



# THE EXPEDITIONARY AIRMAN

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



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

## GENERATING KNOWLEDGE

Staff Sgt. Jamie Widrig, repairs the bearings for a generator in one of the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center's campus buildings June 5. Sergeant Widrig is the Mobility Operations School Mobile Command and Control Generator Course director and also serves as an instructor for the course.

### BEHIND THE LINES



USAF EC command chief bids farewell

Page 2



'Eagles' earn tech, master stripes

Page 3



Center hosts GLOMO 2008

Page 4

Battlelab initiative may help aircrews become 'paperless'



Page 6



'Eagle' presents POW/MIA bracelet to family

Pages 16-17

USAF EC members on deployment



Pages 20-21

# From the commander...

## 'We move as a team'

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

Since the resignation of our top two Air Force leaders (in June), there have been some questions as to the impact on our Service. From my perch, there is no place with greater impact on the immediate

threat than the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center. We have focused our efforts on the Airmen at risk.

I believe we have the Secretary of Defense's objectives as our own. However, you can see what happens when leaders get complacent and standards are not enforced.

I challenge all of us to keep one eye on the target of producing the world's best Expeditionary Airman while keeping the other eye on backing each other up.

We move as a team and as the Chief articulates our Air Force and our Center are greater than any one individual.

Our mission requires the full spectrum of the Center's expertise drawn from civilian, uniformed and contract professionals. The Center is far too important to be scuttled by an incident of safety or breach of regulatory guidance.

Stay the course, be vigilant and continue to provide the best "Airpower ... From the Ground Up."



## USAF EC command chief thankful for time with 'Eagles'

By Chief Master Sgt.  
Jeffrey Helm  
U.S. Air Force  
Expeditionary Center  
Command chief master sergeant

Wow, my time at the Expeditionary Center has flown by!

When I was hired as the Command Chief in Dec 2006, I knew very little about who you were or what you did.

However, over time I have watched you train more Airmen going to the deployed areas of responsibility than anybody else in the Air Force.

Additionally, thanks to Maj. Gen. Kip Self's phenomenal strategic communication plan, a lot more people in the Air Force also know who we are and what we do.

It has been a privilege to see what goes on behind the scenes to move the 23,000-plus students through the Expeditionary Center every year.



This Center has great leaders who care about you and make sure you have what you need in order to carry out your mission.

I tried to list all of the accomplishments that you've had in the past 19 months, but the list was too long, so I'll just say "great job."

If you are ever in Dallas, Texas, stop by the Army and Air Force Exchange Service headquarters and say hello. If there's anything that AAFES can do for you, please ask...I'll do my best to help you out.

Finally, I want to thank each of you for allowing me to serve as your Command Chief. The time here has truly been the highlight of my career.

I'm honored to be known as an "Eagle" and will always wear that title with pride.

Be proud of being an "Eagle" and remember you're providing the Air Force's "Airpower...From the Ground Up!"

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# PROMOTIONS

## Eagles selected for promotion to technical, master sergeant

Congratulations to the following U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center 'Eagles' selected for promotion to technical and master sergeant June 26.



### To master sergeant

- Dianna M. Ackerman
- Todd A. Cooper
- William A. Clemens
- Eric C. Gibson
- Philip L. Griffin
- Daniel D. Morris
- Joseph W. Neubauer

- Cecilio Robles Jr.
- Duane C. Rowles
- Charles C. Sherman
- Kelly W. Tabor

### To technical sergeant

- Brian L. Arrington
- Eric C. Brewster
- Thomas M. Carpino
- Cuthbert C. Casimir
- Paul R. Evans
- John W. Haynes
- Jason W. Lowery



- Daniel E. May
- Jonathon P. McClure
- Eric J. Morgan
- Brennon T. Pierce
- Luke J. Plemons
- Derik B. Poppino
- Jules M. Scalisi
- Shane J. Spice
- James Westdorp

Also congratulations to Airman 1st Class Zachary Palafox who was selected for senior airman below-the-zone in June.

# RETIREMENTS

## USAF EC vice completes 30 years



*Photo by Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol*

Maj. Gen. Kip Self, U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center commander, watches as Vickie Stiles places a retirement pin on her husband, Col. Chuck Stiles, USAF EC vice commander, during his retirement ceremony May 22 in the Center's Grace Peterson Hall. Colonel Stiles was the vice commander since March 2005 and retired with 30 years of service.

## IMA to commander retires after 30 years



*Photo by Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol*

Maj. Gen. John Howlett, mobilization augmentee to the commander of Air Mobility Command, Scott Air Force Base, Ill., and Col. Tracy Scott, individual mobilization augmentee to the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center commander, stand at attention during the reading of the retirement orders during Colonel Scott's retirement ceremony May 16 in the Center's Grace Peterson Hall. Colonel Scott arrived at the Center in 2004 and retired after 30 years of service.

# Global Mobility Wargame 2008 explores the future of air mobility

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

From June 16 to 20 within the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center, wartime planners from across the Air Force, Army and coalition nations investigated future concepts in air mobility through Global Mobility Wargame, or GLOMO, 2008.

“GLOMO helps shape Air Mobility Command’s strategic planning via evaluation of air mobility and logistics capabilities 12 years in the future,” said Lt. Col. Andrew Jillions, from the Mobility Operations School and the USAF EC’s team chief for GLOMO 2008. “Given the future global environment, GLOMO helps identify opportunities to improve air mobility and logistics effectiveness and efficiency.”

First held in 2002, GLOMO is an annual event bringing together people who can help the Air Force’s and Department of Defense’s global mobility and logistics systems better plan and build new concepts and ideas. According to Colonel Jillions, GLOMO helps transform the Air Force into more efficient ways to complete its mobility business.

“For GLOMO 2008, we explore service, joint and interagency warfighting concepts,” Colonel Jillions said. “Biggest of all, GLOMO 2008 helps develop Air Force force-flow for Unified Engagement 2008.”

Unified Engagement 2008 is an Air Force wargame exercise designed to examine applications in aerospace power to support warfighting commanders-in-chief. During UE 2006, an Air Force News story said the purpose of UE is “to investigate emerging Air Force, sister service, joint and multi-national operational concepts and capabilities, learn how to prevent technological, strategic and operational surprise, and to advance coordination among global security partners.”

“Unified Engagement helps examine challenges commanders stay awake thinking about — 12 years into the future,” Colonel Jillions said. “We’re using the same type of concept with GLOMO 2008.”

Retired Gen. Charles “Tony” Robertson, former U.S. Transportation Command and Air Mobility Command commander, is serving as the senior mentor for GLOMO 2008. He said GLOMO 2008 will have a lasting impact on future operations.

“GLOMO 2008 will shape future U.S. and Coalition mobility concepts and ensure we are



*Photo by Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol*  
**Participants for the Global Mobility Wargame, or GLOMO, 2008, including some from the Royal Australian Air Force, work in the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center June 18. GLOMO, which began in 2002, helps shape Air Mobility Command’s strategic planning by evaluating air mobility and logistics capabilities 12 years into the future. It is also a pre-cursor to the Air Force wargame exercise — Unified Engagement 2008.**

responsible stewards of tax payer’s assets,” General Robertson said. “Our global reach capability enables our military to be very responsive to any worldwide crisis. GLOMO helps us create the mobility programs, and exercise the systems, that will be needed by Joint and Coalition Forces in future conflicts.”

This year’s edition of GLOMO is also investigating, and factoring in, a changing world environment where even the smallest factor, such as the price of fuel, can affect the future of air mobility.

“GLOMO 2008 also explores the risks of mobility air forces’ reliance on petroleum-based fuels,” Colonel Jillions said. “We’re looking at learning and understanding more about the opportunities and implications of using alternative energy sources.”

Wargames such as GLOMO have historically helped the Air Force be better prepared. In terms of doctrine, according to Air Force Doc-

trine Document 1-1, Leadership and Force Development, “wargames offer additional tools for developing and evaluating competencies of individuals and organizations.”

AFDD 1-1 points to the first GLOMO as an example. “In August 2002, the Global Mobility Wargame analyzed and experimented with how the Air Force and Defense Department global mobility and logistics systems must come into play before and during the fight to make sure all the necessary people and equipment are deployed to the right place at the right time to meet mission requirements.”

Brig. Gen. S. “Taco” Gilbert, Director of Strategic Plans, Requirements and Programs at Headquarters AMC, Scott Air Force Base, Ill., and the Game Director for GLOMO, said, “GLOMO 2008 is providing insights that directly influence the progress of programs and employment concepts which will shape the future of mobility forces.”

# Air Mobility Battlelab initiative aims to give aircrews newer 'paperless' option

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

Whether it's referencing Air Force instructions or a flight manual, aircrews are required to have documents on hand when completing their mission.

The Air Mobility Battlelab, located in the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center on Fort Dix, N.J., developed an initiative to make document reference lighter and leaner in the future with the Paperless Aircrew Publications e-Reader, or PAPER, initiative.

Spearheaded by the battlelab's Maj. Dan Adler, project officer, the PAPER initiative looks into providing a standard, convenient method for aircrews to view electronic documents differently than the standard laptop computer currently used by the Air Force.

"Our proposed solution to this is a portable aircrew publications reader that allows aircrews to access their publications anywhere, anytime," Major Adler said. "Through numerous personal interviews, we learned that having something more portable and lighter than a laptop could amplify mission success for aircrews."

Enter the iRex Iliad e-Reader, a "commercial-off-the-shelf" portable publications reader able to store and read data from USB-compatible flash drives. This device was selected by the AMB to demonstrate the initiative.

"Aircrew personnel were given the e-readers for a multi-day period of time to use and evaluate the systems," Major Adler said. "The demonstration also included members using the e-readers in and out of aircraft during day and night operations."

As part of the demonstration, Major Adler set out with seven main objectives for the e-readers. First and foremost was ensuring electro-magnetic interference, or EMI, compliance was met as established in Air Force regulations. To do this, Major Adler sent the device to Concurrent Technologies Corporation, a Department of Defense-approved test facility, for an EMI test.

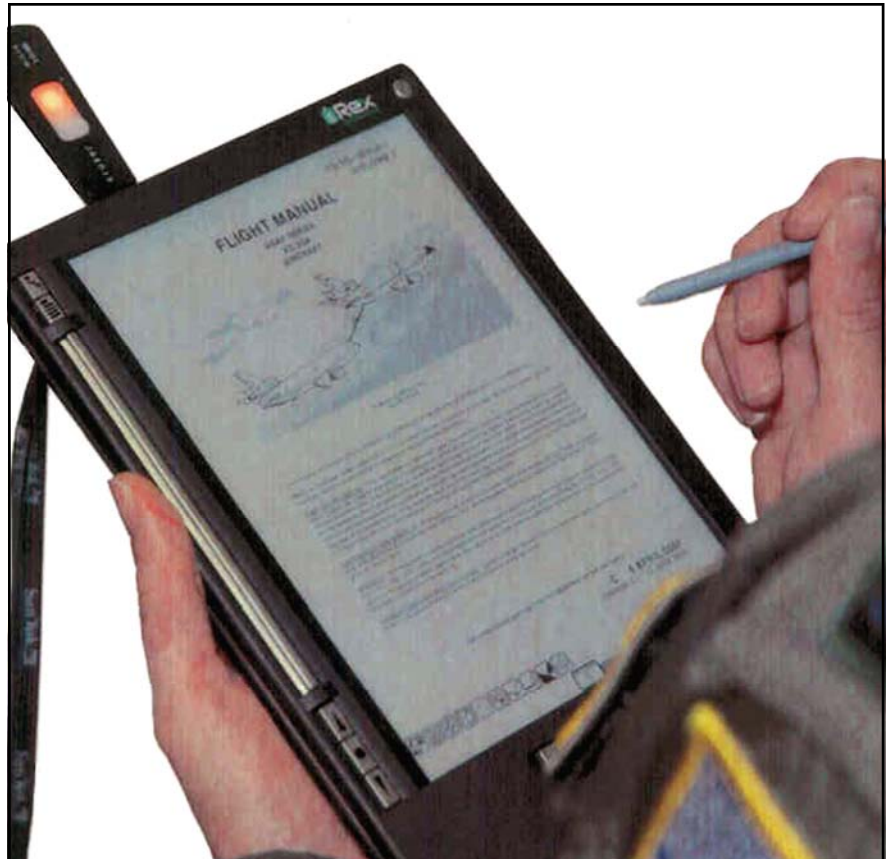
"The results show the device's EMI transmissions were well below specified limits," Major Adler said.

Other objectives focused on evaluating the impact of emergency egress, its suitability for approaches and departures, assessing night vision imaging system compatibility, data update procedures, network security measures and functionality as well as ease of use.

"From our feedback, it was determined by a large percentage of those who used the e-reader that it was easy to use, read and control," Major Adler said. "A large percentage also said using the e-readers was easier for them to do their jobs."

The demonstration feedback also indicated some possible improvements that would help durability and readability, Major Adler said. However, overall, the demonstration proved the initiative as a success.

"PAPER successfully demonstrated the ability to store and display electronic publications on a commercial-off-the-shelf device," Major



U.S. Air Force Photo Illustration by Art Tollefson

**The iRex Iliad e-Reader, a "commercial-off-the-shelf" portable publications reader able to store and read data from USB-compatible flash drives was the device used by the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center's Air Mobility Battlelab for their demonstration of the Paperless Aircrew Publications e-Reader initiative. Through the AMB's work, the reader, or one like it, is being recommended to help aircrews carry less paper on their flying missions.**

Adler said. "It showed that a small portable device, other than a laptop computer, could replace the majority of individual issue aircrew publications and Air Force instructions."

Lt. Col. Jeffrey Lathrop, Air Mobility Battlelab commander, said in his recommendation for the device that it can help aircrews perform their mission with more ease and capability.

"Aircrews look for every edge to improve their work environment and perform the mission better," Colonel Lathrop said. "Through further study and analysis, I believe a suitable device can be chosen for this effort."

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

# Portable electronic power initiative energizes possibilities for aeromedical evacuations

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

An Air Mobility Battlelab initiative could “energize” new possibilities for aeromedical evacuations in the future.

Termed the Portable Electronic Power Supply for Aeromedical Evacuations, or PEPSAE, initiative, it addresses the problem of “heavy and cumbersome” avionic frequency converters used to power medical equipment on aeromedical evacuation missions.

“Besides being heavy — almost 80 pounds, the avionic converters pose possible electrical sparking and tripping hazards from the electrical cable assembly systems,” said Master Sgt. Eric Allain, project officer for the PEPSAE initiative. “With our initiative, our proposed solution was to provide a small, portable, reliable, lightweight, zero-emission and spark resistant AC/DC power supply to each patient’s medical equipment without the use of the aircraft power systems.”

To meet the needs of the initiative, the AMB, located in the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center on Fort Dix, N.J., teamed up with Jadoo Power Systems from Folsom, Calif., to design and fabricate a fuel cell and battery power system.

“This power system consists of two key subsystems — the power production subsystem and the fuel storage subsystem,” Sergeant Allain said.

Each subsystem has proven capabilities, added Sergeant Allain. With the power pro-



Photo by Art Tollefson

**An Air Force medical technician from the 375th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, Scott Air Force Base, Ill., prepares a portable electronic power system for use with aeromedical power equipment as part of an Air Mobility Battlelab demonstration at Scott in February 2008. The demonstration was for the battlelab’s Portable Electronic Power Supply for Aeromedical Evacuations, or PEPSAE, initiative. The demonstration proved successful and the Air Mobility Battlelab, located in the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center at Fort Dix, N.J., has recommended it for use to Air Mobility Command.**

duction subsystem, there is a battery backup system that operates up to 60 minutes and the subsystem itself can power 310 watts of DC power and 255 watts of AC power.

The fuel storage subsystem operates with four metal hydride hydrogen fuel storage canisters which can be refilled by a compressed hydrogen tank. Additionally, one fuel canister alone can operate equipment for a critical care air transport team, or CCATT, for more than 12 hours. Combined, run time is more than 48 hours.

To learn more about the effectiveness of the power system, the AMB held a five-day concept demonstration at Scott Air Force Base, Ill., with the 375th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron.

Through the demonstration they worked to meet four objectives to include using the power system to support medical equipment during standard missions for both AE and CCATT, to support pre-flight check require-

ments for AE equipment, and assess the suitability of the system’s technical instructions and training.

“Overall, the PEPSAE demonstrated it was capable of powering up to four litters of CCATT medical equipment for more than 12 hours — a great result,” Sergeant Allain said. “The system is lighter and provides significant advantages to the current system in use. Feedback from questionnaires filled out helped us to look at possible improvements for the system. The contractor, Jadoo, has responded with plans for a next generation PEPSAE.”

Lt. Col. Jeffrey Lathrop, AMB commander, recommended the initiative be adopted by AMC.

“PEPSAE promises to provide a continuous power capability of any duration to CCATT medical equipment from field hospital to aircraft to main base hospital giving critical care patients overall superior care,” Colonel Lathrop said.



Air Force graphic

**This graphic shows the portable size of the power system for the Jadoo electronic power supply.**



Photo by Art Tollefson

An Airman from the 816th Global Mobility Squadron, McGuire Air Force Base, N.J., uses a push-button control to test the lifting of a deployable hydraulic lift as part of a demonstration with the Air Mobility Battlelab April 1 at McGuire.

## Deployable hydraulic lift initiative aims to boost CRW capabilities

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

Contingency response wings throughout the Air Force rely on their ability to move people and cargo quickly for fast deployment. An Air Mobility Battlelab initiative is looking to make that process even easier.

The battlelab, located in the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center, is addressing a CRW process for cargo where they do not have a deployable asset able to download rolling stock and palletized cargo from cargo loaders to the ground. They're doing this through the Deployable Hydraulic Lift Initiative, said Tech. Sgt. Joseph Jones, AMB's project manager for the initiative.

"CRWs currently rely on in-place ramps, which can cause extreme delays in aircraft throughput," Sergeant Jones said. "When ramps have not been available, non-standard techniques were used which could have resulted in mishaps. Our proposed solution is a hydraulic lift able to handle pallet trains and provide download-to-ground capability for rolling stock."

The Air Mobility Battlelab worked with the Chant Engineering Company of New Britain, Penn., to modify an existing hydraulic lifting device to make it more deployment friendly. The result is a stationary hydraulic lift platform capable of accepting air cargo pallet trains with rolling stock from the Halvorsen 25,000-pound capable cargo loader down to ground level. The hydraulic lift itself has a 25,000-pound load capacity.

Once the lift was operational, the next step was to hold a demonstration. The AMB chose the 816th Global Mobility Squadron from the 621st Contingency Response Wing on McGuire Air Force Base, N.J. Also participating were subject matter experts from the Expeditionary Center's Mobility Operations School.

"We had four main objectives for the demonstration," Sergeant Jones

said. "We first wanted to see how the lift could move rolling stock from the Halvorsen loader to ground level. We also wanted to determine if rolling stock could be manually moved from a Halvorsen loader to the lift without the assistance of other material handling equipment."

They also looked to determine if the deployable hydraulic lift could fit on to a single pallet for airlift and if two trained Airmen could assemble the deployable lift in one hour.

"On all the objectives, the criterion was met," Sergeant Jones said. "For example, on the assembly demonstration, the two Airmen put together the lift in 35 minutes which was well before our 60-minute time limit."

Tech. Sgt. George Gonzalez, from the 816th GMS who led his squadron's participation in the demonstration, said the deployable lift will save contingency response Airmen time when loading and unloading planes.

"It will help a lot — especially out in a deployed location," Sergeant Gonzalez said.

"When we're deployed, we have to offload cargo from planes like the KC-10 Extender, and without a lift like this it takes a lot of time. The lift is nice because we can assemble it quickly and pack it up to take with us rather easily as well. It really is a big timesaver."

Sergeant Jones said the demonstration showed the deployable hydraulic lift could make a real impact for contingency response Airmen.

"The deployable hydraulic lift performed at, or above, all requirements demanded of it and was well received by others," Sergeant Jones said. "Our results gathered from the participants showed the system being safer, quicker and easier to use than non-traditional means."

According to Lt. Col. Jeffrey Lathrop, AMB commander, the deployable hydraulic lift concept is now being recommended by the battlelab to Air Mobility Command for development of a fielding strategy.

"The demonstration proved this idea has value and could greatly benefit field users," Colonel Lathrop said.

# 'General Self enlists new Airmen at Fort Dix MEPS



*Photos by Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol*

Maj. Gen. Kip Self, U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center commander, administers the oath of enlistment to five new Air Force enlistees at the Fort Dix Military Entrance Processing Station April 29 on Fort Dix, N.J. General Self took the opportunity to do the enlistment oath because one of the enlistees, Nicole Kazimer (left) is the daughter of Master Sgt. Joe Kazimer of the Center's 421st Combat Training Squadron and Tech. Sgt. Karyn Kazimer of the 108th Air Refueling Wing, McGuire Air Force Base, N.J.



(Above) General Self congratulates Nicole Kazimer on her enlistment into the Air Force. (Right) General Self makes it official by signing soon-to-be Airman Kazimer's enlistment papers.



# Artists reflect on visiting, documenting Expeditionary Center training, facilities

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

In late June, five artists from across the United States visited the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center to create future pieces of art for the Air Force Art Program.

Included in the visit were Mr. William Frake of Carmel, N.Y., Mr. John Finger of Walnut Creek, Calif., Ms. Tatiana El-Khoury of Los Angeles, Calif., Mr. James Bennett of Pipersville, Penn., and Mr. Steven Walker of Richmond, Va.

During their visit, they received a complete tour of Expeditionary Center facilities and witnessed training venues for the Air Force Phoenix Warrior Course and Air Force Exercise Eagle Flag — both on Fort Dix and at Naval Air Engineering Station Lakehurst.

“This was my first trip, but what I heard from some of the other artists was that this was also their best experience,” Mr. Walker said. “The trip was nothing like I expected and that was certainly a good thing.”

Mr. Walker, who says his favorite type of artwork is “landscapes”, operates a fine art studio for commercial and commissioned art in Virginia. He said going to the USAF EC was a “great first experience.”

“Although I’ve always admired the Air Force, I walked away with a far greater respect for



*Photos by Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol*

**Artist John Finger of Walnut Creek, Calif., paints a scene during a visit to a Fort Dix, N.J., range to document the Air Force Phoenix Warrior Training Course for the Air Force Art Program June 20. He was one of five artists visiting the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center and observing the courses offered to create future works of art for the program.**

what is done,” Mr. Walker said. “I came away with a lot of material to work from and now it’s

just a challenge to figure out what to focus on.”

The material Mr. Walker and the other artists will create eventually makes its way to the Air Force art collection — the world’s largest collection of aviation art, according to Mr. Russell D. Kirk, director of the Air Force Art Program at the Pentagon.

“We have approximately 9,500 works in the program, and receive approximately 100 to 125 per year,” Mr. Kirk said.

“Every two years we host the ‘Air Force Art Presentation’ with the Secretary of the Air Force and Chief of Staff of the Air Force as co-hosts. This is a function that officially accepts all of the artwork donated over the past two years. It features works from artists who’ve been documenting our mission.”

Mr. Bennett, who in the past has worked with comedian Jerry Seinfeld for illustrations for a book and has extensive experience as an illustrator, said he was able to gather a lot of good documentation from the Expeditionary Center visit for the works he plans to create.

“I thought, personally, the visit offered more interesting visuals, from a human perspective,

See **Artists**, Page 10



**Tatiana El Khouri, an artist from Los Angeles, Calif., takes photos of Airmen during combat first aid training for the Air Force Phoenix Warrior Training Course June 19 on a Fort Dix, N.J., range.**



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol  
**Artist James Bennett of Pipersville, Penn., sketches a scene during a visit to a Fort Dix, N.J., range to document the Air Force Phoenix Warrior Training Course for the Air Force Art Program June 20.**

#### Artists, from Page 9

than any other trip I'd been on previously," Mr. Bennett said. "Being able to photograph real (Airmen) in action, from a few feet away, was extraordinary."

"For someone like myself," Mr. Bennett said, "who uses personalities in most of my work, I look forward to seeing all of the reference we obtained. It was a side of the armed forces that I had not seen before and I appreciate the considerable efforts to achieve that."

Mr. Finger, an oil and watercolor painter, said he was glad to see the wide range of activities and capabilities the Expeditionary Center offers.

"We were able to see and be involved in a great variety of the aspects of the training going on at Fort Dix and at Lakehurst," Mr. Finger said. "Our contacts at each location we visited made our access to the visual materials we seek exceptional."

For Mr. Frake, whose illustration work includes creating the character "Scrat the Squirrel" for the Ice Age animated movie series, said he was thankful for the opportunity to visit.

"I cannot write words enough to thank you and all the Air Force personnel during the trip to all the bases," Mr. Frake said. "You had me at hello. If I wasn't under film contract, I would have signed up then and now."



**Artists Tatiana El Khouri (sitting), Steven Walker (center) and William Frake sketch a scene during a visit to a Fort Dix range June 20.**

The visit also provided Ms. El-Khouri, vice president of the Society of Illustrators of Los Angeles, all she needed to create works of art for the Air Force.

"I really enjoyed participating in the art program at the Air Force Expeditionary Center," Ms. El-Khouri said. "The staff was very hospitable and open to explain their particular discipline and specialty at the center. The activities and experiences I received are invaluable and gave me a lot of material to inspire my painting for the program."

Mr. Kirk said he appreciates everyone's support and assistance as the Air Force Art Program continues to grow.

"This documentation helps tell the Air Force's story for many years in the future," Mr. Kirk said. "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, go to: <http://www.afapo.hq.af.mil/Presentation/main/Index.cfm>.



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

## 'Eagle' earns second Bronze Star, AFCAM

(Top left) Maj. Gen. Kip Self, U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center commander, pins on a Bronze Star on Tech. Sgt. Vandiver Hood June 3 during a special ceremony in the Center's Grace Peterson Hall on Fort Dix.

(Top right) Sergeant Hood addresses the audience after receiving his second Bronze Star and Combat Action Medal while his wife and father look on. Sergeant Hood, an explosive ordnance disposal craftsman, earned the medals for a deployment to Iraq as a member of an EOD team. Sergeant Hood has since moved to Pope Air Force Base, N.C.

## Expeditionary Center 'Eagle' leads a Patriot Guard Riders welcome home event



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

(Left) Tech. Sgt. Ryan Holmes, U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center Mobility Operations School, drives in the lead position for a convoy of Patriot Guard Riders while escorting home Staff Sgt. Peter Bundesen, 305th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, from the Philadelphia International Airport to McGuire Air Force Base, N.J., after Sergeant Bundesen returned from a deployment to Iraq.

(Above) The full contingent of the convoy as they approach the McGuire AFB Main Gate.

(Right) Sergeant Bundesen and his family.

The Patriot Guard Riders are "a diverse amalgamation of riders from across the nation who ride motorcycles and have an unwavering respect for those who risk their very lives for America's freedom and security," according to their Web site.





Photo by Staff Sgt. Samuel Rogers

Tech. Sgt. Keith Tartaglia (top center) and Staff Sgt. Paul Evans (bottom right), both instructors with the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center's 421st Combat Training Squadron, show students in the Advanced Contingency Skills Training Course 08-4 the proper way to hold an M-16 while performing a low crawl on a range on Fort Dix, N.J., April 8.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Samuel Rogers

(Above) Staff Sgt. Aaron Mills (left), Senior Master Sgt. Charles Johnson (right) and Staff Sgt Stephen Price (rear center) tend to simulated wounded patients while taking incoming fire from opposing forces during the combat first aid for ACST April 11.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Samuel Rogers

(Right) First Lt. Randi Norton provides security while fellow classmates attempt to carry simulated wounded patients to a safe area during combat first aid for ACST April 11.

(Below) Students carry off their simulated victim.

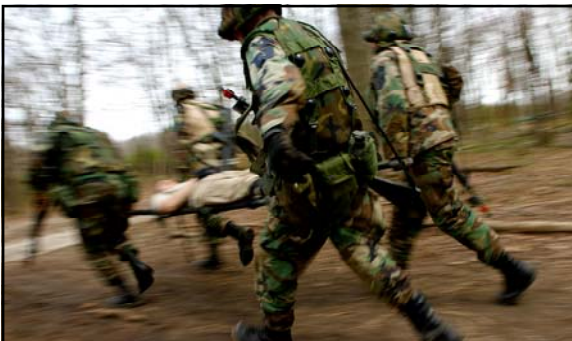


Photo by Staff Sgt. Samuel Rogers



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

Students exercise by their dormitory on Fort Dix before heading out for field training April 15.

## *Air Force chaplains, Birmingham Southern graduates meet up at Fort Dix*

By Chaplain (Maj.)  
Thomas B. Porter  
U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center

In early April I was browsing the Birmingham (Ala.) Southern Alumni Network on the Internet checking to see if there was an alumni group near me in New Jersey.

There's a north New Jersey group, but it's too far away. I was thinking how nice it would be to have an alumni group of military members closer to me with active duty, veterans or retired members.

A few days later, during the chaplain career field functional training for the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center's Advanced Contingency Skills Training Course, I was talking with the Air Force chaplains and chaplain assistants and the subject of where we came from came up. I shared that I was born in Wyoming, raised in Kansas, and my hometown is Huntsville, Ala.

One of the chaplains replied, "I'm from Alabama too."

I asked, "Where?" He responded, "Birmingham."

I asked further, "Where in Birmingham?" He stated, "Bush Hills." I responded, "I know where Bush Hills is — I went to Birmingham-Southern College." He responded with a resounding "me too!"

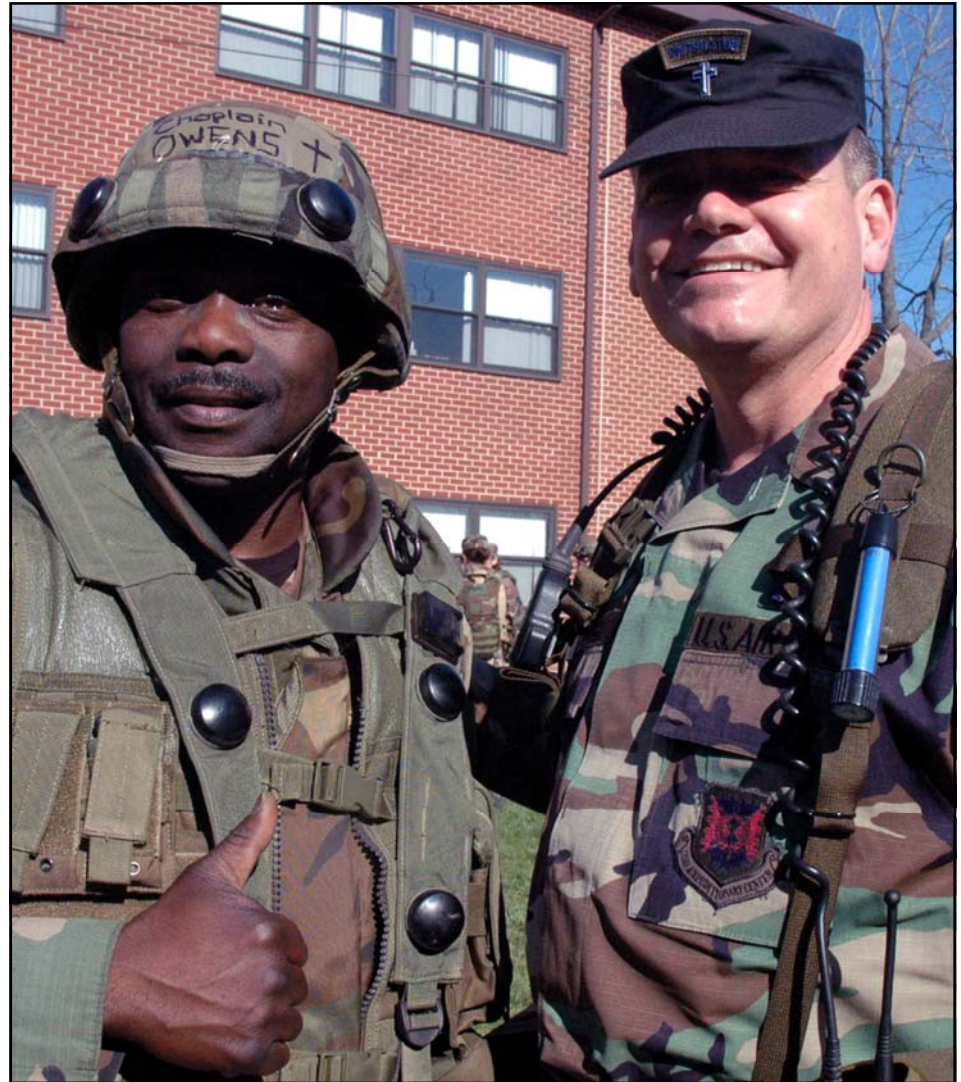
We talked throughout the day about our school experiences, from classes to fraternities. We even identified a few common friends. The BSC Class of 1979 and 1984 came together at the USAF EC. Who would have thought?

Chaplain (Maj.) Harold B. Owens, a 1984 Graduate of Birmingham-Southern was preparing for his third overall deployment to the Middle East and his second deployment to Iraq. This time, Chaplain Owens will serve at the Air Force Transportation Hospital, or AFTH, in Balad Air Base. He will provide pastoral care, counseling and trauma ministry to Soldiers and Airman who have been injured in combat.

Chaplain Owens has lived in Michigan for the past 10 years and currently serves as a hospice chaplain with William Beaumont Hospital in Troy, assistant pastor with St. John A.M.E. Church in River Rouge, and a chaplain with the Ohio Air National Guard in Toledo, Ohio. Chaplain Owens will be deployed for five months.

I currently serve as the course director and instructor for the Air Force chaplain career field functional training in ACST and as exercise evaluator for the Center's Air Force Exercise Eagle Flag.

I have 27 years of service as enlisted, Air Force Reserve and as an active duty officer. I've been stationed at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz., Bolling AFB, D.C., RAF Menwith Hill in the United Kingdom, Kirtland AFB,



*Photo by Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol*

**Chaplain (Maj.) Harold B. Owens, from the Ohio Air National Guard in Toledo, and Chaplain (Maj.) Thomas B. Porter, U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center chaplain, stop for a photo during training in the Advanced Contingency Skills Course 08-4 April 15 on Fort Dix, N.J. Both chaplains are graduates of Birmingham (Ala.) Southern College and chaplains in the Air Force. They reunited unexpectedly during ACST while Chaplain Porter was teaching a class.**

N.M., and now Fort Dix. I have also deployed three times — the last deployment with the Joint Special Operations Command in Iraq after which I was awarded the Bronze Star Medal.

In my current position, I've been training chaplains and chaplain assistants to forward deploy to a war zone and also teach Airmen, in general, how to survive combat stress and return home to their families and loved ones. This effort has been very rewarding.

To serve God and country has been a great opportunity for me. I've been able to do ministry in a broad expanse of service — caring for all. When we kneel to help, we are not checking

identification, or race, or creed. We are reaching out in faith to a person in need of love and compassion.

The U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center has been my most rewarding assignment to date because of the importance of what we do. There are also fringe benefits to my work, such as meeting up with Chaplain Owens.

That is one of the most fun parts of serving. In this case, I met not only a fellow chaplain, but a Birmingham-Southern College grad as well.

It is a small world.

# INSTRUCTORS ON DUTY



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

(Above) Staff Sgt. Jamie Widrig, Mobility Operations School Mobile Command and Control Generator Course director and instructor, shows students maintenance techniques June 5. (Right) Staff Sgt. Jonathon McClure, MOS Mobile C-2 Environmental Control Unit Course director and instructor, goes over schematics with two of his students June 5.



Tech. Sgt. Rudolph Stuart, 421st Combat Training Squadron, adds some motivation to students in the Air Force Phoenix Warrior Training Course June 5 during combat first aid training on a Fort Dix, N.J., range.



Staff Sgt. Nelson Brown, 421st Combat Training Squadron, shows students in the Air Force Phoenix Warrior Training Course the proper technique for conducting military operations in an urban terrain during an indoor "tape drills" class at the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center on Fort Dix, N.J., June 5.

# Expeditionary Center's air transportation instructors give their definition of 'aerial porter'

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

If you walk into the offices of the Mobility Operations School's Air Transportation Branch in the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center on Fort Dix, N.J., there is little doubt you'll bump into one of the many air transportation Airmen who work there as instructors.

In each calendar year, these instructors train thousands of Airmen from their career field "in-house" through the Aerial Port Operations Course, or, through distance learning courses such as the Air Terminal Operations Course or in many aerial port expeditor courses they teach. There's not a duty day that goes by where someone in their section is not updating a lesson plan or reworking a briefing.

Before these Airmen became instructors in the USAF EC, they spent their share of time building pallets and moving cargo. If you asked any of them, they'd also tell you they are extremely proud of their heritage.

For the Air Force air transportation career field, there are several nicknames these Airmen have termed it including "port dawg." However, the one nickname that seems most synonymous with the field is "aerial porter." So as to give more people an idea about their career field, a few of the instructors provided their definition of an "aerial porter."

"An aerial porter is mission driven," said Master Sgt. Jeff Norway, Air Transportation Branch superintendent, "meaning that we will tackle and accomplish whatever is asked of us ... even tasks well outside moving cargo and passengers.

"Port dawgs are acquisitions experts," Sergeant Norway said. "If we can spruce up a deployed environment, fixed objects may become decorations in tent city. We also play as hard as we work, which lends to the importance of our wingman concept. We are a distinct brotherhood of elite warriors moving the world anytime ... anywhere!"

Tech. Sgt. Jad Aoun, the branch's NCO in charge of e-learning design for on-line courses, said an aerial porter is an Airman who provides more than personnel and cargo processing.

"An aerial porter can do the rigging for air-drop bundles to include packing parachutes," Sergeant Aoun said. We can load equipment on aircraft, prepare cargo documentation and load plans and we supervise units engaged in aircraft loading operations. If there's cargo that has to be moved, you can bet an aerial porter has had a part in it."



*Photo by Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol*

**Staff Sgt. Todd Bartley, 305th Aerial Port Squadron, McGuire Air Force Base, N.J., helps move cargo into a KC-10 Extender on McGuire Air Force Base, N.J., April 8. McGuire is one of only a few bases to have an aerial port squadron coordinating cargo movements around the world.**

Staff Sgt. Paul Sweeney, an Aerial Port Operations Course instructor, defined an aerial porter as someone "who is proud to get the people and the cargo to the fight and then home from the fight."

"An aerial porter can feel proud to get the military's resources to and from the fight as fast as possible," Sergeant Sweeney said.

"An air transportation Airman works longer shifts and has fewer days off, but he is happy to be an 'aerial porter' or a 'port dawg!'" Sergeant Sweeney added. "An aerial porter gets to a deployed location first and is the last to leave a base when it forward deploys."

On any given day in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility supporting either Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom, hundreds of tons of cargo and thousands of passengers are moved to keep the mission going, Sergeant Sweeney said.

"Aerial porters keep that mission going," said Tech. Sgt. Ryan Holmes, director for the C-5 Aerial Port Expeditor Extended Learning Course. "Without us and the rest of the mobility air forces, wars could not be won."

Sergeant Holmes added his own definition, however he termed it in the form of an acronym and, really, he says his definition spells out what aerial porters are all about.

- P** — "Proud to serve."
- O** — "Obtain excellence in all we do."
- R** — "Respected by all."
- T** — "Truthful in all we say."
- D** — "Dedicated to the mission."
- A** — "Always put integrity first."
- W** — "Will never leave our wingman."
- G** — "Go above and beyond."
- S** — "Service before self."

# Remembering Major Woods: *A bracelet finds a home after 18 years*

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

For as long as he's been in the military, Maj. Phil Heseltine wore a very special bracelet.

After 18 years though, the original patina of the aluminum bracelet began to wear off.

Additionally, when he flew combat missions in the KC-135R Stratotanker for Operations Southern Watch, Northern Watch, Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom, he had to take the bracelet off. He says "that's why the crack developed on the front."

No matter what happened over 18 years of constant wear, one thing always stayed clearly visible on the POW/MIA bracelet — the name of "Maj. Robert F. Woods."

"I purchased the bracelet in 1990 during a POW/MIA event at my Air Force ROTC detachment," Major Heseltine said. "Since I was going to school in Utah, I wanted one from a local veteran."

Major Heseltine, a self-proclaimed "life-long Air Force brat," was commissioned in 1993 from the University of Utah in Salt Lake City. Besides flying as a pilot of a KC-135R, he's been an administrative officer, section commander, protocol officer, assistant operations officer and student, to his current duty as executive officer to the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center commander on Fort Dix, N.J. In all that time, he's had the bracelet. That is until April 9 when he gave the bracelet a new home with the family of Major Woods.

"When I first heard the news that he was found, it was through a phone call I received from my college friend, Mike Hawkins, a former Air Force major and fellow Air Force ROTC cadet," Major Heseltine said. "He told me he read about the positive identification of Major Woods' remains by the Joint POW-MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) in Hawaii."

The first press release Major Heseltine's friend drew information from came out on Nov. 30, 2007, from the Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office. In the release they noted Major Woods and his flying mate, Capt. Johnnie C. Cornelius of Maricopa County, Ariz., were identified by JPAC.

Additionally, the release said that on June 26, 1968, Major Woods and Captain Cornelius were flying a visual reconnaissance mission over



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

**Maj. Phil Heseltine, former U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center executive officer to the commander, Fort Dix, N.J., shows the POW/MIA bracelet he wore for 18 years. Major Heseltine presented the bracelet to the family of Maj. Robert F. Woods, whose name is on the bracelet, during the funeral for Major Woods at Arlington National Cemetery April 9.**

Quang Binh Province, Vietnam, when their O2-A Skymaster aircraft crashed in a remote mountainous area. The crew of another aircraft in flight saw no parachutes and reported hearing no emergency beeper signals.

Between 1988 and 2004, JPAC coordinated numerous visits to the crash site and recovered remains, personal effects and additional artifacts, the release shows. The key information came in 2006 when a joint team interviewed two former North Vietnamese soldiers who recalled the crash.

"The soldiers said that Woods and Cornelius were buried near the crash site," the release states. "In 2007, another joint team excavated the burial site identified by the Vietnamese soldiers. The team recovered additional human remains."

Now with news of the major's return, Major Heseltine wanted to find a way to contact the family.

"I had my friend Mike contact a reporter in Salt Lake City to tell the family I had his bracelet and would like to get it to them," Major Heseltine said. "The reporter called me, and after getting the approval of the family, connected me with Mrs. Lana Taylor — Major Woods' oldest daughter."

Within days, Major Heseltine and Mrs. Taylor were in contact with each other.

"I called and soon got through to Phil and then it was e-mails after that," Mrs. Taylor said.

The two set a date and time to meet — April 9 at 10 a.m. at Arlington National Cemetery, Va. As the time passed until the meeting at Arlington, Major Heseltine learned more about Major Woods and the similarities they shared. He learned how Major Woods had been a tanker pilot like him, had served in numerous combat missions like him, and was a devoted family man.

"The similarities in our aviation backgrounds are very striking," Major Heseltine said. "Not only are we both pilots, we are both air refueling pilots. There is also a bit of kinship in that when he was shot down he

See **Bracelet**, Page 17



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

**Major Heseltine, presents the POW/MIA bracelet he wore for 18 years to the Chuck Woods, son of Maj. Robert F. Woods, at Arlington National Cemetery April 9.**



**Bracelet**, from Page 16

was a major, not much older than I am now. It makes you think of what this would do to my family if I were to become MIA. How traumatic would it be to not know whether a parent is alive, in captivity, or had been killed?"

Participating in the funeral for Major Woods and giving the bracelet to the family was something Major Heseltine thought about constantly in the days leading up to April 9. "This was a very personal event for me and I wanted to ensure my role in the events was not overstated," Major Heseltine said. "Most importantly, I wanted to make sure I would not be an intrusion to this Woods family memorial. It was important to me that the event was handled in a respectful manner."

As the day came, Major Heseltine took the time to be prepared. He went to the Washington D.C. area a day before the funeral and made sure he had everything just right. Then on April 9, just minutes before 10 a.m., he and his wife, Jenny, and daughters, Alexa and Livie, made their way to Meeting Room C in the administration building of Arlington National Cemetery. There they waited for the Woods family to arrive.

"I'll admit I was nervous," Major Heseltine said. "But once they arrived and I met them I saw what wonderful people they all were."

The funeral started at 11 a.m., so the first hour was for family and friends of Major Woods to come together and remember his life and history. Major Heseltine was the first to do a presentation to the family with his bracelet. The original intent was to give it to Mrs. Taylor, but she said to present it to her brother Chuck, the only son and the youngest of Major Woods' children. Chuck was only 8 years old when his father disappeared.

"I'll tell you — that presentation is not one we are going to forget very soon," Mrs. Taylor said. "Of course I asked him to present it to my brother, but then no one knew that my brother was going to present the bracelet to his son Mackenzie. I know why though — it's because he's the only one carrying on the Woods name now. That all was very emotional."

Chuck Woods added, "It was a nice gesture for him to present it to the family."

As Mackenzie took the bracelet from his father, they shared a tear-filled hug. Mackenzie's surprise then turned to an appreciation and soon he was learning more about the bracelet from Major Heseltine. Watching all of this take place found its way to a special place in Mrs. Taylor's heart.

"What kind, kind compassionate people they are," Mrs. Taylor said. "I'm just ... overwhelmed. I mean he could have just sent the bracelet. He didn't have to do anything. He didn't even have to recognize the fact or let us know he had the bracelet, but he did right away. And e-mailing me and keeping in touch with me — he didn't have to do that."

Following the presentation, Major Heseltine participated in the funeral and saw the tribute the Air Force paid to Major Woods nearly 40 years after he disappeared.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

**Maj. Phil Heseltine, former U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center executive officer to the commander, Fort Dix, N.J., holds a POW/MIA bracelet he wore for 18 years bearing the name of Maj. Robert F. Woods, as he stops for a photo with his family and the Woods family during the funeral for Major Woods at Arlington National Cemetery April 9.**



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

**Major Heseltine places a flower on the casket for Major Woods at Arlington National Cemetery, Va., April 9.**

"It was a very surreal event," Major Heseltine said. "I barely remember all the Air Force Honor Guard members and the firing detail. As much as the family wanted me there I still couldn't help feeling like an intruder. While watching the events, I tried to imagine the frustration and sense of loss they must have felt during the past 40 years. I hope the memorial and internment will provide them the needed closure which

has impacted at least four generations."

Major Heseltine hopes to remain in touch with the family whether through e-mail, phone calls or other means.

"I gave Mrs. Taylor all my information," Major Heseltine said. "I would like to stay in contact with them, but that is entirely up to them. I feel like they embraced me and my family into theirs and I hope they do want to stay connected."

Additionally, Major Heseltine said, he plans on getting a new bracelet because POW/MIA men and women are people "we should never forget."

"We have to remember because there are 1,800-plus service members who are still unac-

counted for from Vietnam," Major Heseltine said. "Never leaving our people behind is one of the traits that make us, as Americans, different from the rest of the world."

And Major Heseltine is no ordinary American if you ask Mrs. Taylor. She is very appreciative of his willingness to honor a family.

"The fact that he was willing to put on his dress uniform and come down — and then to bring his family — I'm just overwhelmed," Mrs. Taylor said.

# EXPEDITIONARY HERITAGE

## A daughter recalls memories of an Air Force hero

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

On June 26, 1968, Maj. Robert F. Woods disappeared in the Quang Binh Province in Vietnam after the O2-A Skymaster he was flying crashed in a remote mountainous region.

On that same day, then 24-year-old Lana Taylor was living in Manassas, Va., with her husband of a few years — Tom. Her mother Mary, sisters Rene and Charlene and brother Chuck were living in Waco, Texas. For Lana's siblings and mother, Waco was supposed to be the last assignment and then it was to be life in military retirement.

Prior to that day, they were all waiting anxiously for the father and husband to return home from Vietnam with his 20-plus years in the military complete. However, when the news came that he disappeared, their whole world changed.

"Tom and I were living in our first home in Manassas," said Mrs. Taylor, a retired teacher who now lives in Mesa, Ariz. "And you know, I can't remember who called me. I can't remember if it was an official. It certainly was not my mother. But I can say this — my mother did not handle it well — ever, ever, ever. For nearly 30 years she refused to believe my father was dead."

Mrs. Taylor said when the phone call came,



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

**Mrs. Lana Taylor remembers her father, Maj. Robert F. Woods, during his funeral at Arlington National Cemetery, Va., April 9. Major Woods was buried nearly 40 years after he disappeared in Vietnam in June 1968.**

she immediately got on a plane with her husband at Dulles Airport in Virginia and flew straight to Waco.

"When we got there, we rented a car, and since we've never been there before, we were trying to find the house," Mrs. Taylor. "We passed my brother and sisters — they were just walking down the sidewalk. They weren't yelling or playing, they were just walking down the sidewalk.

"I told Tom, 'Don't stop the car, just go straight to the house,'" Mrs. Taylor said. "And my mother of course was surrounded by, thank God, other military wives. They were helping her until family arrived. And then pretty soon my Dad's mother flew in from Utah. We all stayed there as long as we could just trying to get all the paperwork and just trying to get

things organized for mom. That's how we heard. It was difficult ... extremely difficult."

Nearly 40 years later, Major Woods returned home to the United States. On April 9, Major Woods was laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors. In attendance were Lana and her siblings, grandchildren and many others from the Woods family. Missing was Mary Woods, who died in 1995, but as Mrs. Taylor said, "was on everyone's mind."

"My family and I were finally able to close Dad's book that has been opened for 40 years," Mrs. Taylor said after the funeral. "The book is now in God's library."

That could be the end of this story right here, but according to Mrs. Taylor, there is so much more to know about her father. She said not many people know that by the time he went to Vietnam, Major Woods had a near-full military career with stints in support of the Berlin Airlift, the Korean War and many other operations.

According to his military records, Major Woods enlisted in the Army National Guard in June 1948 and by January 1949 got out of the Guard and enlisted on active duty in the U.S. Air Force — which at that time was less than two years in existence. It was during his enlisted days that he supported the Berlin Airlift as a

See **Hero**, Page 19



Courtesy photo

**Maj. Robert F. Woods sits in the pilot seat of an O2-A Skymaster in Vietnam in 1968. Major Woods was in the military for 20 years when he disappeared. His career began in June 1948 as an enlisted aircrew member on a C-74 Globemaster participating in the Berlin Airlift. He earned his first of eight Air Medals in Korea and also earned the Distinguished Flying Cross and Bronze Star for his service in Vietnam.**

**Hero**, from Page 18

crewmember on a C-74 Globemaster.

"The Berlin Airlift was his first big thing — he did that in 1948," Mrs. Taylor said.

By March of 1951, Major Woods completed Officer Candidate School and was commissioned. Soon he went through pilot training and began flying KC-97 Stratotankers and was assigned to support the Korean conflict. There, between April and July 1952, he earned his first Air Medal for his work as a tanker pilot.

"These flights were exceptionally hazardous because of long distances over water and the number of hours spent over enemy territory during which time enemy contact was probable and expected," the Air Medal citation reads. "Great damage was inflicted on enemy installations and equipment as a result of bombing attacks made during this period which undoubtedly restricted enemy operations. By his courage, fortitude and his desire to aid the United Nations cause to the best of his ability, Lieutenant Woods brought great credit upon himself, the Far East Air Forces, and the United States Air Force."

Continuing through the 1950s and 1960s, Major Woods flew KC-97s at Malmstrom Air Force Base, Mont., Weisbaden Air Base, Germany, O'Hare International Airport, Ill., and with Tactical Air Command Headquarters in Waco, Texas. In 1964 he earned senior pilot and the rank of major. Mrs. Taylor recalls her father's decision to hold a long tour in Montana.

"I was very lucky to know him and have him around — especially during my high school years," Mrs. Taylor said. "One remarkable thing he did — and it still amazes me — was when he had just been transferred to Montana and it was my first year of high school. The second year we were there, Dad had an opportunity to transfer to California. Of course Mom was all in favor of it because she really did not like Montana weather.

"I was just getting into my second year at Great Falls (High School)," Mrs. Taylor said. "I was also getting into the clubs and getting into the feel of high school and sort of making my way. He asked me what I thought about moving (to a new school), and I said it would be difficult. That's all I said. He then turned the California transfer down."

Mrs. Taylor said she enjoys the fact that she got to know her father as an adult before he disappeared. It's a bond that has lasted well beyond the 40 years since he's been gone.

"You see, I'm adopted," Mrs. Taylor said. "So if you were trying to do some math he would be very, very young. But he adopted me and it was the second marriage for my mother. He didn't even pause, think or whatever. He just said I will adopt her. That's the kind of special man he was."

Mrs. Taylor said she will always treasure those years of learning to be an adult and growing up through her father's direction. She added there were moments when others knew "full and clear" who her dad was.

"Dad was six feet, four-inches," Mrs. Taylor said. "He loved making sure he was in the living room sitting down when my dates showed up when I was in high school. My dates, of course, were different heights. Some were close to his height, but none were ever taller."



*Courtesy photo*

**Maj. Robert F. Woods had this photo taken of him while he was stationed at Da Nang Air Base, Vietnam, in 1968. In 1951 he became an officer and a pilot flying KC-97 Stratotankers in the Korean Conflict. In Vietnam, he served as a forward air controller in the Skymaster with the 20th Tactical Air Support Squadron at Da Nang AB.**

"He'd sit there and wait for the doorbell, and of course, I'm still upstairs getting ready," Mrs. Taylor said. "When the bell would ring, my brother or sister would open the door, my date would come in and go over and meet my father. He would then rise from his chair and say, 'Hello, I'm Lana's father.' He would say it in his really deep voice — the base voice — and he would entertain my date while I was getting ready."

From interviewing boyfriends in high school to wishing her well in her marriage, Mrs. Taylor said her father made a difference.

"When we were in Manassas, Dad was able to come by and visit us while our house was being built," Mrs. Taylor said. "He was on his way for some survival training in Florida and stopped and visited us for a few days. At the time, I didn't realize the significance of all this. Dad was so excited for us and our new house. That's one thing about Dad — he was always, always positive."

She believes that positive spirit carried itself all the way to Arlington on April 9. There, for the first time in years, members of the Woods family gathered together and Mrs. Taylor said her father had something to do with it.

"Well I think that was Dad's gift to us," Mrs. Taylor said. "He brought us all back together."

The funeral was special too, Mrs. Taylor said. She was proud to see how the Air Force took the time to honor her father. But she didn't let the funeral and the events at

Arlington be the last memory of her father or his life. When she thinks of her father, she thinks of the calm and pleasant demeanor he always showed and the visit to his gravesite two days after the funeral provided that final reminder.

"The funeral was just one overwhelming memory — one overwhelming minute after another," Mrs. Taylor said. "The lasting memory, I tell you, is when we returned two days after the ceremony. It was just so peaceful. And that's what my lasting memory and emotion is going to be — peaceful."



*Courtesy photo*

**Major Woods with his wife Mary in 1967 just months before he left for Vietnam.**

# Expeditionary Center NCO among 12 Airmen living with thousands of Iraqi soldiers

By 1st Lt. Lisa Spilinek  
332nd Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

**BALAD AIR BASE, Iraq** — Twelve Airmen working together for the past nine months at the remote Iraqi Military Training Base of Kirkush, located in the Diyala Province just over 10 miles from the Iranian border, are hoping to work themselves out of a job.

Among those Airmen include Tech. Sgt. Shane Lacaillade, deployed from the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center's 421st Combat Training Squadron at Fort Dix, N.J.

As the only Americans living among thousands of Iraqi soldiers and trainees, their objective has been to work with the leadership at the base to improve operational and logistical processes.

"We're here to train and advise the Iraqi Army. Our goal is to put ourselves out of a job," said Master Sgt. Carl Kendall, the 732nd Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron Det. 1 Logistics Military Advisory Team superintendent.

So far, the Airmen, who are filling 'in lieu of' taskings for the U.S. Army in positions traditionally filled by Soldiers, are on their way to unemployment.

Over the past three-quarters of a year, the Airmen, who come from a variety of military career fields, have offered advice on everything from the best ways of protecting the base from threats, to keeping food preparation and distribution processes sanitary.

They've also provided guidance regarding electrical and heating, ventilation and air conditioning improvements as well as maintaining inventoried, well-stocked supply warehouses, said Sergeant Kendall, who is deployed from Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

One area where the Airmen have focused their advising efforts lately is in regard to emergency response procedures.

When two suicide bombers attacked a wedding party in a Balad Ruz marketplace May 1, relatives and neighbors desperate to get immediate medical attention for the severely wounded brought 31 of the 65 victims to the small clinic at Kirkush.

Sergeant Lacaillade, the 732nd ELRS Det. 1 emergency management adviser, received an urgent call from the clinic to assist. Sergeant Lacaillade took over the command and control of the clinic and triaged all of the injured.

"Within five minutes, we went from six to 15 patients. After five more minutes we went from 15 to 21," he said, describing the fast and fur-



*Photo by Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol*  
**Tech. Sgt. Shane Lacaillade, medical instructor for the 421st Combat Training Squadron, provides feedback to Air Force security forces after they completed an obstacle course as part of combat first aid training in the Advanced Contingency Skills Training Course on Fort Dix, N.J.**

ous treatment efforts that took place in the tiny clinic. "We had no notice."

"For 20 minutes it was me and two Iraqi doctors," said the sergeant, whose home station job is as a combat first aid and contingency skills instructor in the 421st CTS.

Yet, despite being greatly outnumbered by the patients, the doctors and Sergeant Lacaillade were able to save the lives of 25 of the 31 patients who came to their clinic, including the lives of two toddlers — without having pediatric medical equipment available.

"We are just a clinic. We tried to do our best to stabilize the (patients) and get them to hospitals," (via medical evacuation helicopters) said 1st Lt. (Dr.) Duraid Flyh Hassan, the Kirkush Clinic chief. "There were a lot of urgent cases."

Following the mass casualty event, the Det. 1 Airmen worked with the Iraqis at Kirkush to improve emergency response measures, to include establishing a notification system of medical arrivals at the base's entry point.

"We tested it. The gate is now to call the clinic, which gives us four minutes to prepare. We've also pre-staged some medical supplies and established patient drop-off points," Sergeant Lacaillade said.

Dr. Duraid said a second clinic, scheduled to open in the upcoming months, is in the works at Kirkush. The medical personnel at the secondary clinic will focus on providing emergency care and surgeries to the critically wounded.

"Without the help of the coalition there is no meaning to our world," Dr. Duraid said. "The adviser is always giving us help when we receive emergency cases. They help us if we need surgical assistance. They are helping us to know what to do when we say, OK, there are no coalition forces, what are we going to do now?"

Whether they're offering advice on medical responses or convoy operations, the Airmen understand that being successful in their duties at Kirkush directly impacts the Iraqi military's development as a self-sustaining force.

"It's quite the challenging mission," said Lt. Col. Stephen Ray, the 732nd ELRS Det. 1 Logistics Military Advisory Team senior adviser. "We're so used to 'doing' that it's a struggle not to jump in and show the Iraqis the 'best' way of doing things — in short, to do the job for them. As advisers, we guide them in finding the best way for them to do their mission. It's not always the way we'd do it, but it's a way they understand and it works for them. Plus, they then own the process."

"It takes a lot of patience from the team and an inquisitive eye to understand what they're doing and why — and frankly, we've been amazed at their ingenuity," the colonel said.

Assisting the Iraqi soldiers in establishing and improving base operations is not always an easy task and cultural and language barriers sometimes get in the way, Sergeant Kendall said.

All of the Airmen have completed 60 hours of Arabic training to learn some of the language basics of their counterparts, but communicating clearly can still be an obstacle.

For example, when Colonel Ray said what he thought was, "See you tomorrow," to the Iraqi soldiers in Arabic, he was actually saying, "See you sheephead." After getting puzzled looks for months, the Iraqi commanding general told him of his error; the two still laugh about it, Colonel Ray said.

The Americans and Iraqis spend a lot of time getting to know each other personally by eating together and participating in recreational activities. "We've come together as a team," Sergeant Lacaillade said of both his U.S. and Iraqi peers.

With just months left of their deployment, however, the Airmen look forward to the future — not only for their return to their homes and families, but also for their Iraqi brothers in arms.

"Out here we're on our own. It does make you miss home, but we're helping to move the Iraqis toward a better Army," said Colonel Ray, who is deployed from Keesler Air Force Base, Miss. "That's why we're here."

# 'Eagle' supports Continuing Promise 2008 aboard USS Boxer

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

Tech. Sgt. Joseph Jones has never needed seaworthy legs working in the Air Mobility Battlelab at the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center on Fort Dix, N.J. In that position, he does a lot more flying aboard planes than anything else — not surprising since he's in the Air Force.

Since late April, however, Sergeant Jones has a new assignment — serving aboard the U.S. Navy's USS Boxer as a Spanish language translator.

"Although I've spent my entire life translating for family, friends and even strangers, this is my first time doing it in an assigned capacity," Sergeant Jones said.

Sergeant Jones' deployment on the Boxer is part of Operation Continuing Promise 2008. According to a U.S. Southern Command press release, the USS Boxer, along with various embarked units and non-governmental organizations, departed Naval Base San Diego April 28 en route to Latin American nations for the Pacific phase of Continuing Promise.

"Continuing Promise is an equal partnership mission designed to combine partner nation and U.S. relief capabilities to demonstrate the lasting bonds and shared interests among neighbors," the release said. "Specific locations for the ship's relief operations include Guatemala, El Salvador and Peru. The deployment was scheduled to last through June."

While at sea, Sergeant Jones said his job is to translate official documents from English to Spanish.

"These documents range from official speeches to medical training slides," Sergeant Jones said. "When in country at either Guatemala, El Salvador or Peru, I translate for medical patients who have afflictions that range anywhere from tuberculosis to optometry to dental problems."

"I also accompany the veterinary team out to the local ranches and help translate the vaccination and de-worming needs between host nation ranchers and veterinarians and our team. We also train the local populous on preventative measures to keep their livestock healthy."

Sergeant Jones said he grew up speaking Spanish so this duty comes somewhat naturally.

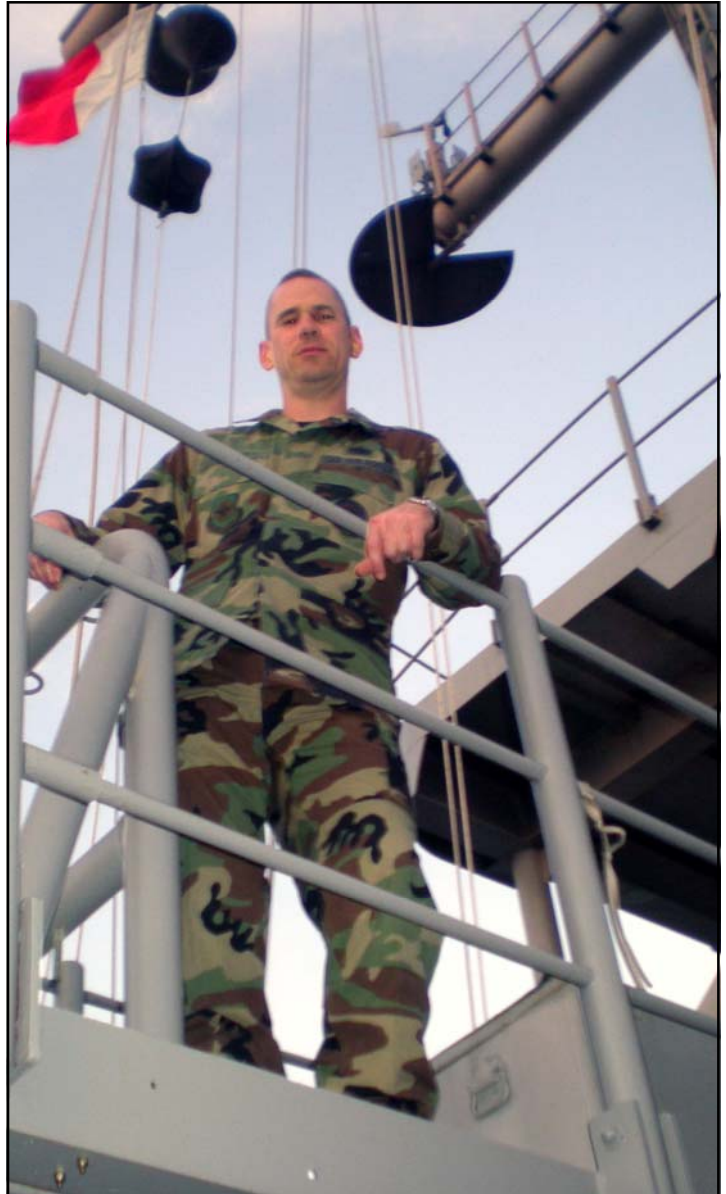
"I grew up speaking Spanish in the house, as my mother is Mexican," Sergeant Jones said. "Continuous trips to the doctor as I grew up taught me to translate beyond the street slang level of speech. I found this deployment to be a perfect opportunity to use this ability."

He's been busy working and for the most part his deployment has been smooth sailing. However, when he first got on board the Boxer, he said it took a little while to get used to the accommodations.

"There are a lot of differences between the Navy and the Air Force," Sergeant Jones said. "The first noticeable difference was the bunk space that I was assigned to. It measures 24 inches high by six-feet, two-inches long by 24 inches wide. The mattress can be lifted up to access the storage space beneath, which offers just enough room to separate shirts and socks from my towel and underwear."

He added it's also easy to lose track of time. "Over the course of the time I've been on the ship, I can easily lose count of what day it is," Sergeant Jones said. "I try to go up on the deck at least once a day, so as not to turn into a mole. Overall, however, life on a ship is not bad once you get used to all the unique corners, rails, bars, hallways, stairways and mainly ... the rules of being on a ship. And of course, the most precious asset on a ship is not the people, it's the water. Navy showers are quick and fast."

The USS Boxer is a decent sized ship as well. According to a Navy fact sheet, the Boxer is a Wasp-class amphibious assault ship that is 844-foot long and has a full displacement of 40,722 tons. The ship was launched in August 1993 and commissioned in February 1995. The cur-



*Courtesy photo*

**Tech. Sgt. Joseph Jones, from the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center's Air Mobility Battlelab at Fort Dix, N.J., has a photo taken of him aboard the U.S. Navy's U.S.S. Boxer — a Wasp-class amphibious assault ship May 4. Sergeant Jones is serving aboard the Boxer as a Spanish language translator as the ship participates in Operation Continuing Promise 2008 visiting countries such as El Salvador, Guatemala and Peru.**

rent ship is the sixth ship to carry the name Boxer and is the fourth ship of the Wasp class with the name.

Sergeant Jones said he's looking forward to getting home when this deployment is done, but added it's been a great experience.

"I've learned a lot about other countries and about our sea-faring service partner — the Navy," Sergeant Jones said. "This is a lifetime experience I'll never forget."

# AIR FORCE WARRIORS: MWD team arrives in Afghanistan for special duty

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

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

Climbing down the stairs of the commercial DC-10 in near darkness on the tarmac was a stirring moment for Staff Sgt. Chris Dion.

The early May Afghanistan air at Bagram is dryer and cooler than many places in the world. This is mainly due to the majestic mountains rising up around this base blocking out warmer air. The first experience of it in the middle of the night can give quite a shiver.

On this night, cold or not, Sergeant Dion doesn't wait long to get with his deployment partner — a 6-year-old German Shepherd named Dena. This military working dog, or MWD, team traveled thousands of miles together to get to this point, starting at their home station of MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., then stopping off in numerous countries. It was no surprise to him that jet lag was draining his energy levels just a little.

"Our flight was required to arrive in darkness for security reasons, according to the pilot," Sergeant Dion said.

From there, it was a matter of initial in-processing and finding a bunk in one of the hundreds of billeting tents dotting the base's landscape. Then Sergeant Dion and Dena could get some rest, eat and eventually get to work.

His mission on this deployment is to support special forces through the Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force — Afghanistan. For an MWD team, that's going to mean many missions with U.S. special forces from the Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force and coalition countries. It also means working with the ever-building Afghan army.

Sergeant Dion and Dena's presence in a war zone is also wrought with military history. Dogs have been used since ancient times to support a war effort and throughout Air Force history with security forces. MWDs have seen action in Korea and Vietnam and now in Iraq and Afghanistan. With this MWD team, they are writing their own chapter of history.

"I'm excited to finally do what I've desired and trained to do for so long — be an MWD handler," said Sergeant Dion who is deployed as an MWD handler for the first time. "I have full confidence in Dena and our abilities to-



*Air Force Photo*

**Staff Sgt. Christopher Dion and his military working dog Dena, both from the 6th Security Forces Squadron, MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., stop for a photo prior to leaving for a mission May 15 from Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan. On his first deployment as an MWD handler, Sergeant Dion trained at home station and in the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center's Phoenix Warrior Training Course to get ready for to deploy. In his words, Sergeant Dion says he's "excited to finally do what I've desired and trained to do for so long — be an MWD handler."**

gether as a team."

Getting to this point — feeling the cool Afghan air, working on special forces missions and spending 24 hours a day, seven days a week with Dena hasn't been easy for Sergeant Dion.

A lot of his time has been spent training.

First it was going to Air Force security forces MWD handler training in 2005. Then he had to

See **MWD**, Page 23

**MWD**, from Page 22

wait to get an assignment where he could work as a handler — which didn't come until October 2007. Then it was getting acquainted with Dena and working on the basics.

After three months of daily work as an MWD, Sergeant Dion and Dena (Team Double-D as he calls it) set off to Fort Dix, N.J., for the Air Force Phoenix Warrior Training Course with the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center's 421st Combat Training Squadron.

There, he and Dena went through live-fire, explosives detection and numerous other types of training regimens to be deployment ready. Sergeant Dion reflected on some of the training that he believes will help him in his mission in Afghanistan.

"In Phoenix Warrior, it was the live-fire training as well as open area and roadway detection that helped build Team Double D's confidence and ability," Sergeant Dion said.

After Phoenix Warrior, he said it was further refresher training with fellow handlers at the MacDill kennels who honed what he learned at Fort Dix.

"At MacDill, it was the expertise of our trainers — Staff Sgt. Ian Spivey and Tech. Sgt. Jerrel 'J.C.' Colston — who motivated me to learn more," Sergeant Dion said. "These two individuals epitomize professional training and dog handling. Their tutelage and wisdom continue to be an invaluable resource that is available to me even now through phone calls and e-mail."

Sergeant Spivey, who along with Sergeant Colston work as trainers in the 6th Security Forces Squadron canine kennels, said they spent on average of three hours a day, five days a week, preparing Sergeant Dion and Dena for the deployment.

"We started even before he went to Phoenix Warrior," Sergeant Spivey said. "I, along with Sergeant Colston, took all of the experience and what we learned from being deployed ourselves and did what we could to prepare him. We wanted to get him in the mindset of being deployed. We went through everything from how you and your dog are with your gear on to how your dog reacts to gunfire."

Sergeant Spivey said between the hundreds of hours training at MacDill and at Fort Dix for Phoenix Warrior, Sergeant Dion and Dena have come together to be an effective team.

"As a handler, he's opened up a lot more," Sergeant Spivey said. "At first, when he was new, we worked to put him in a relaxed frame of mind and make it fun. He started from there and he and Dena started to become one. He really put in his dedication and time to build that rapport."

Sergeant Dion said building on his bond with Dena was the key to the transition from home station to deployed environment.

"Prior to this deployment I put in additional voluntary time at the kennels in order to continue working on our bond and preparedness," Sergeant Dion said. "We spent many after duty hours together during the week and on weekends as well. Now that we are in Afghanistan, we live together in the same room so we're together nearly 24 hours a day — seven days a week."

In the coming months the MWD team will be busy doing what Sergeant Dion calls "nation building" and "special missions." It's something he fully looks forward to.

"With Dena's calm temperament and demeanor, she is an excellent ambassador to a culture who fears dogs," Sergeant Dion said. "Through her, maybe we can teach the Afghans the benefits of MWDs as a local and national resource."

Other probable missions may be to search out explosives in open areas, roadways, houses, compounds, on vehicles or wherever else to help make Afghanistan safer for the people and the coalition forces supporting Operation Enduring Freedom, Sergeant Dion said.

"We may also be called upon to clear areas where dignitaries and government officials may go to ensure these high-value personnel are safe," Sergeant Dion said. "Now, who knows what else we'll be called upon to do? Whatever it is, I know we'll do it successfully thanks to Phoenix Warrior training and the expert trainers back home at MacDill."



*Photo by Staff Sgt. Christopher Dion*  
**Staff Sgt. Christopher Dion took this photo of his military working dog, Dena, at Forward Operating Base Lightning in Gardez, Afghanistan, while they were there for a special mission May 8.**

Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Dean, course director for the Phoenix Warrior canine track at the USAF EC, said he looks forward to feedback from his former students.

"The course was designed from after-action reports so realistically, the feedback I'll get from him actually serves the same purpose as when we started this course," Sergeant Dean said. "I try and stay in contact with all my former students just to gain new information. If there are things they experience or see down range that we didn't cover or they feel would be important to teach, then I have the ability to incorporate changes into a new class."

Providing feedback will take a several more months, though. Sergeant Dion said until then, he will keep his mind and body occupied with whatever needs to be done.

"I'll continue to work on more detection training with Dena, read the Bible and build on my relationship with the Lord, exercise when able, and make phone calls and e-mail home to my wife Mary Lu," Sergeant Dion said.

"I'll do this knowing that if not for the loved ones back home, there would be no reason to be here. It is for their safety and freedom that we fight this fight. In return they give us their love, support, and strength. There is a long road ahead and I look forward knowing a lot of people have helped me get ready for job I have to do."

# TAPE DRILLS FOR URBAN OPS



*Photos by Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol*  
(Above) Staff Sgt. Thomas Carpino (center), combat skills instructor for the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center's 421st Combat Training Squadron, explains the proper formation and technique for military operations in urban terrain during "tape drills" training in the Phoenix Warrior Training Course June 19.  
(Left) Phoenix Warrior students practice their combat stance for firing a weapon June 19.  
(Below) Phoenix Warrior students practice a formation for entering a building June 5.





# COMBAT FIRST AID



*Photos by Staff Sgt. Paul R. Evans*

(Top) A student in the Air Force Phoenix Warrior Training Course participates in combat first aid training June 5 on a Fort Dix, N.J., range. The course, taught by the Expeditionary Operations School's 421st Combat Training Squadron, trains security forces for upcoming deployments.



(Above) Master Sgt. Colby Bowers, medical instructor for the 421st CTS, watches over Phoenix Warrior students as they practice combat first aid June 5 on Fort Dix.



(Left) First Lt. Yuliya Buquoi, 88th Security Forces Squadron, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, and Airman 1st Class Charles Bryant, 30th SFS, Vandenberg AFB, Calif., assist Staff Sgt. Michael Richmond of the 421st CTS, playing the role of a "victim," during combat first aid training.

# Combat skills training creates stronger Airmen

By Staff Sgt. Don Branum  
50th Space Wing Public Affairs

**SCHRIEVER AIR FORCE BASE, Colo.** — I returned April 18 from two weeks of training that I may never use — two weeks of crawling through mud, running with 40 pounds of body armor strapped to my shoulders and head and eating field rations. I'd do it all again in a heartbeat.

The training I attended was the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center's Advanced Contingency Skills Training Course on Fort Dix, N.J.

I learned how to recognize an improvised explosive device, move tactically in open fields and urban terrain, operate as a member of a convoy and apply a tourniquet in less than 10 seconds.

Fort Dix is co-located with McGuire Air Force Base, and planes fly in and out of the area constantly. I quickly grew accustomed to the sound of airpower, whether it was the roar of a C-17 Globemaster III or the high-pitched whine of a KC-135 Stratotanker as they flew above our training areas and dormitories.

The classes were hands-on and immersive — the way they should be — because there's only so much you can learn through a slideshow presentation. To really learn how to low crawl, you have to be in the dirt, taking notice of each blade of grass as you pass it by at a gruelingly slow pace.

To really learn how to spot an IED, you have to look for it in the field, where it might be concealed under brush or dirt or placed just behind a tree. To really learn how to lift a litter with a 200-pound body over a six-foot wall, you have to be one set of arms in the team that makes it happen as AK-47 rifles sound off from 100 meters away.

And while you learn how to do all these things, you're also learning how to work in a team — how to shoot, move and communicate so instinctively that the four members of your fire team act not as individuals, but as four parts of a single entity.

You learn how your wingmen will react in a hostile environment, because you have to. The sounds and sights and smells of combat are all there. The instructors even manage, in some blocks of instruction, to incorporate the sensation of pain through simulated rounds called simunitions.

Instead of lead, the rounds carry a payload of non-toxic detergent that spatters when it hits clothing. Students and instructors wear protective coverings that resemble gas masks and protect their faces and heads. The pain is comparable to actually being shot, especially when you take a round to your kidney or the back of your thigh.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Paul R. Evans

**Students in the Advanced Contingency Skills Course 08-4 practice a military operations in urban terrain scenario during training April 16 on a Fort Dix, N.J., range. ACST is taught by the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center's 421st Combat Training Squadron, part of the Expeditionary Operations School.**

But the pain serves its own purpose. Just as a child might learn the hard way not to touch a hot stove, students learn to stay low, use cover and avoid silhouetting themselves in open windows and doorways.

Our class learned about some of the improvised explosive devices used in theater. I won't go into detail, except to say that the sophistication evident in some of the IEDs is frightening. And we learned how to operate in convoys — a critical skill given how many Airmen will be part of at least one convoy during their deployment. At the end, we put it all together - fighting and saving lives amidst the sounds of simulated gunfire, IED explosions and rocket-propelled grenades.

"We hope you never have to use the skills you learned during your two weeks in this class," Tech. Sgt. Jesse Pate, one of the instructors from the USAF EC's 421st Combat Training Squadron, said to us as we received our graduation certificates. "But if you do, we're confident that you'll be able to survive and operate and come back home safely."

The training reinforced for me how much I needed to know in order to be an asset to the war effort when I deploy. It also reinforced the meaning of the statement, "I am an American Airman."

I spent two weeks being an American Airman in every sense of the word — and I'd do it again in a New Jersey minute.

# PORTRAITS OF EAGLE FLAG 08-5



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol  
 (Above) Staff Sgt. Stacia Zachary, Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., works on the "Chimaeran Daily News" in the fictional village of "Citheron" during Eagle Flag 08-5 at Naval Air Engineering Station Lakehurst, N.J., June 21.



(Above) Staff Sgt. Diana Phillips, from Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D., and a role player in "Citheron" village for Eagle Flag 08-5, prepares for an exercise event.



(Above left) Master Sgt. Edward Chiles, who served as deployed first sergeant to Eagle Flag from Grand Forks Air Force Base, N.D., watches over a checkpoint.

(Right) An Airman deployed to Eagle Flag 08-5 with the 571st Contingency Response Group, Travis AFB, Calif., prepares for a convoy June 22.



Eagle Flag 08-5 students and role players gather at the entry control point to the "421st Air Expeditionary Group" during an event June 22.



Eagle Flag 08-5 observer/controllers watch over a meeting between students and role players with the "National Army of Chimaera."

# CONVOY TRAINING



*Photos by Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol*

A student in the Air Force Phoenix Warrior Training Course responds to enemy fire during training in convoy operations June 20 on a Fort Dix, N.J., range. Convoy training is also taught in other U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center courses to include Air Advisor, Advanced Contingency Skills Training, Tactical Security Element Training and the Contingency Response Group Formal Training Unit.

Students move a “victim” during a training session in convoy operations on a Fort Dix range.



(Left and right) Phoenix Warrior students battle the enemy with a strong response in their convoy scenario .

# Saluting those 'Above All' Airmen

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

As I was standing on stage in the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center's Grace Peterson Hall before 90 of the toughest Airmen you'll ever meet, I had the realization dawn on me that these Airmen were soon heading off to war.

It's not an unusual thing to think about at the USAF EC, because it's fairly normal for deploying Airmen to be a large part of our student population. The realization I had, however, solidified the high appreciation I have for these deploying heroes and for all Airmen.

The "toughest Airmen" I mention are Air Force security forces and the class I was teaching is titled Strategic Communication. I teach the course fairly often to non-public affairs students who traverse the halls of the Center and I give them an idea how to deal with the media while deployed and keys to succeeding with strategic communication.

On that day in mid-April on Fort Dix, I went through my class in the normal hour allotted, but I felt like I missed a salute to these brave men and women who would soon be in harm's way. Ever since, I've mostly thought of them as "Above All" Airmen. Being security forces Airmen who are highly trained in subjects such as tactics, convoy operations and military operations in urban terrain, they are the style of Airmen who fit the new Air Force slogan.

According to Col. Michael Caldwell, deputy director of Air Force public affairs at the Pentagon, he said, "The new slogan is admittedly a bold one, but so are Airmen."

Colonel Caldwell discussed the slogan in a Feb. 20 Air Force News story and he pointed out how "this campaign accurately portrays Airmen and how they're executing the Air Force mission to ensure the security and safety of America now and in the future."

I agree with that sentiment and had a sturdy reminder of that with the 90 security forces Airmen I was teaching. They exuded "Above All."

For three years I've been with USAF EC teaching in courses such as Air Force Exercise Eagle Flag, Advanced Contingency Skills Training and others. During those years, I've noticed a lot of changes in not only the training Airmen receive before they deploy, but in the missions Airmen accomplish once they deploy.

Security forces are a perfect example of how much more the Air Force is doing as warfighters. During my first major deployment to Southwest Asia in the fall of 1997, the security forces I served with were just as tough, but their mission was mainly force protection and airbase ground defense. The mission was much the



*Air Force graphic*

**Air Force officials have launched a new ad campaign to accurately portray Airmen and how they're executing the Air Force mission to ensure the security and safety of America now and in the future.**

same they'd been doing for decades and they really didn't go "outside the wire." Now, that has all changed.

Ever since Operation Enduring Freedom began in 2001 and Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003, the type of presence the Air Force has in theater — security forces included — is noticeably different. I learned that first hand on deployments that took me to Iraq and Afghanistan in 2003 and 2005.

Security forces Airmen, for example, now continuously go "outside the wire" and still complete the traditional missions of force protection and airbase ground defense. They coordinate convoys, participate in mounted and dismounted patrols plus many other non-traditional missions. And they aren't the only ones. There are also aerial porters, information managers, maintenance, communications and even the occasional public affairs Airman. It's across the board.

When I sit in the regular staff meetings with USAF EC leadership, the commander, Maj.

Gen. Kip Self, often reads the slides of deployed Airmen and says to everyone, "These are our American heroes." He's right. They are heroes and additionally I say they are "Above All" heroes.

We can look at the new Air Force campaign as more than a recruiting campaign — see it as an embodiment of what the Air Force stands for in it's top resource — it's people.

Whether it's security forces Airmen deploying to Iraq, a combat photographer capturing the mission in Afghanistan, a tanker pilot flying over the skies of Southwest Asia, or the Airman managing personnel files at the military personnel flight, we should discover within ourselves that what we do is not just "Above All," but also "above and beyond" what we've traditionally done.

As Colonel Caldwell said, the new slogan is as bold as the Airmen it talks about. I say it loud and I say it proud, we are "Above All," and I salute all Airmen both in harm's way and throughout the world.

# EAGLES HELP REBUILD CHERRY HILL FLAG MEMORIAL



Photos by Staff Sgt. Paul R. Evans

Master Sgt. Tim Wasut, U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center first sergeant, places a flag in a pole while helping to rebuild a personal flag memorial at a home business in Cherry Hill, N.J., May 28. The memorial, created by Cherry Hill resident Michael Bloom, honors those killed in Iraq and Afghanistan was vandalized in April 2008 and repaired by more than 10 volunteers from the USAF EC.

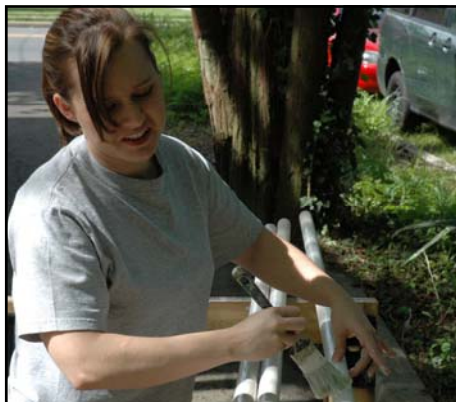


Photo by David Gard

Staff Sgt. Paul Evans, 421st Combat Training Squadron, replaces a flag.



Senior Master Sgt. Domenic Perino, Air Mobility Battlelab and project leader, carefully places a flag into a pipe.



Tech. Sgt. Kristina Myers, USAF EC command section, paints replacement poles for the memorial.



Master Sgt. Steven Minard and Staff Sgt. James Westdorp, Mobility Operations School, pound pipes into the ground.



Photo by David Gard

Michael Bloom, center, has a group photo taken with the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center 'Eagles' who helped rebuild his memorial honoring those who have died in Iraq and Afghanistan.

# Berlin Airlift lays foundation for today's air mobility

By Theo W. Ramsey  
Air Mobility Command Public Affairs

**SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill.** — Sixty years ago, on June 26, 1948, the fledgling United States Air Force airlifted its first of 2.3 million tons of coal, food and supplies to the besieged city of Berlin. Stalin had cut off all ground transportation through Russian territory to the surrounded city of Berlin. The Berlin Airlift sustained a city of more than 2 million citizens for over a year, and this first confrontation of the new Cold War was a symbol of America's commitment to democracy, and a proving ground for our nation's airlift capabilities.

Air Force airlifters may not have known in 1948 the broader political implications derived from the success of the Berlin Airlift, but they knew their humanitarian mission was important. Air Force Col. (ret.) Gail Halvorson said, "We knew Stalin was the new enemy and needed to be stopped. We had been briefed for about two years about the threat so we knew the mission was important. I didn't know just how important it was at the time."

The success of the Berlin Airlift accelerated Allied plans to unite the West German tri-sector of Berlin and create the new German Federal Republic after World War II. "In my view," said Colonel Halvorson, "the Airlift saved Berlin, and along with the Marshall Plan in West Germany, it stopped Communism's spread west, eventually the Wall to come down, and finally the dismantling of the Soviet Union. It did change post war history and the rest of my life."

Colonel Halvorson, dubbed the 'Candy Bomber,' earned this nickname, along with several others, including his favorite, 'Uncle Wiggly Wings,' by becoming the first pilot to airdrop candy from his plane to the hungry and oppressed children of Berlin. The German children recognized his plane on approach because he wiggled the wings left and right before he dropped the candy — each piece slowed by a tiny parachute that he attached to prevent injury to the children.

Airdropping candy made Colonel Halvorson famous, particularly in Germany. But the primary mission of delivering food and supplies to Berlin's beleaguered citizens moved him, and has affected his life ever since. "When I unloaded my first 20,000 pounds of flour, the look in the eyes and the hand shake of the unloaders was as if we were angels from heaven," he said. "They needed flour and freedom. We had both."

Andrei Cherny, a former White House speechwriter and author of *The Candy Bombers*, reported that in Germany, and especially in Berlin, Colonel Halvorson has become part of the national lore. When Colonel Halvorson and other Berlin Airlift veterans arrived at Tempelhof at 7 a.m. for the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Berlin Airlift in 1998, the line had already grown to more than 200 people. Cherny wrote, "The Berliners approached him all day, nodding a few words of thanks or silently, tearfully grasping his hand...Sixty-year-old men broke down as they told him what a parachute that fell to their feet as they walked through ruined streets had meant to them as children."

The compassion of the United States and its Allies during the Berlin Airlift toward the same German people we had been at war with just three years prior, was deeply felt by a German public oppressed by Stalinist Russia. During the Cold War, Germany determined to never repeat history and slowly built up a large stockpile of food and supplies. When Germany was reunited in 1990, Cherny said, "West Berliners, imprisoned behind a wall by Russian soldiers and policies for forty years, might have been expected to look toward their defeated foes with something approaching hatred. Instead, they decided they would turn over their hoarded food and supplies, to the very people who had made that stockpile necessary."

Compassion and airlift made it happen. The impact of airlift and the Airmen who provide it is far-reaching. The Air Force, and Air Mobility Command, builds on its strong airlift heritage each day, consistently



## "THE CANDY BOMBER"

Gail S. Halvorsen was born Oct. 10, 1920 in Salt Lake City, Utah and began his military career in 1943 as an aviator cadet in the Army Air Corps. In 1948, he was assigned to the Berlin Airlift. During the 13-month operation, he piloted C-54s carrying the much-needed food, fuel, and supplies. It was during this time he earned the nickname Candy Bomber, Chocolate Pilot, and Uncle Wiggly Wings, as he dropped small candy-laden parachutes from his aircraft to Berlin youngsters. An encounter with some kids at the end of the Tempelhof runway gave him the idea. "They hadn't had any gum or candy for months. Kids I'd seen before, anywhere I'd flown during the war - South America, Africa - they would chase you. But these kids wouldn't be beggars. They were too grateful to be getting food for freedom. I had only two sticks (of gum). It didn't go very far and I told them the next time I came I would drop them some." As the word of his drops spread, the American public responded favorably to help with this mission. "My colonel chewed me out at first because I didn't tell him what was going on. My flying buddies gave me their rations. Then when the States heard about it they sent over 23 tons of candy during the whole operation."



A young girl with one of the estimated 100,000 chocolate-covered gum drops dropped near Berlin.

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

This display about retired Col. Gail Halvorson, also known as the "Candy Bomber," and the Berlin Airlift is located at the Air Mobility Command Museum at Dover Air Force Base, Del. In addition to this display, vintage aircraft such as the C-54 Skymaster and C-124 are available to see at the museum.

delivering combat and humanitarian capabilities with precision, speed, agility, commitment and technical skill.

The unprecedented accomplishments of the Berlin Airlift still stand as one of the greatest humanitarian and political missions in world history. The Air Force and Air Mobility Command take the lessons and insights from the Berlin Airlift and continue to apply them toward winning today's fight, taking care of our people, and preparing for tomorrow's challenges.

# When reducing energy use, knowledge is power

By Tech. Sgt. C. Chris Sherman  
U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center  
Mobility Operations School

Here at our “Center of Excellence,” the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center on Fort Dix, N.J., we impart knowledge to our students so they may be better able to perform their mission. Hopefully we are also absorbing the knowledge that is flowing all around us.

Recently, during an Air Force Week in Philadelphia event at the Wharton Business School, a woman walked up to our Expeditionary Center booth right after we received a briefing by Gen. Norton A. Schwartz, U.S. Transportation Command commander from Scott Air Force Base, Ill.

She had submitted a question, but there wasn't enough time for the general to answer it. Normally people drop their “gotcha” question after they get you at ease, but I think this particular question was one she really was interested in having answered. She asked it to us almost immediately afterward.

Her question — “What is the Air Force trying to do to reduce its carbon footprint?”

Immediately after she asked this question, I saw some of my colleagues draw away which is where I decided to step in. I stepped in not because I knew more about the subject than the others did, I just recognized the opportunity to

influence public opinion on an important subject.

Sometimes one person can be the spark that ignites a firestorm, either for positive or negative. With the greater cost of energy these days, it was a question we should have expected.

Initially I described to her some initiatives right here at the USAF EC. I explained the Air Mobility Battlelab's “Brighteye” initiative. Through this, the AMB took a light cart the size of a small vehicle and reduced it to the size of your desktop computer running on rechargeable batteries with a solar recharging unit, and not a gas or diesel engine.

We also discussed the USAF EC's transfer of courseware to Web-based distance learning, which reduces the need for travel and saves money, time and fuel.

Then we discussed other Air Force initiatives. I told her how the Air Force is one of the largest recyclers in the nation, refurbishing and reusing parts, how there is Air Force research into alternative fuels for aircraft, and the use of non-traditional vehicles on base (bicycles on the flightline, Segways, and electric vehicles).

Someone else chimed in the discussion about how some Air Force installations act as natural safe havens for animals since hunting or fishing are restricted in these areas.

Another NCO also was able to discuss Air Force Smart Operations for the 21st century, or AFSO 21, and how it reduces waste. We dis-

cussed motion sensitive lighting and other alternative energy sources currently used in some buildings.

Our discussion was so diverse we were able to speak to this woman for more than 30 minutes on these subjects. Individually, we may have had trouble speaking about all this information, but together we projected great knowledge and professionalism.

I forgot to mention earlier this woman is the president of an influential architectural firm that designs government buildings, colleges and other large-scale building projects. She thinks reducing the carbon footprint is important because that is often the first question her customers ask on new architectural proposals. Initially, she didn't mention this until we started discussing things in detail.

It is the duty of all Airmen to be knowledgeable on Air Force policies and initiatives, but now more than ever that includes energy conservation. We can learn from published reports or even from our fellow wingmen.

Knowledge is the power to our minds that saves us from wasting the electrical power for our equipment and buildings. We must always stay informed on things that can make our Air Force better and energy conservation is certainly one of those areas. The day of my discussion with the president of an architectural firm proved that.

## AIR MOBILITY COMMAND INTRODUCES ...



**SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill.** — During one week in June, Air Force photographers canvassed their bases and captured a unique perspective of Air Mobility Command's global mission. The end product, 2400 Zulu, went live Wednesday at [www.amc.af.mil/photos](http://www.amc.af.mil/photos).

The photo library highlights the many facets of AMC's mission, from its support to the warfighter to its work to provide humanitarian aid to people in need. Images include everything from flight line to chapel operations, from cops to communicators, and places and people captured at all hours — night to day.

In addition, there's a four-minute video of some of the project's best photos. Click on the 2400 Zulu graphic on the right side of the page.

The images are downloadable for use as desktop backgrounds, and both the images and video are downloadable for briefings and presentations, or for personal use. (Courtesy Air Mobility Command Public Affairs)

(Editor's note: For an extensive photo library on U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center people and courses, visit <http://www.expeditionarycenter.af.mil/photos>. Additionally, in AMC's 2400 Zulu video and photo library, there are also numerous photos of USAF EC people in action.)



This photo taken by Staff Sgt. Paul R. Evans, 421st Combat Training Squadron, is one of several in the 2400 Zulu video.



# 421st CTS holds tactical vehicle display for military children



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

While helping children at the McGuire Air Force Base Child Development Center look at a military truck, Tech. Sgt. Sean Graves of the 421st Combat Training Squadron takes a moment to have fun with one of the children in the back of the truck April 24. The effort was part of the 421's annual community event to hold a tactical vehicle display at the McGuire and Fort Dix CDCs to allow military children to see equipment their parents use in their day-to-day job.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

Tech. Sgt. Roy Johnson, 421st CTS, helps a child out of a military truck at the McGuire Child Development Center during a tactical vehicle display.

Staff Sgt. Eric Gibson, 421st CTS, shows one of the children a HMMWV during the event.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

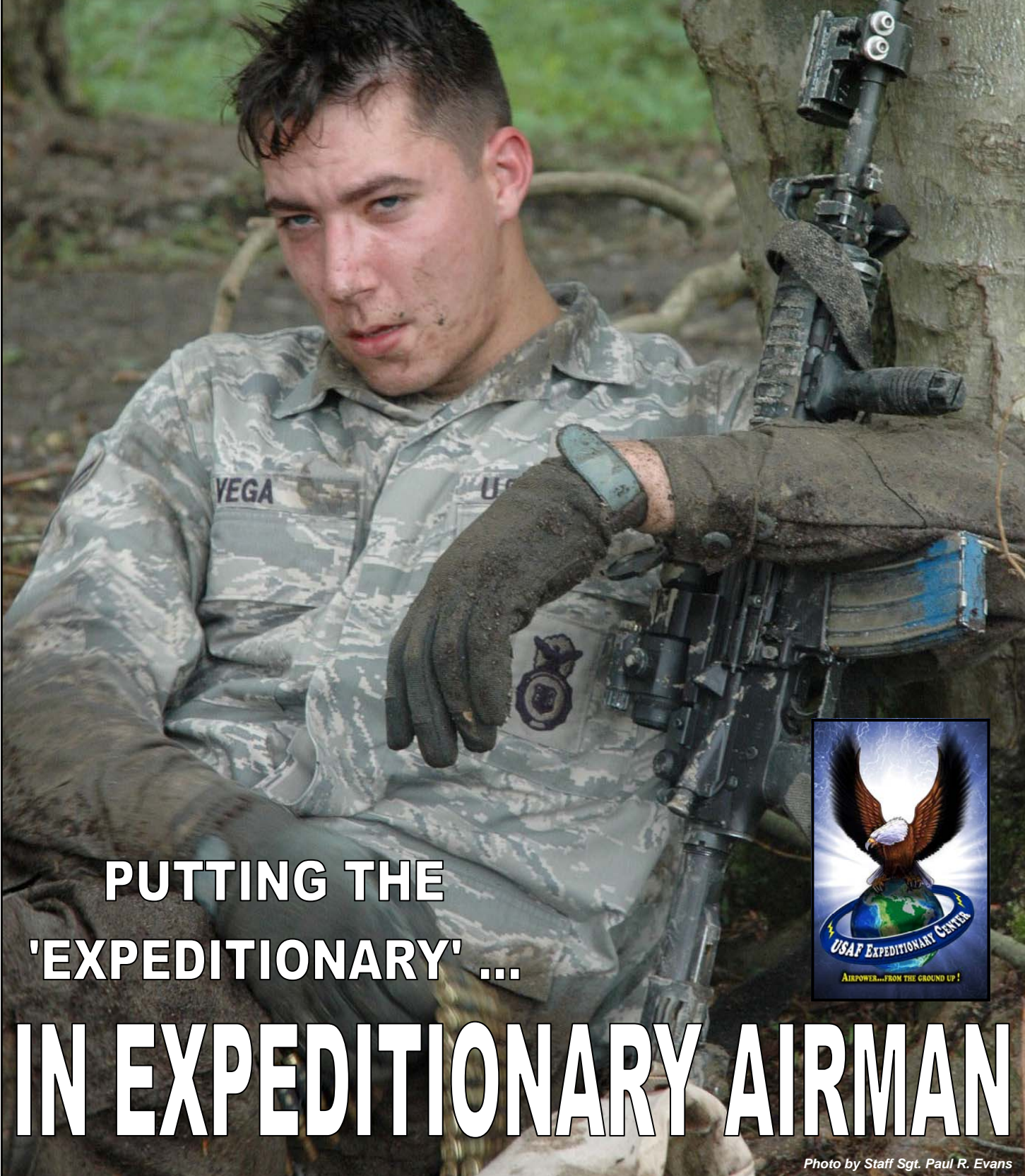
Tech. Sgt. Vandiver Hood, 421st CTS, shows children the explosive ordnance disposal robot used by the squadron for training.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Paul R. Evans

Tech. Sgt. Chad Ohr, 421st CTS, helps children step up to see the inside of a HMMWV.

# U.S. AIR FORCE EXPEDITIONARY CENTER



PUTTING THE  
'EXPEDITIONARY' ...

# IN EXPEDITIONARY AIRMAN

Photo by Staff Sgt. Paul R. Evans