flies, it dies!*" Amen to that! While the Air Force is unquestionably the youngest service at 60 years old, we have no less proud a heritage. We have a heritage rich in honor and valor — the latest

chapters of which are being written at this very moment.

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. When envisioning one single entity, that part of the Creed — to me — best epitomizes the "Guardian of Freedom," our "Sword and Shield," and our "Sentry and Avenger," I think about our Airmen ... all Airmen.

As a team, Airmen are able to find, fix and destroy threats to our nation and its allies no matter where the enemy hides. Just as quickly, we can provide aid to victims of a natural disaster. This is only possible as a combined effort - all Airmen working together to produce the synergistic effect of striving towards the same goal.

I am an American Airman. Wingman, Leader, Warrior. I will never leave an Airman behind, I will never falter, and I will not fail. Wingman, Leader and Warrior ... not three separate Airmen, but all three wrapped into one. If you study any of the world's greatest examples of leadership, you will almost always find that the same men and women are also the greatest examples of followership. The great fighter pilots from our service's history know the importance of their wingmen; wingmen who never faltered and never failed or gave their lives in the effort.

It is a realization of a dream and my great honor to be the commander of the 421st Combat Training Squadron. The mission of the 421st is to train expeditionary Airmen prior to the Air Force sending them into harm's way.

What this really means is that thousands of Airmen of all ranks attend one or more of our courses of instruction every year, the central theme of which is how to stay alive in a ground combat environment.

To each and every one of my students who are about to deploy to Iraq or Afghanistan, the Airman's Creed is very real and very personal. My challenge to each of you is to internalize the Airman's Creed by not only memorizing it, as our NCO Academy graduates have done, but by picking significant moments in our Nation's history and your own to make the Airman's Creed your own personal creed.

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The editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center Public Affairs Office. Submissions for The Expeditionary Airman are due by noon the Monday prior to the end of each quarter (March, June, September, and December). Input may be submitted via e-mail to scott.sturkol@us.af.mil, Michele.Gill2@us.af.mil and christie.dragan@mcguire.af.mil. The USAF EC Public Affairs Office reserves the right to edit all submitted material for style and content.

USAF EC mascot unveiled



Graphic designed by Mr. Bill Berks, Master Sgt. Michael Harris, and Tech. Sgt. Charles Glunt

A new logo and mascot were recently unveiled for the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center. The new mascot name for the Center Airmen and staff is the "Eagles." According to the creators of the new logo, following is a description of what everything means: "The eagle is the symbol of America and the U.S. Air Force and represents freedom throughout the world. The earth shows where our Airmen are stationed or deployed. The eagle's wings are in motion representing the Air Force is always moving 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The blue circle around the world with USAF Expeditionary Center written on it shows the training we give our Airmen cover the entire world. The lightning bolts represent the quick response of the expeditionary forces. The motto underneath, 'Vision, Readiness, Victory' is what we do. Without the vision and readiness of our Airmen, there would be no victory!"

Center's foundation president, friend dies at age 78

Nicholas G. Grand, long-time friend and President of the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center Foundation, died Sept. 2 at the Mount Holly Rehabilitation Center. He was 78 years old.

Mr. Grand received the rare honor of having a street named after him – Nick Grand Street – on Fort Dix's Doughboy Loop near the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center in a ceremony June 15.

"I went through basic training at Fort Dix in Co. A, 36th Training Battalion," Mr. Grand told friends and family at the affair, "and here I'm getting my name on a street."

"Papou," (Grandpa) as he was called in his Greek family, was born in New York City on Feb. 11, 1929, and called himself "a product of that city's public education system."

After graduating from East New York Vocational and Technical High School, Mr. Grand joined the Army, serving honorably from 1947 to 1950 and from 1952 to 1954.

In 1958, Mr. Grand became Public Affairs Officer for the Air Force Reserve's 514th Troop Carrier Wing, then based at Mitchell Field, Long Island. When the 514th moved to McGuire, Mr. Grand moved with it. He went on to join the 108th Tactical Fighter Wing, New Jersey Air National Guard, serving in public affairs for the rest of his military career which, in total, spanned some 42 years.

As a civilian, Mr. Grand was something of a media wunderkind, serving as Public Affairs Officer for the Naval Air Station at Lakehurst from 1967 to 1989. During the 1990s, Mr. Grand owned radio station WWJZ, 640 on the AM dial, which played all the classic hits of the 30s, 40s and 50s for fortunate listeners in the Delaware Valley.

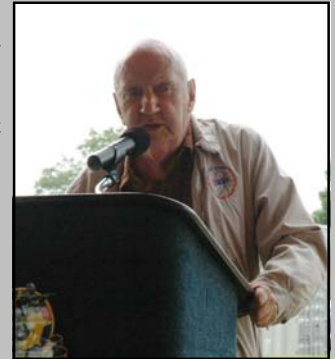
In retirement, Mr. Grand didn't let up. He worked as an ombudsman/spokesman for New Jersey Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve. His efforts were recognized, too, most notably when he was recently awarded the Ellis Island Medal of Honor.

Mr. Grand is survived by his sons George of Eastampton, Peter in Hudson, Fla., and their families along with his daughter Toni Ann Drankwalter, also of Hudson.

"I know Nick loved his association with the men and women in uniform and they loved him back for his charm and dedication," said Maj. Gen. Kip Self, U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center Commander. "His presence in our lives will be an everlasting memory. He made a difference."

Funeral arrangements for Grand were private and his family requested that in lieu of flowers, donations in Grand's name be made to The Githens Center for the Handicapped, 40 Cedar St., Mount Holly, N.J., 08060.

(Courtesy Fort Dix's *The Post* newspaper)



Nick Grand served as U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center Foundation President and was also its founder.

Air Force's deputy chief of staff for logistics, installations and mission support visits Center

Lt. Gen. Kevin J. Sullivan, deputy chief of staff for logistics, installations and mission support at Headquarters U.S. Air Force in the Pentagon, visited the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center Aug. 3 to learn more about the Center's mission.

General Sullivan is responsible to the Air Force Chief of Staff for leadership, management and integration of Air Force logistics readiness, aircraft and missile maintenance, civil engineering and security forces, as well as setting policy and preparing budget estimates that reflect enhancements to productivity, combat readiness and quality of life for Air Force people.



General Sullivan listens to Tech. Sgt. Charles Glunt, combat arms instructor from the USAF EC armory, on what weapons are available for students to use at the Center.



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

Lt. Gen. Kevin Sullivan talks with Master Sgt. Dave Kanterman in the Air Mobility Battlelab about initiatives the Battlelab has completed and are currently working.



General Sullivan observes Raven instructors, Staff Sgts. Sean Morris and John Hoffecker of the 421st Combat Training Squadron, practice verbal judo in a Phoenix Raven demonstration. Tech. Sgt. Daniel Koenigsmann, also a Raven instructor, explains how Ravens interact with people who approach AMC aircraft.

Air Mobility Battlelab's 'BrightEye' initiative demonstrated, proven capable

By Master Sgt. Michael Harris
Air Mobility Battlelab

The Air Mobility Battlelab, or AMB, recently demonstrated the capabilities of the BrightEye Portable Solid-State LED Lighting System – an AMB initiative.

The BrightEye is an advanced, portable, battery-powered, visible and covert lighting system developed by Cyberlux Corporation to address the rapid deployment lighting needs within the U.S. Armed Forces.

Initially considered for expeditionary open-the-airbase lighting, the AMB unveiled the system may also be used for aircraft maintenance, expeditionary airbase force protection, general mission lighting and other high-intensity tactical lighting applications.

According to the AMB mission statement, the AMB continuously seeks and rapidly demonstrates innovative ideas to improve the ability of mobility air forces to execute their core competencies.

For its demonstration periods, the BrightEye was evaluated at both Fort Huachuca, Ariz., and Fort Dix, N.J. Air Mobility Command expeditionary support equipment subject-matter experts participated in several scenarios to showcase BrightEye capabilities.

Master Sgt. Gordon Mossman, from AMC's Expeditionary Mobility Operations Division at Scott Air Force Base, Ill., said, "The system would add very portable long-lasting light and an infrared capability that's not present at this time."

The BrightEye uses solid-state semiconductors which consume 75-percent less energy than incandescent lighting elements and are projected to last for more than 20 years as compared to 750 hours for conventional bulbs. Using rechargeable battery technology could also save an estimated 63 percent in daily portable-lighting operating costs and could also reduce the Air Force's reliance on host nation resources.

Feedback from the field demonstrations show the current portable generator-powered lighting options do not provide the absolute portability required for AMC's evolving expeditionary mission.

Their bulky size, noise and energy consumption reduce AMC's ability to efficiently and expeditiously deploy support forces globally in any environment.

Research also showed the Bright Eye is 97-percent smaller and weighs 94-percent less than the current diesel-powered incandescent lighting system.



Photo by Art Tollefson

The BrightEye Portable Solid-State LED Lighting System, developed through an initiative with the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center's Air Mobility Battlelab and Cyberlux Corporation, is a light-weight, easy-to-use system designed for multiple military uses. The BrightEye system was demonstrated by contingency response group units during Air Force Exercise Eagle Flag at Naval Air Engineering Station Lakehurst, N.J., and proved to be a valid and useful system for CRG operations, said Master Sgt. Michael Harris of the AMB.

Its small size, weight and added infrared capability can "enhance AMC's ability to project air and space power" across all spectrums of expeditionary operations by minimizing the support footprint, maximizing the available aircraft cargo floor area and reducing the amount of airlift needed for rapid force projection.

Overall, the Air Mobility Battlelab demonstrated a unique system capable of providing expeditionary forces across all armed services versatile, economical and portable lighting equipment.

For more information visit the Air Mobility Battlelab Web site at following Web address: <http://public.mcguire.af.mil/battlelab.asp>.

AMC's command chief shares thoughts on enlisted leadership, expeditionary skills

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

Air Mobility Command's continuing support for the Global War on Terrorism as well as the Air Force's 60th anniversary were up for discussion with Chief Master Sgt. Joseph Barron Jr., AMC's command chief master sergeant, during his visit to the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center Sept. 18.

Chief Barron, AMC's top enlisted leader since April 2006, is a 28-year Air Force veteran and has been either a first sergeant or a command chief since 1993. In his current position, he is the principal advisor to the AMC commander and his senior staff on matters of health, welfare and morale, professional development and the effective utilization of more than 43,000 active duty and 71,000 Reserve and Guard enlisted personnel assigned to the command.

The following questions and answers are excerpts from the Chief's interview with USAF EC Public Affairs.

Q. AMC's enlisted force is facing some of its busiest times now with the GWOT. In your opinion, what are some of the biggest roles you see enlisted Airmen playing in today's Air Force?

A. I think all of our Airmen are playing a big role. It doesn't matter if they are in the desert or at home. Airmen are taking care of those responsibilities that need to be done. All of us, whether deployed or at home in any job, are playing a huge role in winning the war and making our Air Force the best in the world.

Q. The Air Force is now 60 years old. How has the enlisted force helped shape the service and its advancement during that time?

A. Everyone you talk to will say the Air Force and (our) military has the best enlisted force in the world. No other country in the world has the kind of enlisted force we have ... it's a definite advantage. It is, without a doubt, the best trained and most capable force out there.

Over time, enlisted members have taken



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

Master Sgt. Richard Woods, Mobility Operations School, talks to Chief Master Sgt. Joseph Barron Jr., Air Mobility Command's command chief master sergeant, about the new Aircraft Maintenance Production Simulator to be used by the MOS for classroom instruction Sept. 18.

over responsibilities that years and years ago had been done by officers. Today's enlisted Airman has grown in capability to meet the needs of a 21st century Air Force that requires higher levels of responsibility.

Q. What is your philosophy on good enlisted leadership?

A. An enlisted leader needs to set the example. This is a leader who really does live by our core values. It's a person who

truly displays integrity first, service before self and excellence in everything he or she does. This is a leader young Airmen know they can trust and turn to for guidance, but who also maintains the discipline required to keep those Airmen focused and sharp.

Q. How will the new EPR system, in your opinion, affect today's Airman – both officer and enlisted?

A. I think the way it has been developed

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will help Airmen better document performance. However, I would also say that if supervisors rate their people honestly, as they should have been all along, then it shouldn't make much of a difference.

The form itself isn't the guiding force. When it comes to ratings, it's about integrity and being honest about grading the performance.

Q. What can we look for in the future of AMC as we embrace a new commander and a continuing wartime mission?

A. I will tell you that General (Arthur) Lichte has basically the same philosophy as our former commander. His number one priority is to win the war on terror and to recapitalize our fleet.

He wants us to continue to focus on the great things all AMC Airmen are already doing and for our Airmen to continue to take care of each other and their families.

Q. If you had a definition of an Airman, what would it be?

A. That's easy – just read the Airman's Creed. I think it defines an Airman better than anything else out there.

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.

Q. Anything else you'd like to add? mfference.

A. I'd like to thank the Airmen of the Expeditionary Center and all Airmen for what they are doing for our country.

Your sacrifices and those of your families are making a huge difference for our nation. You definitely are taking care of our freedom and our Air Force.

You are all greatly appreciated.



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

Staff Sgt. Jonathon McClure, Mobility Operations School, shows Chief Barron some of the equipment used in his classroom area.



Chief Barron talks with aviation resource management students in a Center classroom.



Chief Barron observes Phoenix Raven students during their self-defense training.

Mobile communicators learn shelter building, tear down



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

(Clockwise from top left) Senior Airman Antoine Wright, 572nd Global Mobility Squadron, Travis Air Force Base, Calif., cranks down a ground jack during training on a shelter for the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center's Mobility Operations School Advanced Mobile Command and Control Communications Course Sept. 25. Students lift up a wall on the shelter. Students lock the wall in place on the shelter. An outer wall to the shelter is set in place by students. Staff Sgt. Joshua Sager, an instructor in the course, explains procedures for disassembly to a student.



About the course: The U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center Mobility Operations School's Advanced Mobile Command and Control Communications Course provides students with the technical fundamentals required to operate and maintain mobile command and control communications systems in a deployed environment. This also includes learning how to build shelters for communications troops and equipment.

Reaping the seeds sewn through training

By Master Sgt. Steve Minard
728th Air Mobility Squadron

INCIRLIK AIR BASE, Turkey — There’s nothing more satisfying than seeing the fruits of your labor, and that is exactly what Tech. Sgt. Antonio Strong and I have been able to do and see since deployed to Incirlik Air Base, Turkey.

Currently assigned to the 728th AMS’ Air Terminal Operations Center, or ATOC, we work hand-in-hand with command and control and the maintenance operations center. We are responsible for oversight of all terminal operations — from aerial port training to aircraft operations. And a busy operation it is.

As the cargo hub for Operation Iraqi Freedom operations, the aerial port team here handles 72 percent of all cargo entering Iraq — up to 220 short tons and 110 pallets daily. What is most rewarding is seeing first-hand how the training received at the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center on Fort Dix, N.J., directly contributes to the success of this mission.

For instance, through a combination of Web-based training and qualification training packages developed by the USAF EC’s Mobility Operations School, aerial port training for newly-assigned Airmen has been reduced from two weeks to three days. Not only does this translate into significant manpower and money savings, but since 40 percent of the squadron is made up of deployed personnel, it allows individual work centers greater flexibility.

Additionally, the quality and effectiveness of the training has increased.

“Since we began the new program, the feedback from the trainees has been incredible,” said Staff Sgt. Sayward Pierce, squadron training monitor for the 728th. “Not only have we noticed an increased retention rate in the material, but the trainees are happy to get into their workcenters and get to work.”

One of the greatest impacts on operations has been the recent addition of the Aerial Port Expeditor, APEX, Program. The Mobility Operations School, in concert with Air Mobility Command Headquarters, spent the better part of two years



Photo by Airman 1st Class Nathan Lipscomb

Senior Airman Nathan Dunn, right, and Staff Sgt. Daniel Carter, 728th Air Mobility Squadron aerial port expeditors, prepare to load a C-17 Globemaster aircraft at Incirlik Air Base, Turkey, Sept. 5.

developing the contingency operations plan and formal training that allows aerial porters to on-load and off-load all types of cargo without the presence of a loadmaster on C-5 Galaxy and C-17 Globemaster III aircraft.

The APEX Program has now been successfully used for nearly a year; however, Incirlik is the test-bed and first to employ APEX at a mobilized location. Early results are impressive. Not only has it allowed better utilization of aerial port assets, but it has also completely eliminated the need for duty loadmasters thus saving crew time and allowing loadmasters to be where they are needed most — in the air. In just over three weeks, more than 120 APEX missions, carrying 3,000 short tons of cargo, have been successfully launched and delivered to the warfighter.

There are many other examples where I have seen USAF EC’s training put into action — from management justifying and competing for fall-out money and the way different workcenters interact with each other to a joint inspection class being conducted. All of these directly contribute to the success of this operation and its mission to fight the war on terror.

This training, along with advice I re-

ceived from a wise lieutenant colonel about the effectiveness of taking the time to sit for a cup of tea, has served me well. Everything was put into perspective for me, and I am constantly reminded how precious life is when one of our weekly 747s drop off a full load of cargo and then continues its mission down range.

When I tell my son why I missed our first walk-to-school in four years — the mission here and this deployment is what I will tell him about. It’s not easy being away from family and friends, missing birthdays, anniversaries and the first-day of school, but as I said in the beginning, there is nothing better than seeing the fruits of your labor.

So, if you’ve ever wondered if you really make a difference, I can tell you first-hand you definitely do. Training is the backbone of this operation and its success, and I am proud to call myself an Expeditionary Center “Airman of Excellence!”

(Note: Master Sgt. Steve Minard serves as the superintendent of the Mobility Operation School’s Air Transportation Branch. Tech. Sgt. Antonio Strong, serving in Incirlik with Sergeant Minard, is also from the MOS.)

Mobility Operations School introduces new maintenance simulator

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

The U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center's Mobility Operations School began its first classroom use of the new Aircraft Maintenance Production Simulator, or AMPS, in October for MOS' Maintenance Supervision and Production Course, or MSPC.

According to Senior Master Sgt. Paul Roberts, superintendent for the MOS maintenance branch and one of the driving forces behind bringing the simulator to the Center, the AMPS is a conversion and upgrade of the Aircraft Maintenance Officer Course simulator used at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas.

"The AMPS prepares maintenance leaders for the real-world challenges of managing an ever-changing flight line environment," Sergeant Roberts said. "The AMPS has 12 C-17 Globemasters and 12 KC-135R Stratotankers in its programming. Projection screens in the Expeditionary Center provide a bird's eye view of simulated flightline operations with the simulator."

Master Sgt. Richard Woods, MSPC director, said the simulator provides realistic aircraft sounds to augment the visual display, and the system uses 14 Windows-based laptop computers as kiosks for student inputs and interaction within the simulator.

"Students role play flightline positions including flight chief, section NCO in charge, production superintendents, expeditors and working in a maintenance operations center," Sergeant Woods said. "With this leading-edge capability, Air Mobility Command's maintenance personnel will be better prepared to meet the volatile demands of mission readiness. This is one



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

Senior Master Sgt. Paul Roberts, superintendent of the Mobility Operations School's maintenance branch, talks about the school's new Aircraft Maintenance Production Simulator during a demonstration of the simulator in the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center Aug. 22.

more example of how the Expeditionary Center incorporates innovation in training to prepare warfighters to meet tomorrow's mission."

In the MSPC, where the simulator will be used, students learn detailed processes in all forms of maintenance supervision and production, said Master Sgt. Rodney Whitney, one of the course's instructors. The course is built in two major instructional areas.

The first area of the MSPC focuses production management which includes training in aircraft and equipment maintenance management, aircraft status reporting, aircraft forms documentation and related subjects. The second area of curriculum hones in on personnel and resource management, which includes training management, manning, personnel scheduling and

expeditionary planning and deployments.

"This course is tailored to technical sergeant-selects through chief master sergeants in all 2A Air Force specialties," Sergeant Whitney said. "It also reaches all across the mobility air forces spectrum to include active duty, Guard, Reserve and selected civilians. Each year we graduate more than 330 students. Our first class for fiscal 2008 runs from Oct. 10 to 19."

With the first class of the new fiscal year, Sergeant Woods said the students will have a step-up from previous graduates, thanks to the simulator being available.

"The AMPS will allow the new students to practice and apply what they have learned in a realistic context," Sergeant Woods said. "The students will experience per-

spectives, ideas, skills, and situations simulating authentic instances of flightline operations. They have a real opportunity to enhance the meaning of what they've learned and to become more proficient, thus enabling them to immediately perform a new position upon return to their duty stations."

Most of all, Sergeant Roberts said the simulator will help the Airmen learn critical maintenance management decision-making abilities without having to actually step on the flightline.

"The AMPS will allow students to make mistakes and learn from them," Sergeant Roberts said. "That's what we want – for students to learn without fear of possible injury to people or damage to aircraft if this training took place outside the classroom."

About the course: **The U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center Mobility Operations School's Maintenance Supervision and Production Mobile Training**

Course teaches aircraft maintenance NCOs assigned to Air Mobility Command, U.S. Air Forces in Europe and Pacific Air Forces essential aircraft

maintenance management information in two major areas — production management and personnel and resource management.

Looking back at Rodeo 2007



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

Opening ceremony

Former Air Mobility Command Commander, Gen. Duncan McNabb, Air Mobility Rodeo 2007 Commander, Brig. Gen. (now Maj. Gen.) Kip Self, and 62nd Airlift Wing Commander, Col. Jerry Martinez, ride on horses during their entrance for the opening ceremony for Rodeo July 22 at McChord Air Force Base, Wash. U.S. and international teams were formed up for the event. Rodeo, sponsored by Air Mobility Command, is a readiness competition for U.S. and international mobility air forces. Besides numerous international teams and observers, there were also teams from across the Air Force, Air Force Reserve, Air National Guard, and the U.S. Marine Corps.



A horse-riding instructor carries in the American flag during the opening ceremony.



Maj. Jerry Hickey, 62nd Airlift Squadron, Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark., stands in formation for the commander's review of teams during the opening ceremony.

Air Mobility Rodeo 2007: Security forces Rodeo teams tested by the best

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

MCCHORD AIR FORCE BASE, Wash. — When it comes to adding realism to Air Mobility Rodeo 2007 security forces tactics competition, the Airmen who tested the competitors were among the best the Air Force has to offer.

The approximately 30 role players and coordination and support staff for the tactics competition came from all over the Air Force. Among the role players, you'll find Airmen who are instructors at the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center at Fort Dix, N.J., as well as security forces leadership from Air Mobility Command Headquarters at Scott AFB, Ill. They are supporting a competition that has 34 teams — 29 U.S. military and five international teams.

Master Sgt. Michael Steinkraus, an air mobility instructor playing the role as “opposing forces” from Detachment 1, Air Force Mobility Operations School, Hurlburt Field, Fla., has participated in Rodeo before as an aircrew member. This time around, he said he enjoyed the opportunity to support and see some of the world’s top security forces teams.

“What we’re doing is testing the teams on the unexpected,” Sergeant Steinkraus said at the competition. “This (competition) is about readiness. Their ability to deal with the unexpected is tested on every run.”

Coming from the USAF EC at Fort Dix where he works as a security forces instructor, Staff Sgt. Matthew Butler said his experience as a security forces member helped add to the realism of the competition.

“We know what they are supposed to be doing for tactics, and we know how to engage as opposing forces,” Sergeant Butler said.

Staff Sgt. John Hoffecker, also a security forces instructor at USAF EC who worked as a role player, said being at Rodeo is an “absolutely remarkable opportunity.”

“As a security forces member, I like the fact that I can see the tactics from different security forces teams from across the Air Force as well as those from the international teams,” Sergeant Hoffecker said. “It’s a good collaboration to see all the synergy that comes with the teams.”

Sergeant Hoffecker added how his experience as an instructor is helping with role playing for the competition.

“In the today’s security forces world, you really have to step outside the old-school cop mentality and focus more on people and the whole community — like being an ambassador,” Sergeant Hoffecker said. “Bringing that experience here with the different scenarios they are facing helps me to get into the role and



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

Master Sgt. Michael Steinkraus, an opposing forces role player for the Air Mobility Rodeo 2007 security forces tactics competition, waits for another scenario to begin for the competition July 23. Sergeant Steinkraus is from the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center’s Mobility Operations School, Detachment 1, at Hurlburt Field, Fla.

build on the interaction between the security forces teams and the role players.”

Master Sgt. Shawn Larkin, the AMC Phoenix Raven program manager and one of the chief umpires for the tactics competition, emphasized the importance of having good role players for the tactics competition.

“They add a dynamic feature to the entire event,” Sergeant Larkin said. “If you don’t have the right kind of role players, it’s hard to simulate real-world situations for us to evaluate.”

Tech. Sgt. Bruce McPherson, a security forces craftsman from the 62nd Security Forces
See **Security forces**, Page 13



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

Tech. Sgt. Roy Carter, from the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center's Mobility Operations School, Detachment 1, at Hurlburt Field, Fla., takes up a position as an opposing forces role player.



(Above) Master Sgt. Mike McHone, U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center's 421st Combat Training Squadron, Fort Dix, N.J., stops for a break in between scenarios. (Left) Security forces Airmen from Westover Air Reserve Base, Mass., participate in a scenario. Master Sgt. John Brooks (center-left with bag), USAF EC Mobility Operations School, was playing a role as a medical person whom security forces were escorting to a village.



A security forces Airman from the 319th Security Forces Squadron, Grand Forks Air Force Base, N.D., participates in a scenario with role player Tech. Sgt. Ryan Holmes from the USAF EC's Mobility Operations School air transportation branch.



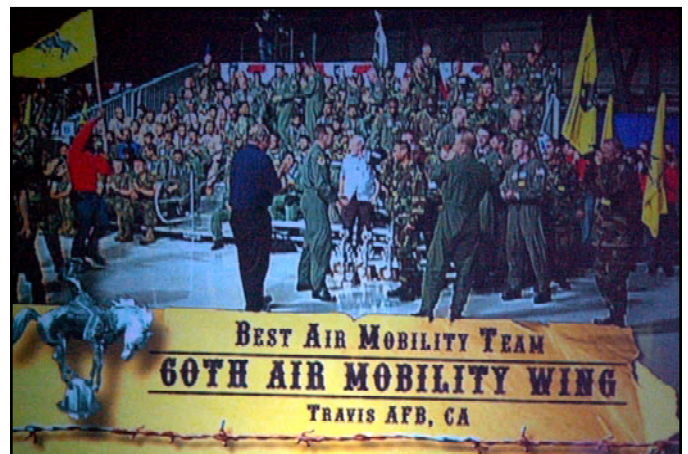
Role players, who included (right) Staff Sgt. John Hofecker and Senior Airman Brian DeGrego of the USAF EC, ham up a civil disturbance scenario for a team member from Westover Air Reserve Base, Mass.

Air Mobility Rodeo 2007: Closing ceremony



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

Brig. Gen. Kip Self (now Maj. Gen.), U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center commander and Air Mobility Rodeo 2007 commander, begins the closing celebration for Rodeo July 27 at McChord Air Force Base, Wash.



And the winner is: The 60th Air Mobility Wing from Travis Air Force Base, Calif., took the “Best Air Mobility Team” award at Rodeo. (Left) A 60th AMW C-5 Galaxy takes off for a competition flight with Mount Rainier in the background.

Back from Baghdad

USAF EC member reflects on life in the Green Zone

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

For more than six months, Master Sgt. Jeffrey Ball of the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center's Expeditionary Operations School was deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in Baghdad, Iraq.

Sergeant Ball returned in late July and reflects on his time there as a key participant in support of operations from Baghdad's Green Zone. Following is an excerpt from an interview he did with USAF EC Public Affairs.

Q. On your deployment, what did you do?

A. I was deployed in support of Multi-National Forces-Iraq's strategic operations area where I worked in the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad, Iraq. Our unit was responsible for the rebuilding of the Iraqi infrastructure and providing daily operational briefings to the MNF-I commander.

Q. What specific job did you do while you were deployed and how long were you gone?

A. I was deployed from mid-January to late July and was the administrative NCO in charge for a U.S. Army two-star general and an Australian one star. I provided daily administrative and computer support. I also was the unit mail clerk, ran the leave program, processed awards and decorations, created travel orders and managed the unit linguist program.

Q. What experience did you learn from this deployment?

A. This was my first time deploying to a unit that was composed of forces from every branch of the U.S. military and from five coalition nations, so you can imagine the environment was very dynamic. Since a majority of the unit was U.S. Army personnel, having to learn the different administrative procedures that the Army uses was difficult, but enlightening. Another thing I learned was the importance of being fit to fight. Moving around in the heat in full body armor takes a lot out of you.

Q. What is your impression of the Airmen fighting the Global War on Terrorism now that you have come back from the "front lines" so to speak?

A. I was blown away not only by the Airmen fighting the GWOT but also by the everyday Soldier, Sailor and Marine serving out there in the elements and outside the wire. In my daily interactions with them, not once during my six months did I hear anyone complain about the heat or the conditions they were serving in.

Q. Why is it important for Airmen to be



Air Force Photo

Master Sgt. Jeffrey Ball, from the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center's Expeditionary Operations School at Fort Dix, N.J., plays with an Iraqi child during an "outside the wire" humanitarian mission April 6, 2007, in Baghdad, Iraq. Sergeant Ball deployed for Operation Iraqi Freedom from January to July 2007.

prepared for a deployment?

A. As our Air Force continues to draw down, Airmen have to be ready to deploy more frequently and, depending on your specialty, sometimes with little notice. I think one of the most important things you can do as an individual to support the GWOT, is to stay ready. No one area is more important than your everyday physical fitness because it has a direct impact on mission accomplishment.

Q. Why do you think it is important for the people of the USAF EC to also deploy in support of wartime missions?

A. Since our main job here are the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center, and especially in the Expeditionary Operations School, is to train Airmen for deployment, it is very important for our team members and our instructors to get out on the front lines to ensure the training we are giving is current with what is being used in

the deployed environment.

Q. How do you feel about being back at the USAF EC?

A. I am glad to back home, and especially back at the USAF EC because I know our mission here better prepares Airman to fight the GWOT. In my 14 years of service, this is the unit that I am most proud to say that I have been a member of.

Q. Anything else you can add?

A. I have always been a supporter of the GWOT, and I am glad I was able to do my part. I would much rather be fighting this war away from home, than trying to fight it here at home.

(Note: Sergeant Ball serves as the NCO in charge for executive support for the Center's Expeditionary Operations School where he provides information management and personnel support for the school.)

After one year, Phoenix Warrior course soaring high

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

The U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center's 421st Combat Training Squadron has finished its first year of teaching the Phoenix Warrior Training Course, and all signs point to the fact it is helping prepare security forces for their wartime mission.

"Phoenix Warrior, from inception, has evolved to meet our adversaries shifting tactics," said Capt. Brent Gallant, operations flight commander for the 421st CTS. "By providing the most current tactics, techniques and procedures, or TTPs, used in the deployed environment, as well as using the most advanced training aids available such as the Center's state-of-the-art close-quarters battle camera system, we provide security forces pre-deployment training that is second to none."

Phoenix Warrior is essentially "combat skills training" mainly for security forces, Captain Gallant said. It's different from the 421st CTS' Advanced Contingency Skills Training courses in that it trains security forces and those non-security forces personnel assigned to security forces unit type codes prior to deploying. The program, which includes 17 days of training, is based upon 21 core tasks determined by the Air Force Security Forces Center.

"Our feedback from the field has been very positive," Captain Gallant said. "We have seen an upward trend in requests from squadron commanders for class allocations as word has gotten out about what Phoenix Warrior and the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center can provide for deploying forces."



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

Students in the Air Force Phoenix Warrior Training Course 07-6 practice a dismounted patrol during training on a range at Fort Dix, N.J., Aug. 21.

Phoenix Warrior is comprised of three tracks, which feature the 21 core pre-deployment tasks.

"We offer a leadership track, for officers and senior NCOs, that provides refresher training and the most current TTPs as well as air base defense updates to people deploying to fill leadership roles," Captain Gallant said. "Our radio telephone operator (or RTO) track ensures that people deploying as RTOs are qualified and able to problem-solve issues on the most

current communications technologies utilized in the deployed environment.

"Our highest visibility track is our military working dog track," Captain Gallant said, "where we teach six core security forces-directed MWD tasks required for all (AMC) MWD teams deploying. Also in the MWD track, we provide training and exposure for dogs that can't be done at home station such as significant live-fire exposure and large quantity buried explosive detection to prepare for IED searches and helicopter transport."

Staff Sgt. Sam Pruett, an MWD handler from the 6th Security Forces Squadron, MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., who participated in Phoenix Warrior Class 07-6, said he appreciates the exclusive environment available in the course that's not readily available at home station.

"Home station operations tempo, with current mission requirements, could restrain you from conducting the style of training you see at Phoenix Warrior," Sergeant Pruett said. "Most home station security requires conducting vehicle checks, building checks and other requirements that may inhibit the ability for a handler to conduct the style of training received in Phoenix Warrior."

As far as a course that's one year old, Sergeant Pruett said the 421st CTS' progress on course development is "beyond words."

"I look forward to going through the class again in the future just to see how much the

See **Warrior**, Page 17



A student in the Phoenix Warrior Training Course rides in a convoy during training Aug. 21.

Warrior, from Page 16 program has progressed,” Sergeant Pruett said.

Staff Sgt. Andrew Goligowski, also an MWD handler and Phoenix Warrior 07-6 student from the 319th SFS, Grand Forks AFB, N.D., said the entire MWD and Phoenix Warrior program was “excellent.”

“It exposed us and our dogs to environments that we will experience down range,” Sergeant Goligowski said. “You need to get as much exposure to the real thing as you possibly can and the Phoenix Warrior MWD instructors hit the nail on the head. I am also looking forward to going through the program again later to see how it has changed.”

Tech. Sgt. Ryan Thompson, 421st CTS instructor in charge of Phoenix Warrior’s combative rifle and pistol live fire training and a facilitator for dismounted patrol training, said the course is fast paced and has grown to provide some of the best training available out there for security forces Airmen.

“It’s an all-encompassing course,” Sergeant Thompson said. “You might spend one day in the classroom, but the next you’ll be running in full battle rattle to get your heart rate up to fire under stress.”

Sergeant Thompson added, “The course is ever-changing. We take what we read in after-action reports and the trends that are taking place down range to continuously redevelop our



Staff Sgt. Andrew Goligowski and his military working dog, Endy, both from the 319th Security Forces Squadron at Grand Forks Air Force Base, N.D., participate in a scenario for Air Force Exercise Eagle Flag 07-6 Aug. 28 at Naval Air Engineering Station Lakehurst, N.J.



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

Phoenix Warrior students are taught patrolling formations by Staff Sgt. James Chubb, 421st Combat Training Squadron, as part of “tape drills” for military operations in urban terrain at the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center Aug. 22.

course. A year from now, the course will most likely be different than it is today.”

All through the training, something else happens for Phoenix Warrior students – they build friendships and camaraderie with fellow security forces Airmen.

“The contacts I’ve made and the personnel I was around in the K-9 portion were an exceptional bunch of handlers and instructors,” Sergeant Pruett said. “The entire experience was a great time because amongst all the students there was a motivation and willingness to learn and train in a group. It was training that was second to none.”

Captain Gallant said it is training like Phoenix Warrior that really builds on the “warrior ethos” all Airmen share.

“Phoenix Warrior is the perfect venue for building squad continuity and individual warrior ethos,” Captain Gallant said. “First, the training is difficult, and team effort is required for success. Second, while overcoming the many challenges our students face, they are formed into a cohesive unit learning to trust and depend upon one another.

“While all of this is happening, they are indoctrinated with predeployment skills that will keep them alive and lead to mission success down range,” Captain Gallant said. “When you combine challenges, team-

work and combat skills, you end up with warrior ethos.”

As far as continued success of the course, Captain Gallant said it will take the right ingredients like it has in the first successful year.

“Phoenix Warrior has been successful because of the cadre’s dedication to providing the best predeployment training they can,” Captain Gallant said. “Little over a year ago, Phoenix Warrior cadre were asked to fill a major Air Mobility Command pre-deployment training void and stand-up a course in less than two months. Through many long days and lost weekends, Phoenix Warrior was developed and cadre were trained. The continued dedication of the Phoenix Warrior cadre is what drives the continual improvement of the course.

“This makes Phoenix Warrior successful,” Captain Gallant said.



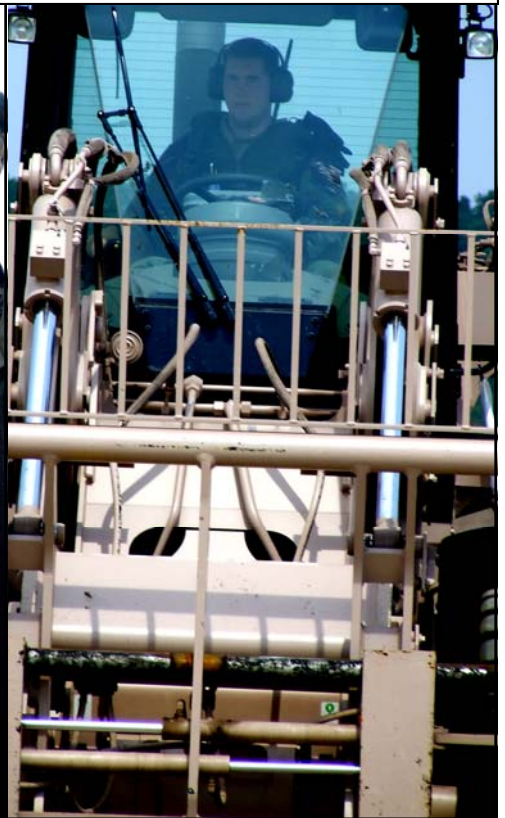
Phoenix Warrior students drive a HMMWV as part of a convoy en route to training on a Fort Dix range Aug. 20.

McGuire CRG Airmen train at Eagle Flag 07-6



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

(Clockwise from left) Senior Airman Thomas Sippel, 305th Security Forces Squadron, McGuire Air Force Base, N.J., talks on a field phone during operations for Air Force Exercise Eagle Flag 07-6 at Naval Air Engineering Lakehurst, N.J. Airman Sippel deployed with the 816th Contingency Response Group, also from McGuire. Airman Jeremy Hagen, also from 305th SFS at McGuire, watches over a checkpoint. An 816th CRG Airman operates an extreme terrain forklift. Lt. Col. Bill Neitzke, 816th CRG deputy commander, prepares to participate in a scenario. A CRG Airman works on grounding a generator.





Supply

Senior Airman Miguel Reyes, Dyess Air Force Base, Texas



Civil Engineering

Senior Airman Mark Meisler, Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz.



Medical

Col. Therese Neely, Andrews AFB, Md.

PORTRAITS OF EAGLE FLAG 07-6 Photos by Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol



Public Affairs

Airman 1st Class Emerald Ralston, Malmstrom AFB, Mont.



Civil Engineering

Senior Airman Julio Pequet, Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz.



Safety

Staff Sgt. Darrell Leatherman, Sheppard AFB, Texas



History

Alan March, Robins AFB, Ga.

Safety

Staff Sgt. Joshua Richards, Keesler AFB, Miss.

Phoenix Raven students learn self-defense techniques



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

Phoenix Raven Course 07-F students practice proper technique for a strike with an ASP baton for baton and self-defense training Sept. 18 in the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center. The Raven course is taught by the Expeditionary Operations School's 421st Combat Training Squadron.



Staff Sgt. James Chubb, Raven instructor from the 421st CTS, assists Raven students with a technique for a strike with an ASP baton.



Instructor Tech. Sgt. Ryan Thompson, 421st CTS, also shows Raven students a proper technique for a baton.

About the course: **The Phoenix Raven Qualification Course** qualifies selected security force personnel to perform as members of a force protection team assigned to deployed AMC aircraft.



Phoenix Raven students practice self-defense techniques during training Sept. 18 in the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center.

Heritage to Horizons: Documenting Air Force history through art

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

Through the past 60 years of its history, the Air Force has been documented in photos, videos, books and many other forms of media. For 57 of those years, however, another form of archiving history has taken place through the eyes of hundreds of artists.

Established in 1950, the Air Force Art Program has covered every major operation in which the service has been involved, said Russell D. Kirk, Air Force Art Program Director who works for the Secretary of the Air Force administrative assistant's office at the Pentagon.

"We have approximately 9,500 works in the program and receive approximately 100 to 125 per year," Mr. Kirk said. "Every two years we host what is called the 'Air Force Art Presentation' with the Secretary of the Air Force and Chief of Staff of the Air Force as co-hosts. This is a function that officially accepts all of the artwork donated over the past two years. It features works from artists who have been around the Air Force documenting our mission."

The program currently has approximately 250 active artists and over the past 57 years it represents hundreds, Mr. Kirk said.

"The way the program operates is we work with the Society of Illustrators of New York and Los Angeles as well as the Northwest, Southwest and Midwest Air Force Artists' Groups," Mr. Kirk said. "Each has a chairman who we coordinate trips with and schedule artists to travel. We also have a select group of artists who can be ready at short notice to travel and cover events such as Hurricane Katrina, Operation Iraqi Freedom or any other type of



U.S. Air Force Photo

This painting from the Air Force Art Program's collection by artist Keith Ferris of Morris Plains, N.J., entitled "B-52 Air Refueling," was Mr. Ferris' first submission to the Program in 1961.

emergency deployment the Air Force is involved in. These artists are all volunteers and take time from their families and jobs to follow our Airmen in their footsteps and document our mission."

The art they take in the program isn't just oil paintings – it includes all forms from watercolors to acrylic paintings to charcoal drawings and more.

"We support all styles," Mr. Kirk said. "We don't dictate what style or medium of art an artist can contribute."

All active artists make visits to Air Force bases throughout the world. Mr. Kirk and his staff work with the artists and personnel at either base or major command level to get a trip accomplished and introduce artists to the Air Force and military way of life.

"We work with Air Force historians for trip coordination and public affairs for photo or illustration coverage," Mr. Kirk said. "It takes a team effort to put this together."

One long-time contributor to the program, artist Keith Ferris of Morris Plains, N.J., said the art, when compared to photographs or video, provides a different, more personal, look at Air Force planes, people and units.

"Every artist approaches their work in different ways," Mr. Ferris said. "When you look at a painting, you can see the artist's vision in creating that work. It's unique, and it's personal."

Mr. Ferris officially joined the Air Force Art Program in 1960 with the Society of Illustrators of New York. However, his involvement with Air Force art goes all the way back to 1947 when the Air Force became its own service. He has served on the Society of Illustrators Air Force Art Committee for most of the years since joining. He's also served on the

Society's Board of Directors as Government Services Committee Chairman for 15 years and as the Society's executive vice president for two years. He continues serving now as Honorary Government Services Chairman.

"In the spring of 1947, I joined the Air Force's Training Publications Unit at Randolph (AFB, Texas) as a civilian apprentice artist," Mr. Ferris said. "That's even before Randolph was called an Air Force base."

Over the years, Mr. Ferris has donated 59 pieces to the program and plans to donate a 60th piece this year to coincide with the Air Force anniversary.

"My 60th painting will be of the T-37 (Tweet)," Mr. Ferris said. "In June of this year, I flew in a T-37 and a T-6. Since they'll be retiring the T-37 by early next year, I want my 60th painting to be the T-37."

He added that he first did some work with T-37s when they were introduced into the Air Force inventory. "The paint scheme you see on the T-37 today is from what I helped design," he said.

Mr. Ferris' first submissions to the art program were of B-52s and KC-135s.

"In the early 60s, I went to Westover (Air Reserve Base, Mass.), and flew on missions with the B-52 and the KC-135 to view air refueling," Mr. Ferris said. "The first painting is of the cockpit of a B-52, the second is of a B-52 and the third is called 'Sunset Refueling at 30,000 feet' showing a KC-135 and a B-52. The work just went on from there."

Mr. Ferris said he is impressed by how much the Air Force Art Program has grown.

"The program started off with about 800 paintings the Army handed over after the Air Force became a service," he said. "The fact that it's grown to more than 9,500 pieces is wonderful."

Continued growth and documentation is the goal for Mr. Kirk and three other art program coordinators.

"The Air Force Art Program is one of the best aviation art collections in the world," Mr. Kirk said.

"We appreciate everyone's support and assistance. This documentation will help tell the Air Force's story for many years in the future.

He added, "While we document the Air Force through other types of media such as still imagery and through live feeds, an artist can capture more than just the moment. Art has been around a long, long time and will continue to be a huge part of the way we capture our mission and tell the Air Force's story."

To learn more about the Air Force Art Program, visit the program's Web site at <http://www.afapo.hq.af.mil/Presentation/main/Index.cfm>.



This 1963 painting by artist Keith Ferris, entitled "Sunset Refueling at 30,000 Feet," featuring a B-52 Stratofortress and a KC-135R Stratotanker, was the third painting Mr. Ferris donated to the Air Force Art Program.

U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center houses large collection of Air Force art

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

When the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center was established in 1994 as the Air Mobility Warfare Center, the walls of the building were bare, and the Center's first commander took the initiative to fill them.

According to artist Keith Ferris of Morris Plains, N.J., a long-time donator to the Air Force Art Program and recent visitor to the Center, Brig. Gen. William Begert, and his wife Judy, made a special trip to the Air Force Art Program's warehouse to find items to display within the Center.

"They came in to the new Air Mobility Warfare Center and saw the bare walls," Mr. Ferris said. "They took the initiative to go and find appropriate Air Force art to hang on the walls throughout the Center, and I think they made some good choices."

Ironically enough, an oil painting of General Begert also hangs at the Center.

Don Wiggins, command curator for Air Mobility Command's distribution of Air Force art, said the Center holds AMC's "second largest" collection of Air Force art with 83 pieces.

Overall, the Air Force Art Program has approximately 9,500 works and they receive about 100 to 125 new pieces per year, said Russell Kirk, Air Force Art Program Director at the Secretary of the Air Force Administrative Assistant's Office in the Pentagon.



This 1979 painting by artist Gene Shehorn, entitled "C-5 Galaxy, Yokota Air Base, Japan," is one of more than 80 from the Air Force Art Program on display in the Center.



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

This portrait of Brig. Gen. William Begert, the first commander of the Air Mobility Warfare Center, now named the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center, hangs on a wall at the Center. General Begert, along with his wife Judy, were responsible for bringing a large collection of art from the Air Force Art Program to the Center when he became commander in 1994. The Center holds Air Mobility Command's second largest collection of Air Force art on display.

"The program currently has approximately 250 active artists," Mr. Kirk said. "However, over the years, it represents hundreds."

Dozens of those artists are represented in the Center's collection of Air Force art and their paintings span numerous operations – from the Korean War to Operation Restore Hope. According to Mr. Kirk, it's through sending artists to see operations first hand and to learn more of what it's like to be there where the best art originates.

"While we document the Air Force through other types of media such as still imagery and through live media feeds, an artist can capture more than just the moment," Mr. Kirk said.

Mr. Wiggins added that art, like what's found in the Center, provides a form of inspiration for those who view it.

In the Center's 13 years of existence, thousands of students have viewed the art throughout the buildings corridors and walls.

"They say a picture is worth a thousand

words," Mr. Wiggins said.

"With the paintings artists create, they can inspire Airmen for years to come."

Among the items hanging within the center include two by artist James Consor of New York City, entitled, "Airlift Rodeo," from 1987.

"I made one in color and one in charcoal," Mr. Consor said during an interview at McChord Air Force Base, Wash., for Air Mobility Rodeo 2007 in July.

The Center also has another of Mr. Consor's pieces, painted in 1993, called "Hurricane Andrew, Homestead AFB."

Other art pieces include portraits of air mobility in action. Since the Air Force Art Program began in 1950, the Center has followed suit with paintings from the very beginning of the program. Among the oldest in the Center's display collection is a 1950 painting by Samuel Smith entitled, "Future Tuscon Air Strip," and a 1952 painting by Harold Sims called, "First Day at Kimpo."

More recent paintings in the collection include 1993 paintings by Charles Rowe called, "Operation Restore Hope," and by Eugene Lebbin entitled, "The 126th in Moron, Spain."

Besides officially listed art from the Air Force Art Program, the Center also has art donated directly to or commissioned by the Center. They include a mural of former Chief Master Sgt. Grace Peterson, painted by former Center staff member Staff Sgt. Rick Dunaway. There are also portraits of all past Center commanders and Center superintendents or command chiefs.



This 1981 art piece by artist David Rose, entitled "Cross Country," is another of numerous pieces on display.

Artists working to document Air Mobility Rodeo 2007

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

MCCHORD AIR FORCE BASE, Wash. – Whether it’s the sound of a pencil scratching paper or the flash of light from their digital cameras, four artists with the Air Force Art Program are working to portray, through their art, Air Mobility Rodeo 2007.

“We chose to come to Rodeo because there are a lot of events the artists can see at one time,” said Don Wiggins, Air Mobility Command’s curator for the Air Force Art Program. “The Rodeo environment gives them a lot of exposure to things for creative ideas and possibilities.”

According to Mr. Wiggins, the U.S. Air Force art collection documents the story of the Air Force through the universal language of art. The actions and deeds of Airmen are recorded in paintings by eminent American artists in a way words alone could never tell. These paintings are both historical and educational and expose the military and the public to the diverse roles and capabilities of the Air Force.

The artists on the trip included Priscilla Messner-Patterson, James Consor, Gerald “Jerry” Moore and Christine Murphy Soucey. Each artist has their own unique way of contributing to the Air Force Art Program.

Mr. Consor, who has the most pieces in the Air Force Art Collection, explained what he looks for when visiting an event like Rodeo.

“I look for things that have a lot of visual activity,” Mr. Consor said. “It’s those moments you can catch at a place like this that can help you decide whether or not something will make a good picture.”

Ms. Murphy Soucey said her inspiration to join the Air Force Art Program came from an experience where she sent a deployed troop a small piece of art. In return, the troop sent her back a photo of the artwork hanging inside a tent.

“I just felt incredibly proud to see a piece of my art on the other side of the world,” she said. She added that she is on her first trip to a military base and said her goal while at Rodeo was to fill an entire sketchbook with ideas and composite sketches.

“I’m enjoying the visit and I’m gaining a lot of great ideas for what I’d like to do,” Ms. Murphy Soucey said.

Mr. Moore said he first started supporting the Air Force Art Program back in the late 1970s as an “independent artist.”

Eventually, when he completed his first piece on the Wright Brothers in 1986, he said he knew he wanted to do more.

“From there, I completed several historical paintings including one of the Boxcar,” he said referring to a painting he completed on the C-119 Flying Boxcar.

Combined, the artists have more than a century of art experience. Mr. Wiggins hopes that experience, and the visit to Rodeo, translates into a volume of inspirational paintings for people to enjoy for years to come.

“We’ve been taking artists around the world to document the Air Force through the unique world of art,” he said, referring to a recent trip he took with some other artists to Balad Air Base, Iraq. “They say a picture is worth a thousand words. With the paintings these artists create, they can inspire Airmen for years to come. Maybe years from now, Rodeo 2007 will be a part of that history.”

Mrs. Messner-Patterson has art pieces in the program that highlight F-15 Eagles, one named “Missed Approach,” from Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska. Mr. Consor has pieces ranging from “Airlift Rodeo” in the late 1980s to a recent piece showing an honor guard paying respects to a fallen comrade called, “JPAC - Honors for the Returned.”

Mr. Moore’s detailed pieces include “Wright Flyer in Septia Tone” with the Wright Brothers and the first flight of a winged aircraft, and



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

Artists James Consor, Priscilla Messner-Patterson and Christine Murphy take reference photos July 25 during a visit to McChord Air Force Base, Wash., for the Air Mobility Rodeo 2007.

“Tarmac Sunrise,” highlighting a C-130J Hercules on the flightline at Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark.

Ms. Murphy Soucey, who signs her work as “Murphy,” is the newest of the group to the art program. Her most recent piece is “Welcome Home,” which highlights an Air Force pilot’s family welcoming him back from deployment.

All the artists come from different areas of the country. Mr. Moore and Mrs. Messner-Patterson are from the state of Washington. Mr. Consor is from New York City and Ms. Murphy Soucey is from Massachusetts.



Gerald “Jerry” Moore, an artist from Vancouver, Wash., takes a photo of a KC-10 Extender from McGuire Air Force Base during a visit to Air Mobility Rodeo 2007.

Remembering Lieutenant Jones

An Airman's search for a hero's family

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

FORT DIX, N.J. – Memorial Day 2007 was a day that Arlington National Cemetery was at its finest.

Each gravesite was adorned with American flags, and many also either had wreaths, flowers and even personal memorabilia left behind by visiting families. Even the weather was appropriate with partly cloudy to overcast skies and balmy spring temperatures.

For Staff Sgt. Gary Ritter, a combat arms instructor from the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center at Fort Dix, N.J., coming to Arlington from New Jersey with his wife, Kristina, and daughter, Cheyenne, marked the end of a very long personal journey. It's a journey that began at the age of nine and spanned some 19 years.

Born into a military family, Sergeant Ritter grew up traveling and living around the world. In 1988, when he was 9 years old, he and his family lived in Landstuhl, Germany.

"My parents and I were attending an air show at Ramstein Air Base. While we were there, we walked by a booth that was selling POW/MIA (prisoner of war/missing in action) bracelets," Sergeant Ritter said. "I asked my parents what they were, and they told me what they stood for and were about. I decided to buy one from the Vietnam vet who was selling them."

With the only \$5 he had in his pocket, Sergeant Ritter remembers handing over the money but specifically asking for a bracelet that had the name of a person from Mississippi. He asked because his parents are natives of Mississippi.

The Vietnam veteran selling the bracelets gave him one with the name, 1st Lt. George E. Jones – a U.S. Air Force lieutenant from Aberdeen, Miss.

"I immediately began wearing the bracelet," Sergeant Ritter said.

He wore that bracelet continually until 1999.

"I was searching on the Internet for information about the man on my bracelet," Sergeant Ritter said. "I found that his remains were returned to the family and interred at Arlington National Cemetery in 1997. At that point, I took off the bracelet and put it in my jewelry box. I then began my search for any family member of



Courtesy photo

This photo, provided by the family, shows 2nd Lt. George Jones on his wedding day in the mid-1960s. Lieutenant Jones died as a result of a mid-air collision between his B-52D Stratofortress and another B-52D over the South China Sea in July 1967. His remains were found, and he was buried in Arlington National Cemetery in July 1997.

Lieutenant Jones to return the bracelet to." In the official announcement from the Department of Defense in 1997, the remains of Lieutenant Jones and another two service members previously unaccounted for from Southeast Asia were identified and were returned to their families for burial.

The announcement added that on July 7, 1967, Lieutenant Jones, a B-52D Stratofortress crewman, was en route from Guam on a bombing run toward a target in South Vietnam. While over the South China Sea, his B-52D collided in mid-air with another B-52D in the flight. Both stricken aircraft crashed into the South China Sea about 22 miles off the coast of South Vietnam. An extensive search and rescue operation resulted in the recovery of seven crewmen from the two aircraft. However, Lieutenant Jones' remains were not found.

In 1993 and 1994, joint U.S.-Vietnamese investigative teams interviewed Vietnamese fishermen who claimed to have located wreck-

age and human remains from a large aircraft in 100 feet of water, the announcement said. The fishermen turned the remains over to U.S. authorities.

For Sergeant Ritter, reading about Lieutenant Jones made him more determined to find a family member. The search carried Sergeant Ritter through hundreds of Web sites and several more years.

"I found luck in October 2005 when I found an entry in a blog site by a retired Air Force major who was looking for wearers of the Lieutenant Jones bracelet," Sergeant Ritter said. "I responded immediately."

After just a few days, Sergeant Ritter received an e-mail from the retired major who so happened to now be living in the former home of Lieutenant Jones in Aberdeen.

"I told him I was trying to get in touch with Lieutenant Jones' family," Sergeant Ritter said. "He said he knew the lieutenant's sister and that she comes to town regularly. He said he'd give her my contact information the next time she came to town."

Several more months went by, but in December 2006 Sergeant Ritter was contacted by the retired major in Aberdeen once again.

"He provided me the address and phone number of Lieutenant Jones' sister — Mrs. Rebecca Shelby," Sergeant Ritter said. "I stopped and basically started crying — the search was almost over."

Around the same time Sergeant Ritter was finding out who Mrs. Shelby was, she was busy working with her family to plan a 10-year reunion to commemorate the burial of her brother at Arlington on Memorial Day 2007.

"Then, around Christmas time, I received the call from Sergeant Ritter," Mrs. Shelby said. "We continued to plan the reunion, but this time we planned to honor my brother and Sergeant Ritter and his family."

As Memorial Day weekend approached, Mrs. Shelby and her family worked to make the meeting with Sergeant Ritter special. They had a cake made with a "big American flag" and reserved space for a large dinner at the hotel they stayed at in the Washington, D.C., area.

"We had the dinner the night before Memorial Day — there were about 30 of us — and Sergeant Ritter was there with his wife and daughter," Mrs. Shelby said.

"Sergeant Ritter told us all his story of the bracelet and how he was so happy to finally

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Photos by Christopher Duggan



Sergeant Ritter, along with his wife Kristina and daughter Cheyenne, stop for a photo by the gravesite of former Air Force 1st Lt. George E. Jones at Arlington National Cemetery May 28.

Staff Sgt. Gary Ritter, combat arms instructor for the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center at Fort Dix, N.J., gives a POW/MIA bracelet to Kristine Galemmo, daughter of former Air Force 1st Lt. George E. Jones of Aberdeen, Miss., during a special dinner at a hotel in the Washington, D.C., area May 27. Sergeant Ritter held on to a POW/MIA bracelet bearing Lieutenant Jones' name for 19 years and presented that bracelet to Kristine on Memorial Day 2007.

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return it to my brother's family."

During the dinner, in a special way, Sergeant Ritter gave the bracelet to Lieutenant Jones' youngest daughter, Kristine, 41, who accepted it with very few words to say.

"We honestly didn't know what he had planned going into this dinner," Mrs. Shelby added.

Lieutenant Jones has two daughters – Kristine and Jennifer – who were 1 and 2 years old when his B-52 disappeared into the South China Sea, Mrs. Shelby said. When Lieutenant Jones was laid to rest in Arlington in 1997, the oldest daughter, Jennifer, received the folded American flag in honor of her father's sacrifice. Because of that, Sergeant Ritter wanted Kristine to have something special representing her father as well.

"It was a beautiful thing that he did," Mrs. Shelby said. "Sergeant Ritter is a grand representation of humanity. He bought that bracelet when he was just a boy and held on to it for 19

years just to make this effort to find our family. It certainly is special."

"I returned the bracelet to the youngest daughter because I felt this would shine the light on her father and what kind of person he was," Sergeant Ritter said. "She began to cry and so did I."

The day after the dinner, Memorial Day, everyone made plans to meet up at Arlington at Lieutenant Jones' grave. This was the final step in Sergeant Ritter's journey.

"We were so happy for Gary because he had never been to Arlington," Mrs. Shelby said. "The cemetery was decorated so beautifully, and this was the first time our family would see the actual grave stone for my brother. It wasn't complete when we had the burial in 1997."

Once everyone gathered around Lieutenant Jones' gravesite, they held a small ceremony for the fallen Airman.

"We sang 'Amazing Grace,' and we also sang a prayer that's special to our family," Mrs. Shelby said.

At that moment, Mrs. Shelby said she realized how special this all was. Four years after her brother went missing, she vowed she "would not let him die again."

She said for the past 36 years she has spent an average of two weeks a year with her brother's daughters and their families and "celebrated life." Having them there for the 10-year reunion at Arlington along with Sergeant Ritter and his family was another celebration.

"We've adopted Sergeant Ritter, his wife and his daughter into our family," Mrs. Shelby said. "His story is now a part of ours and is more expression of life. That is what my brother was about — he was about life. George Emerson Jones was a family guy, and we're all still gathering because of him."

One piece of colored metal with the engraved name of a Mississippi native brought families together – something Sergeant Ritter said he never quite realized could happen. Sergeant Ritter said he always thought the bracelet truly belonged to the family though. "I was just keeping it safe," he said.

Sergeant Ritter added, "This experience has been overwhelming to me. I would do this again if given the chance. I now have an extended family. I showed them dedication, empathy and respect for their dead loved one, a person I never knew, and they gave me love in return. How beautiful is that?!"

Though that journey ended and in many ways still continues, Sergeant Ritter began a new one when he learned Lieutenant Jones made it home.

"After I found out Lieutenant Jones had returned officially, I bought a new bracelet," Sergeant Ritter said. "This new bracelet also has the name of a Mississippian — 1st Lt. Danny Entrican. I've been wearing this bracelet for eight years. I would love to return this bracelet to the family when either he or his remains return home as well."

Hometown patriotism and Patriot Day

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

FORT DIX, N.J. – The rain clouds and the darkness were slowly closing in on the color guard as they were leading the July 4th parade in Bessemer, Mich.

From where I stood with my two daughters, you could see people standing up and taking off hats as the color guard approached.

It took a bit longer before the color guard with veterans from all the services wound its way past us. When they arrived, it was a magical moment as they came with all the colors showing brightly amid the darkening skies.

Everyone stood up as they slowly marched by. My daughters took a brief glance back at me as I snapped to attention even though I wore civilian dress.

My heart was pounding loudly in my chest because I was so proud – proud because everyone, young and old, stood up and did their best to show respect to the American flag as it passed. I was proud to see how my daughters have learned in their young years how the flag means so much to so many people. It was a moment of pride for me and my hometown area.

It was also the second time I had witnessed it that day. This was an evening parade and earlier in the day I watched a nearly identical action take place in my neighboring hometown of Wakefield, Mich. People stood and also cheered as the color guard of veterans marched on to lead the parade.

These events of hometown patriotism have been a common occurrence for as long as I can remember, and it's not the only time I see the honor, dignity and respect the American flag gets in my hometown and in the towns nearby. To everyone who lives there, being patriotic is a duty of all Americans – 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year.

It's a lesson we all can adhere to, particularly as we remember the fateful events of Sept. 11, 2001, on Patriot Day 2007. I can recall when that event took place. I was stationed in North Dakota, and some of the first people I talked to were from my hometown area. They were, like many Americans, devastated at how many lives were lost in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania, and were bound and determined to support whatever had to be done.

I can recall hearing comparisons to Pearl Harbor that started World War II for America. I can recall hearing sympathetic voices to the victims of those terrible terrorist attacks. That day, the patriotism in my hometown didn't



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

A color guard carrying the American flag starts the Independence Day parade July 4, 2007, on the main street of Bessemer, Mich.

waver, it just grew stronger.

Many of us in the military come from similar hometowns from across the country, showing our patriotism in a variety of ways. It's those silent majority of people who love the American way of life and are proud of what the flag and the people behind it stand for that makes hometown patriotism so great.

On every anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks, I've tried to do something in remembrance of the victims of that day no matter where I might have been. It may have been participating in an official memorial ceremony or as simple as stopping and having a moment of silence near a flag at half-mast. It's the respect I learned from the hometown patriots I grew up with.

Since Sept. 11, our lives have not been easier – it's no doubt that it's been harder as we fight the Global War on Terrorism. Hometowns have lost heroes in that fight – mine included, but the patriotism carries on as strong as ever.

I learned long ago to respect the warfighter amongst us. As a child, my grandfather Arne Sturkol often told me of a man named John "Chummy" Ozzello. He befriended him while frequenting the town bowling alley for a league. Mr. Ozzello was the owner at the time.

Grandpa would retell stories he'd heard from Chummy. He'd talk of Mr. Ozzello's exploits in the U.S. Army and was proud of the hero Chummy was.

Over the years, even after Chummy left the bowling business and rejoined the Army for a stint, I got to learn more about Mr. Ozzello and how he was one of many heroes from my hometown.

He'd been mayor of the town, served on the city council and does to this day. He's been an inspiration to others and is a steadfast hometown patriot if I ever saw one.

And so the hometown patriot march goes. This Patriot Day, I know Chummy, and others, will remember Sept. 11 and let others know how important being a patriot is.

You see that day, the 4th of July, I saw Chummy in the color guard. Here was my grandpa's old friend marching as though he was fresh out of basic training at Fort Dix in the 1950s. It was as though grandpa was marching with him.

Chummy makes me proud. My hometown makes me proud. And that's why I serve — to be a patriot and to remember those patriots who came before us and who are amongst us. Please, remember your hometown patriots every Patriot Day.



Photo by Gerre Lynn

Remembering Sept. 11, 2001

Chief Master Sgt. Jeffry Helm, command chief master sergeant for the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center, speaks during a Sept. 11 remembrance ceremony in Barnegat, N.J. Chief Helm was the guest speaker for the event.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Rebecca Danet

Recognizing Air Force's 60th anniversary

Anchor Harry Smith, CBS' "The Early Show," shakes hands with Tech. Sgt. Scott Sturkol from the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center during filming for the show Sept. 26 in New York City. Along with Sergeant Sturkol, Airmen from McGuire Air Force Base, N.J., and cadets and cadre from Det. 560 of the Reserve Officer Training Corps program at Manhattan College participated in the event observing the 60th anniversary of the Air Force.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

Air Force anniversary re-enlistment

Capt. Robert Prausa, 421st Combat Training Squadron Eagle Flag flight commander, re-enlists Tech. Sgt. Vivian Bender, also from the 421st, during a ceremony in front of the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center, Fort Dix, N.J., Sept. 18. Sergeant Bender wanted her last re-enlistment to take place on the Air Force's 60th anniversary.

The Expeditionary Airman Salutes ...

Promotions for July, August, September

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

To first lieutenant
Steven Jacinto

To senior master sergeant
Curtis Littlejohn

To master sergeant
Jeffrey Ball

To technical sergeant
Ryan Thompson

Robert Metrision
Jonathan Cruikshank
Kerry Cook
David Balista

Gregory Hasecuster
Donice Colbert
Norman Ramos
Angenette Caballero
To staff sergeant
Brian Lockhart
James Chubb
Jaqueline Baker
Anthony Richards
To airman first class
Zachary Palafox
George Son

USAF EC quarterly winners

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

Company Grade Officer of the Quarter
Capt. Douglas Blough
Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Quarter
Master Sgt. Brian Zeiger
Noncommissioned Officer of the Quarter
Staff Sgt. Joshua Crowe
Airman of the Quarter
SrA Jacqueline Baker
Civilian of the Quarter
Mr. Walt Ingram

Selected

A special congratulations to **Senior Airman Maria Mendez**, USAF EC commander's support staff, on her selection for promotion to staff sergeant.

MOS' Detachment 1 opens new building



Courtesy photo

Brig. Gen. (now Maj. Gen.) Kip Self, U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center commander, and Lt. Col. Darryl Stankevitz, Mobility Operations School Detachment 1 commander, cuts the ribbon for the new building at Hurlburt Field, Fla., in August.

By Tech. Sgt. Kristina Newton
1st Special Operations Wing
Public Affairs

HURLBURT FIELD, Fla. — The U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center Mobility Operations School's Detachment 1 opened the doors of its new building in a dedication ceremony in August.

The new building provides much needed office space and classrooms, which will allow the school to run simultaneous courses.

Brig. Gen. (now Maj. Gen.) Kip Self, U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center Commander, was the guest speaker, and commanders from many units on base attended the ceremony.

General Self said he was very pleased to see so many people show their support for the detachment.

"Being a tenant unit can be difficult," said General Self.

"It's really nice to see the support of all the base agencies and know we are part of the family."

General Self expressed his great appreciation for the work the detachment does and how many obstacles can be overcome with the space provided by the new building.

"This is a big step in our legacy of preparing warriors," he said.

The building is an existing structure which was renovated after the previous unit vacated it.

The renovation provides seven new classrooms and office space for the 25 instructors who work for the detachment.

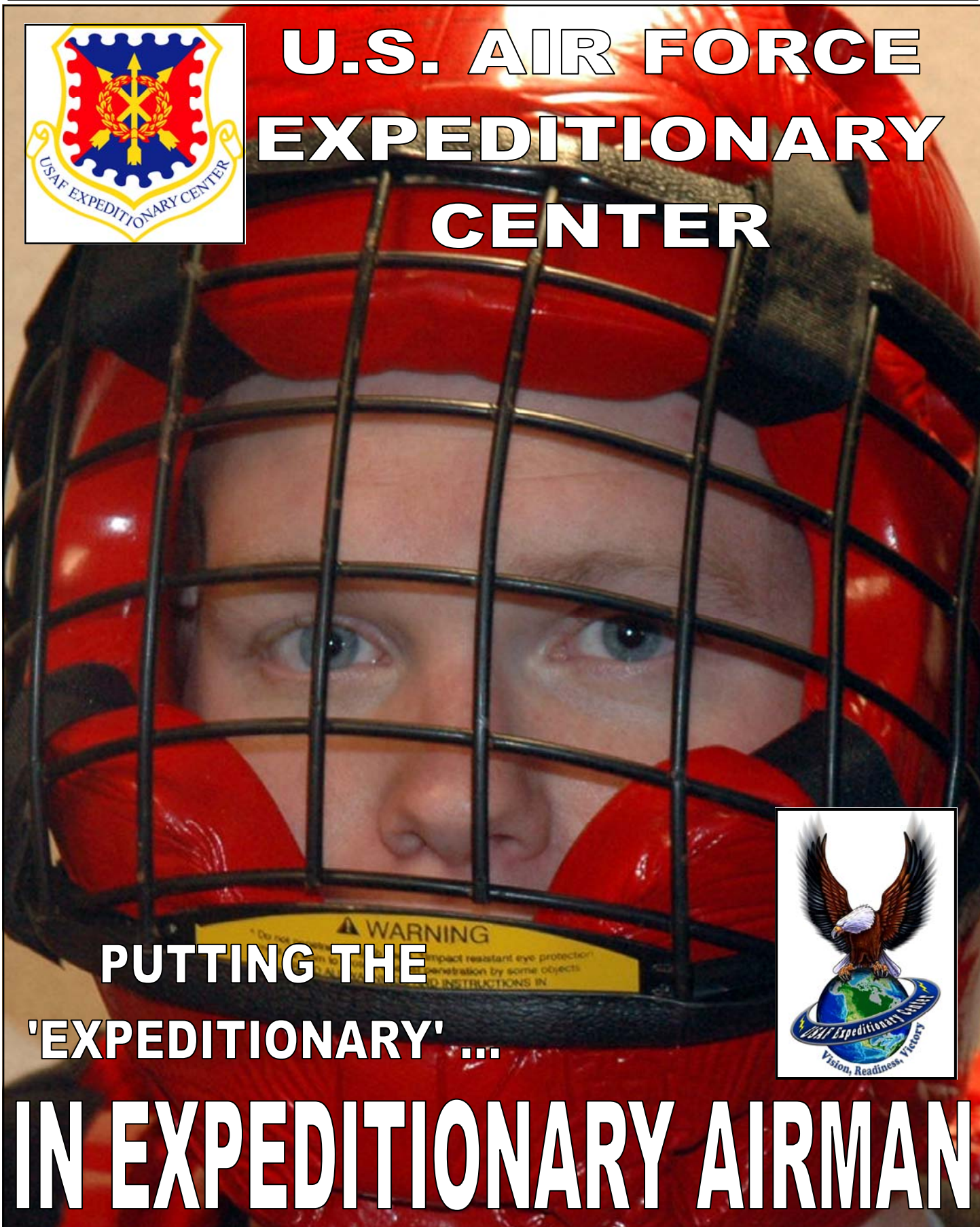
"In the past, we only had three classrooms which limited the courses we could teach," said Lt. Col. Mark Mears, Det. 1 director of operations.

"We had more than enough instructors but we were limited by available space. This really eliminates our scheduling obstacles."

The detachment teaches four courses which cover many aspects of air mobility operations to include the Director of Mobility Forces Course. From air operations centers to natural disaster and humanitarian response, the MOS instructors teach officers and NCOs all about air mobility.



U.S. AIR FORCE EXPEDITIONARY CENTER



PUTTING THE
'EXPEDITIONARY' ...



IN EXPEDITIONARY AIRMAN