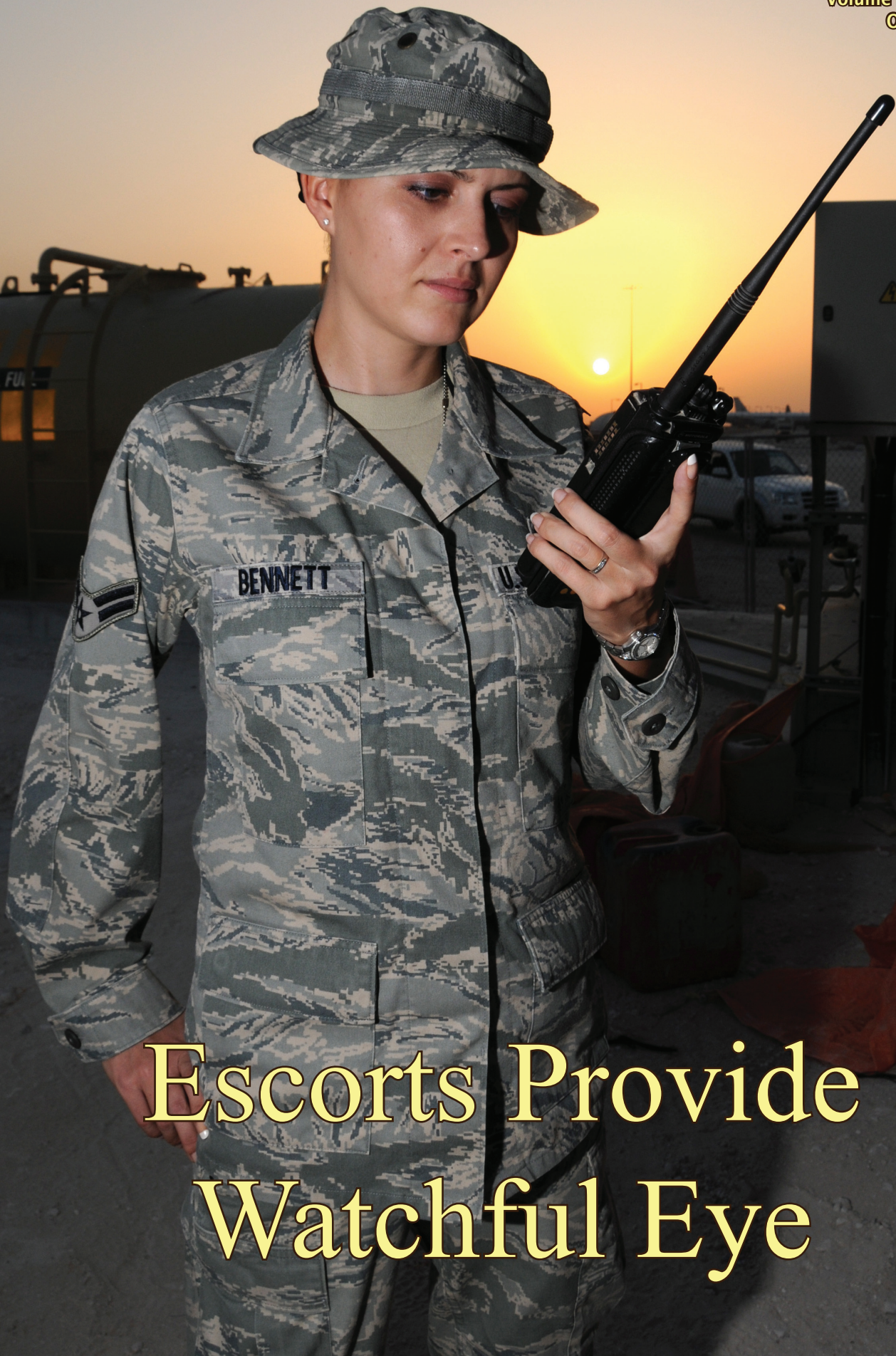


DESERT EAGLE

Volume 9, Issue 40
Oct. 4, 2009



Escorts Provide Watchful Eye

Meaning of 'service before self'

By Lt. Col. Jeffery Casey
379th Expeditionary
Medical Squadron

Every day in the Air Force we are reminded of our core values. Each time someone talks about them, we try to give different definitions for each one and different examples for what they mean. Integrity is usually defined as doing the right thing, even when no one is looking. Excellence in all we do is somewhat self-explanatory. Service before self never seems to get its due.

In 11 years in the Air Force, I've never heard a good definition of service before self. I recently came across a story that gives, in my opinion, not only a great definition of this core value, but shows how one person can embody all our core values, and this person wasn't even in the Air Force.

Ryne Sandberg is a former second baseman in Major League Baseball who spent nearly his entire career with the Chicago Cubs. Sandberg was formally inducted into the Major League Hall of Fame July 31, 2005. Sandberg made 10 consecutive All-Star appearances and won nine consecutive Gold Gloves from 1983 to 1991. His career .989 fielding percentage is a major league record at second base. Hall of Fame speeches tend to be "all about me." Not Mr. Sandberg. Listen to what he said about his career:

"A lot of people say this honor validates my career, but I didn't work hard for validation. I didn't play the game right because I saw a reward at the end

" We get so concerned with our potential rewards we forget the simple satisfaction of a job well done. "

of the tunnel. I played it right because that's what you're supposed to do; play it right and with respect. If this validates anything, it's the guys who taught me the game, who did what they were supposed to do, and I did what I was supposed to do. I dreamed of this as a child but I had too much respect for baseball to think this was ever possible. I believe it is because I had so much respect for the game and respect for getting the most out of my ability that I stand here today."

All too often today, we seem to have a sense of entitlement. We get caught up in "what is owed to me" and forget about "when do I start paying it back?" We get so concerned about our potential rewards, we forget about the simple satisfaction of a job well done. Not Mr. Sandberg. When his style of play was compared to some of the greats in baseball he said, "That was my job. When did it become okay for someone to hit home runs and forget how to play the rest of the game?" His ideas were so simple, yet so profound. Be the best you can at everything you do, not because

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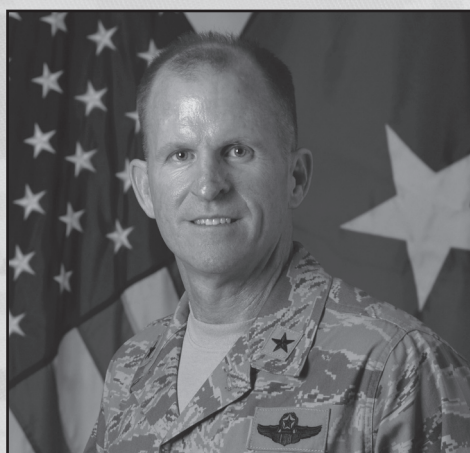
All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.

Commentaries and warriors of the week are scheduled according to a squadron rotation. Unit commanders and first sergeants are the points of contact for submissions.

For more information, call 436-0107.



Airman 1st Class Christina Bennett, 379th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron force protection and security escort, maintains accountability of Third Country National workers at the Base Defense Operations Center construction site, Sept. 29. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Jason Edwards)



Commander's Action Line

- The Action Line is your direct link to Brig. Gen. Stephen Wilson, 379th Air Expeditionary Wing commander.
- Use it if you have questions or comments about the base that cannot be resolved by your chain of command or base agencies.
- Each question will be reviewed, answered and may be published on a case-by-case basis. E-mail 379aewactionline@aub.afcent.af.mil.

64 AEG welcomes new leader

Center, incoming 64th Air Expeditionary Group Commander Col. Scott Young accepts the guidon from 379th Air Expeditionary Wing Commander Brig. Gen. Stephen Wilson at a change of command ceremony Tuesday in Southwest Asia. Colonel Young assumed command of the 64 AEG from Col. Mike Hatcher, right.



U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Tina Tafolla

Combined Federal Campaign starts Monday

By Capt. Sang Lee
379 Air Expeditionary Wing Combined Federal Campaign Project Officer

"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." - Sir Winston Churchill

This year's Combined Federal Campaign Overseas campaign for Southwest Asia will span from Oct. 5 to Dec. 4. Unit representatives have been appointed and will be contacting servicemembers with ways to participate if they desire to contribute to a cause of their choosing. Whether the cause is medical research, international relief or environmental protection, the CFC-O allows everyone the opportunity to support those causes which matter the most to them.

Many wonder why they should contribute through CFC and here are some of those reasons. First, the U.S. Office of Personnel Management screens potential participating charities to ensure they are legitimate. Next, CFC-O overhead is well



below the industry standard, which means participating charities receive as much of the contributions as possible. Finally, more than 2,000 national and international charities are participating in this year's CFC-O so donors can find one that best fits their personal cause.

No donation is too small. A contributor can give as little as \$1 per pay period, which amounts to \$12 per year for military members and \$26 per year for DoD civilians. How far can \$1 go in today's economy? For example, a single dose of de-worming medicine can bring relief from anemia, fatigue and general poor health – it works within 24 hours and costs just 11 cents per child.

One of the main goals of the CFC-O is to give every servicemember and civilian federal employee serving overseas the opportunity to make a charitable contribution. Deciding whether or not to donate money to a charitable cause is a personal decision. Each eligible individual should be well informed about all the giving options the CFC-O provides and know where and how to get more information when required; however, under no circumstances should anyone feel coerced to participate in the campaign.

Southwest Asia will formally launch this year's campaign with a CFC-O fundraising event Oct. 6 at 4 p.m. at Memorial Plaza. Unit POCs will be distributing detailed information for the event and all are invited to come out and support this event. While CFC-O is aimed toward U.S. federal employees including all servicemembers and civilians, contractors and other Coalition members can also contribute.

For questions or to find your unit POC, call 437-2127.

FROM SERVICE ON PAGE 2

you'll get a reward, but because that is what you are supposed to do. Sounds a lot like integrity first, excellence in all we do, and service before self.

My father has told me all my life, "anything worth doing is worth doing right." He never mentioned a reward.

Not because they weren't possible, but because my integrity should compel me to do my best at anything I do. My definition of service before self: doing your duty with respect, whether pleasant or unpleasant, and relinquishing your stake in the outcome.

My challenge to you is to make the commitment to go through life doing what you do the best you can do it and never look back. The rewards will come. And if they don't, you can hold your head high and know you played the game how it was meant to be played.

Escorts volunteer to keep watch

By Senior Airman
Michael Matkin
379th Air Expeditionary
Wing Public Affairs

Many of the servicemembers here in Southwest Asia were tasked to deploy; others volunteered. Regardless, most servicemembers are performing the job they were trained to do at their home station. However, the servicemembers who make up the 379th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron escort flight all volunteered not only to deploy, but to perform a job that most had never done before -- a job that entrusts them with the safety and security of the base populace.

The mission of the 379th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron escort flight is accountability for the more than 2,000 third country nationals who work on base and to keep a vigilant eye throughout the base interior 24/7.

"We escort the TCNs who build and clean almost everything on base," said Senior Master Sgt. Roger Kuhlmann, 379 ECES force protection security escort flight chief, deployed from Vance Air Force Base, Okla. Currently, the escort flight oversees more than \$42.5 million in service contracts performed by the TCNs.

Because the TCNs work across all areas of the base, the escorts have to be vigilant at all times, Sergeant Kuhlmann said.

"We are the front line defense against anything that appears to be out of the ordinary," Sergeant Kuhlmann said. "If we see a worker doing anything that doesn't seem right, our job is to report it to the proper authorities."

"My main focus, while working, is to make sure the TCNs are not doing anything outside their normal routine,"



U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Jason Edwards

Airmen 1st Class Brandon Horn and Christina Bennett, 379th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron force protection and security escorts, provide a post brief for Senior Master Sgt. Roger Kuhlmann, 379 ECES escort flight chief at the Base Defense Operations Center construction site, Sept. 29. The Third Country National escorts come from many different career field specialties and receive job-specific training prior to deployment.

said Airman 1st Class Tristan Wynn, 379 ECES TCN escort, deployed from Fairchild AFB, Wash., "which means I have to remain vigilant at all times."

There are other duties besides monitoring the TCNs for which the escorts are responsible, to include looking in dumpsters before they are emptied.

Checking dumpsters ensures there aren't any prohibited items being thrown away, such as uniforms, which is a common operations security violation. To mitigate this, the 379th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron transit shipping point established an unserviceable uniform disposal box program. "The boxes have been a major success," Sergeant Kuhlmann said. For example, in July, before the boxes were in place we found more than 250 uniform items that were disposed of improperly. This

number has been cut in half since the boxes have been put in place."

When escorts discover Operational Security violations, the items are recovered and destroyed. If a TCN is found with a restricted item or causes any other infraction, like fighting, the authorities are called and they assume responsibility for him or her, Sergeant Kuhlmann said.

"While there have been a few TCN violations in the past, for the most part they just want to come to work, do their job and go home," Sergeant Kuhlmann said.

While it's mainly all work and no play for the TCNs, there are opportunities that allow for mutual communication between the two distinct cultures.

"During down time, we have the opportunity to interact with the TCNs and learn about their culture and language," Airman Wynn said.

"Having a good experience

as a TCN escort is up to you; you really get what you put into it. Plus, it has given me the opportunity to interact with different cultures. I have even learned a few words in Tagalog [the language of the Philippines] from the TCNs."

"It is also a great opportunity to learn from people around the Air Force. I really enjoy getting to meet new people from all career fields and learn about their jobs back at home station," Airman Wynn, who works in personnel at her home station, said.

Currently there are more than 75 different Air Force Specialty Codes represented in the escort flight, Sergeant Kuhlmann said.

This diverse group of Air Force individuals diligently escorts TCNs ensuring the lives of more than 9,000 servicemembers assigned here have a base that is clean, in good repair, and most important, safe and secure.

Fire Prevention Week: Don't get burned!

By 379th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron
Fire Prevention Office Staff

Monday marks the start of Fire Prevention Week. Here in Southwest Asia, fire safety plays an important role in daily operations, not only to ensure mission continuation but to ensure property and lives are protected from the dangers of smoke and fire.

Below are some key areas that must be observed and practiced by all base personnel.

Smoking Safety

Smoking is permitted in designated smoking areas only. Designated smoking and tobacco use areas will be marked with a sign stating "Approved Smoking and Tobacco Use Area by Order of the Wing Commander."

Smoking is not permitted in or within 25 feet of any facility, or 50 feet of a hangar, aircraft, repair dock, paint shops, gasoline storage, servicing areas, maintenance shops, or other similarly hazardous locations unless designated in writing and approved by the fire prevention office.

Facility and building managers are responsible for ensuring an approved metal container with a self-closing lid, or a receptacle designed for such material, stenciled "SMOKING MATERIALS ONLY" is available in designated smoking areas. When these containers become half full, the contents will be thoroughly soaked for no less than 15 minutes, placed in a



These potential fire hazards were recently confiscated from facilities on base.

sealed bag and discarded in a trash can or dumpster.

Electrical Safety

Surge protectors: The piggybacking or daisy-chaining of relocatable power taps, multiple outlet adapters or surge protectors is not permitted. An RPT is defined as having multiple receptacles, an on-off switch, a circuit breaker, and a grounded power cord. All RPTs are to be directly connected to a permanently installed branch receptacle.

Extension cords: Extension cords or flexible electrical wiring will not be used as a sub-stitute for permanent wiring in the structure, run through holes in walls,

ceilings or floors, run through doorways, windows or similar openings, or be concealed behind building walls, ceiling, floors, or under carpeting.

Electrically operated air fresheners: The use of plug-in or other electrically operated air fresheners is prohibited in all facilities. Battery operated or cartridge type air fresheners are authorized.

Candles: The burning of candles, incense or any other open flame is prohibited.

Calling 911

If you smell or see smoke or fire, call 9-1-1 from any base phone to reach the fire department. Evacuate the facility, activate the pull station and yell "fire, fire, fire." If the only means of communication is a cell phone, call 458-9511. Caller should provide the 9-1-1 dispatcher with the pertinent information, including who you are, where the emergency is taking place and the nature of the emergency.

The Fire Department is asking for everyone's help. Fire Safety is everyone's responsibility. Everyone must use their eyes and ears to always be on the lookout for smoke or fire but, more importantly, everyone must be on the lookout for fire hazards. If hazards can be eliminated, fires are kept from occurring in the first place.

Fire Prevention Week will conclude with a Fire Muster held Oct. 11 at the CC basketball courts starting at 10 a.m. Four-person teams will compete in a series of events including a fire foam carry, hand-over-hand fire hose roll pull, serpentine dummy drag, tire sledge, hose roll out and roll up, hose pack carry, a charged hose advance and target knockdown, and finally a team bucket brigade.

To sign up for the Fire Muster, call Tech. Sgt. John Serrato at 437-8771.



Participants turn loose a fire hose at a previous Fire Muster. This year's muster will be held Oct. 11 at the CC basketball courts starting at 10 a.m.

How to cope with deployment

By Senior Airman Michael Matkin
379th Air Expeditionary Wing
Public Affairs

What should I do tonight? There is nothing to do here, and I don't have anyone to hang out with. I really miss my family. I guess I will just watch TV in my room again. So any of these thoughts sound familiar?

Deployments can be a difficult time in Airmen's lives. Not only are they separated from family and friends, but they are also working long hours and it can be easy to let discouraging thoughts enter their minds. Whenever Airmen let stressors affect their lives, they can also negatively affect the lives of Airmen around them, become a danger to themselves, said Maj. Alice Turner, 379th Expeditionary Medical Group, mental health clinic chief, deployed from Columbus Air Force Base, Miss.

There are many signs that indicate a servicemember may be having a hard time coping with deployment and fellow Airmen, supervisors, and commanders should be on the lookout, Major Turner said. These signs may include emotions that seem out of character, such as the following:

- Anxiousness
- Excessive worrying
- Decreased attention span
- Thinking unclearly
- Having trouble sleeping
- Changes in appetite

- Excessive focus on errors
- Complaints about physical stress
- Impaired duty performance
- Diminished confidence

If an Airman is displaying any of these signs, leaders and fellow Airmen should let them know that they care and understand, Major Turner said. Fellow Airmen should also validate and normalize the struggling Airman's feelings; don't minimize. Wingmen should let fellow Airmen know they are valued.

To help the struggling individual with their problems and ensure that they have a successful deployment, fellow Airmen should use the Wingman concept by supporting their fellow Airmen throughout the entire deployment process, Major Turner said. However, if the behavior persists and impairs the Airman's duty performance or daily function, encourage the Airman to seek help.

"Chaplains have full confidentiality, which means Airmen do not have to worry about what they tell us going outside our doors," said Chaplain (Capt.) Cornelius Johnson, 379th Air Expeditionary Wing chaplain, deployed from Wilford Hall Medical Center, Lackland AFB, Texas. "Secondly, we specialize in dealing with the spiritual, mental and emotional issues; we are trained to help Airmen."

Help can come in many forms, Major Turner said, which is why it

is vital for Airmen to keep channels of communication open with family members, friends and coworkers -- it is imperative to stay connected with what is familiar and safe.

"If you don't talk it out, you will act it out," she said. "Your mind and body work together for preservation. The physical and emotional symptoms experienced during times of high stress are sirens alerting you to take care of yourself; heed those warning signs."

To make deployments more enjoyable and to ensure Airmen are coping with the emotional stressors of deployments, servicemembers should take advantage of the many opportunities for physical, emotional, spiritual, social and mental growth and wellness offered through the Airman Readiness Center, Chapel services and Mental Health facilities. By getting involved Airmen, can relax and forget about problems which will help the deployment go by more quickly. Also, friends can help replace the loneliness felt from being away from home, Chaplain Johnson said, "so it helps to make some close friends while deployed."

"This is a time when you are away from your families and can focus on becoming a better you," Major Turner said. "You also have the opportunity to put your thoughts down in writing, which is something that you, your spouse and your children will later treasure. Your deployment is a great opportunity to establish a greater emotional intimacy."

Relax, Rejuvenate

Senior Airman Walter Simpson, 379th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, talks to his daughter through a webcam during a USO-sponsored Pros vs. G.I. Joes event, Tuesday, in Southwest Asia. The event allowed deployed servicemembers a chance to unwind by playing video games online with professional athletes from their hometown. Airman Simpson is deployed from MacDill Air Force Base, Fla.



U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Robert Barney

Senior Airman Leighton Holness

379th Air Expeditionary Wing Safety Office
Client Support Administrator

Home station: Lackland AFB, Texas

Arrived in AOR: May

Deployment goals: Get fit physically and mentally, and learn more about my job.

Best part of the deployment: Meeting new people and learning about Air Force Safety.

Hobbies: Hanging out with friends and playing soccer.

Best Air Force memory: The day I found out I made senior airman below the zone.

Nominated by Tech. Sgt. Derrick Magee: "Airman Holness is a true professional. His commitment to duty ensures the wing staff's computers are always fully operational. He is also pivotal in the safety investigation board process; without his attention to detail and service before self attitude, the program would fail."



U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Jason Edwards

Airman 1st Class Cody Swafford

37th Aircraft Maintenance Unit

Electrical and Environmental Systems Apprentice

Home station: Ellsworth AFB, S.D.

Arrived in AOR: July

Deployment goals: Become proficient in my primary AFSC, improve my physical fitness, and continue pursuit of my of bachelor's degree in science.

Best part of the deployment: It's the best way to learn my job and I love the wonderful sunny weather.

Hobbies: Running, weight-lifting, reading and relaxing.

Best Air Force memory: Graduating technical school in April.

Nominated by Tech. Sgt. Jonathan Wilkins: "Airman Swafford is a pacesetter amongst his peers and he's been in the Air Force for less than one year. He eagerly stepped up to fill a last-minute deployment slot and, since being here, has completed 30 percent of his journeyman upgrade tasks. His initiative and positive attitude are contagious. During his shift, he is either working on a pilot reported discrepancy, completing upgrade training tasks, studying a system technical order, or completing his CDCs."



U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Jason Edwards

Staff Sgt. Justin Tilley

379 Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron
Unit Deployment Manager

Home station: Elmendorf AFB, Alaska

Arrived in AOR: May

Deployment goals: Work on my degree in Fire Science

Best part of the deployment: Learning a new position as unit deployment manager.

Hobbies: Snowboarding, fishing and yoga

Best Air Force memory: Traveling the world.

Nominated by Tech. Sgt. Kyung Pak: "Sergeant Tilley is the unit deployment manager for the largest expeditionary civil engineer squadron in the AOR. He processed more than 1,100 personnel deployments and redeployments, as well as 15 emergency leaves and 27 forward deployments without any errors. His efforts allotted all 1,100 personnel to arrive smoothly and ensure that they were ready to contribute. Additionally, his exceptional knowledge of his duties allowed his 15 emergency leave personnel to be with loved ones within 24 hours."



U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Robert Barney



U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Jason Edwards

Left, Senior Airman Andrea "Izzy" Iseribat and Control Squadron, paints the is responsible for the JSTARS, an airbo and control, intelligence, surveillance provides real-time information to U.S. Baker is deployed from Robins Air For tions Iraqi and Enduring Freedom.



U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Robert Barney

Capt. Jay Trujillo, 379th Expeditionary Operations Group C-20H pilot, performs a preflight check prior to taking off on a mission, Sept. 25, in Southwest Asia. Captain Trujillo flies all over the world, supporting airlift missions for high-ranking government and Department of Defense officials. Captain Trujillo is deployed from Ramstein Air Base, Germany, in support of Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom.



Staff Sgt. Thomas Jackson, 340th Ex ron, plays Call of Duty 4 with fellow from the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, Tu rangement was part of a USO-sponsc that allowed deployed servicemen a playing video games online with prof town. Sergeant Jackson is deployed f support of Operations Iraqi and Endu

-Baker, 7th Expeditionary Air Com-
unit's jersey barrier. The 7 EACCS
rne battle management, command
and reconnaissance platform that
and Coalition forces. Airman Iseri-
ce Base, Ga., in support of Opera-



U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Robert Barney

Expeditionary Air Refueling Squad-
servicemembers against players
esday, in Southwest Asia. The ar-
ored event called Pros vs. G.I. Joes
nd women a chance to unwind by
essional athletes from their home-
rom MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., in
ring Freedom.



U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Robert Barney

Right, Capt. Jeffery Falanga and Royal Australian Air Force Squadron Leader Jason Brown, both 71st Expeditionary Air Control Squadron senior directors, manage and oversee support and combat aircraft into target areas, Wednesday, in Southwest Asia. The 71 EACS provides round-the-clock air defense and air battle execution of Southwest Asia.



U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Jason Edwards

Col. Gary Hisle Jr., 1st Battlefield Coordination Detachment commander and Sgt. Maj. Thomas Reitmeier, 1 BCD sergeant major, unfurl the unit guidon at a ceremony representing the unit's assumption of authority, Monday. The 1 BCD provides the required support for the integration of land and air operations in Southwest Asia while assigned to the Combined Air and Space Operations Center here.

Comm Helpdesk: circuit surgeons

By Senior Airman Michael Matkin
379th Air Expeditionary Wing
Public Affairs

Being sick is never fun and to add insult to injury, having to try and explain your symptoms to a doctor only makes it worse. However, by listening patiently and deciphering nontechnical medical language the doctor is able to make a diagnosis and prescribe a cure. But what happens when a computer is 'sick' and not functioning properly? There are computer physicians in this part of Southwest Asia ready to leap into action. To fix what ails their computers, users can turn to the 379th Expeditionary Communications Squadron communications focal point Helpdesk who will help decipher servicemembers' nontechnical computer language and provide a cure.

The first step in procuring a remedy for a computer problem is the unit's appointed client support administrator. The CSA is like a nurse in the medical field. They see the 'patient' first and use their training to correct the illness; however, if a nurse is unable to resolve a problem they call in the doctor, or in this case, the help desk.

Unit CSAs here are not necessarily CSAs at their home station. This can pose challenges for servicemembers at the Helpdesk because this might be a servicemember's first experience as a unit CSA and they may not be too computer savvy, said Senior Airman Scott Hall, 379 ECS help desk technician, deployed from Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska. To overcome this, the help desk technicians provide basic and advanced training to all unit-appointed CSAs as well as limited on-the-job training.

However, even with training, unit appointed CSAs may still not know or understand computer technical language. "Often people will want something fixed right on the spot but they have a hard time explaining what exactly is wrong so there just isn't enough information to figure out the problem," Airman Hall said. "Instead, we have to be patient, listen carefully and take the time necessary to figure out what is wrong. It is important that we, as Helpdesk members, be patient with unit-appointed CSAs and users, but they need to be patient with us as well. Problems get solved when we work together as a team."



Airman 1st Class Todd Stolte, 379th Expeditionary Communications Squadron help desk technician, troubleshoots a computer hardware issue here, Wednesday. The 379 ECS help desk is the base's one-stop shop for all computer-related issues. Airman Stolte is deployed from Scott Air Force Base, Ill., in support of Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom.

This is where the remote tool comes in handy, said Staff Sgt. Alicia Smalley, 379 ECS help desk technician, deployed from Patrick AFB, Fla.

The remote tool allows help desk technicians to remotely log into servicemembers computers and watch as users recreate the problem; it even allows them to take control of the mouse and keyboard.

Sergeant Smalley said that the remote tool is very helpful in figuring out what is wrong with users' computers when there is a communication gap between the Helpdesk technician and the user. With the remote tool they can see what is happening and are able to experience the problem themselves, which enables them to correct the issue.

Although correcting computer problems and the myriad of issues associated with computer technology is a big part of the Helpdesk technician's day, they don't just take calls on computer issues. Helpdesk technicians also field all

the trouble calls for phones, televisions and other mass communication devices across base. "Basically, if it is used for communicating we handle the trouble calls," Airman Hall said.

Since the Helpdesk covers such a broad range of communication-related issues and impacts every single person on base, their response is paramount to the success of the base's overall mission.

"Because communication is so important in today's fight almost every call we take is deemed to be mission critical," Sergeant Smalley said. "Truly, everyone's job here is important. We are all part of a big chain and the jobs we perform impact each other. If a part of that chain breaks, it can create a real problem which is where we come in."

Just as doctors diagnose and treat ailments, the Helpdesk technicians reconnect the base's communication chain when it is broken, keeping the communication flowing, the aircraft flying and servicemembers in the fight.

September's non-judicial punishments

Editor's Note: This list does not include actions from the month still under investigation or those disposed of through administrative actions such as LORs, UIFs etc.



- An airman 1st class from the 379th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron received an Article 15 for violating General Order-1B by visiting the sleeping quarters of a member of the opposite gender. This NJP action resulted in a suspended reduction to the grade of Airman, forfeiture of \$250 pay for two months, and a reprimand.
- A separate airman 1st class from 379 EAMXS received an Article 15 for violating GO-1B by visiting the sleeping quarters of a member of the opposite gender. This NJP action resulted in a suspended reduction to the grade of Airman, forfeiture of \$250 pay for two months, and a reprimand.
- An airman 1st class from the 379th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron

- received an Article 15 for falling asleep on post. This NJP action resulted in a reduction to the grade of Airman and a reprimand.
- A separate airman 1st class from 379 ESFS received an Article 15 for two specifications of disrespecting a non-commissioned officer, failure to obey a lawful order, using provoking speech or gestures, and resisting apprehension. This NJP action resulted in a suspended reduction to the grade of Airman, forfeiture of \$250 pay for two months, and a reprimand.
- A senior master sergeant from the 379th Expeditionary Maintenance Group received

- an Article 15 for engaging in unprofessional relationships, violating GO-1B by entering the sleeping quarters of a member of the opposite gender, and failure to go to an appointed place of duty. This NJP action resulted in forfeiture of \$1,998 pay per month for two months, 45 days restriction, 45 days extra duty, and a reprimand.
- A 1st lieutenant from Air Force Forces Staff received an Article 15 for violating GO-1B by visiting the sleeping quarters of a member of the opposite gender and consuming alcohol in an unauthorized location. This NJP action resulted in forfeiture of \$743 pay per month for two months and a reprimand.
- An airman 1st class from the 8th Expeditionary Air Mobility Squadron received an Article 15 for violating GO-1B by possessing pornography. This NJP action resulted in a suspended reduction to the grade of Airman, forfeiture of \$250 pay for two months, and a reprimand.

This Week's Caption Contest

Photo No. 143

The winner is...

"I'm thinking the nacho buffet at the midnight meal wasn't the best choice."
 - Master Sgt. James Sanscrainte,
 379th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron



Photo No. 144 (next week's photo)

Do you have what it takes to make the base chuckle? Submit your made-up caption for the photo below to **379AEW.PA@auab.afcent.af.mil** by Wednesday. If your caption is the best (or second best), it will appear in the following week's paper.

Can't come up with a caption but have a funnier photo than we've been using? Submit it to **379AEW.PA@auab.afcent.af.mil** and we may use it, assuming you didn't bruise our photographers' egos too much.

EMDG Chief reenlists for last time

By Airman 1st Class
David Dobrydney
379th Air Expeditionary
Wing Public Affairs

Chief Master Sgt. Veronique Nicklas, 379th Expeditionary Medical Group superintendent, reenlisted Sept. 26 for the final time before reaching 30 years in the U.S. Air Force.

The reenlistment ceremony took place on the flightline here in Southwest Asia. "It was an honor and a privilege," Chief Nicklas said of being able to raise her hand one last time among the aircraft whose crews her group works to support.

Chief Nicklas was involved with the Air Force even before her first enlistment on June 2, 1982. When she was in ninth grade a friend introduced her to the Civil Air Patrol. Chief Nicklas joined and would spend her high school years working search-and-recovery missions in Cessnas and spending summers as a volunteer at air shows in Oshkosh, Wis., guiding aircraft to their parking places.

After finishing high school, Chief Nicklas decided to join the active-duty Air Force. "I didn't want to be dependent on my family for college," she said. "This was a way to have a good source of income and go to school at the same time." She performed so well on her CAP written exams and physical assessments that she earned the Billy Mitchell Award, which gave her two stripes before entering basic training.

Chief Nicklas wasn't always a medical Airman. She began her career in the intelligence field, supporting the SR-71 "Blackbird" reconnaissance aircraft. She remembers being stationed in England and learning about sensitive operations before they took place and before the general public was made aware. "Of course, CNN



Chief Master Sgt. Veronique Nicklas, 379th Expeditionary Medical Group superintendent, takes her final oath of enlistment, Sept. 26, on the flightline in Southwest Asia. This was Chief Nicklas' final oath before reaching 30 years of service in the U.S. Air Force.

wasn't around back then," Chief Nicklas said.

When the SR-71 program was discontinued in 1990, Chief Nicklas spent some time as a career assistance advisor at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla., a job she considered very rewarding. "It was awesome," Chief Nicklas said. "I worked with all [Air Force Specialty Codes], so it gave me a good perspective of what everyone brings to the fight. I had the opportunity to help a lot of people make career decisions."

Following her stint as a CAA, Chief Nicklas retrained into her current specialty as a group superintendent. Her deployment to Southwest Asia, from Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., is her first of any of the career fields she has been in, and she considers it a high point of her career. Citing the Blood Transfusion Center and the

individual first aid kits the 379 EMDG provides for the entire area of responsibility, Chief Nicklas said, "we're not just doing routine care here; we're doing care that's saving lives each and every day. I'm very excited to be here."

Nearly 30 years after she first took the oath of enlistment in the twilight years of the Cold War, Chief Nicklas marvels at the changes she's seen in the Air Force.

"It's definitely a lot more technical in how we do things," she said, recalling that when she first joined rotary telephones were still in use and there were only two typewriters in her group's entire workplace.

Chief Nicklas also mentioned the drastic increase in the operations tempo following 9/11. "When I first came in, many deployments were for humanitarian missions," she said. But

more than the technological improvements or the increase in mission tempo, Chief Nicklas is constantly impressed by the capabilities of the Airmen those improvements have produced. "Our Airmen are coming in a lot smarter," she said. "I applaud every Airman who signed up after 9/11, whether they stay in for four, six or 20 years."

When asked what kept her reenlisting through the years, she immediately said the people she gets to work with and the camaraderie produced in pursuit of the defense of freedom.

"When you're a civilian, you say you work *at* a company; when you're *in* the military you say 'I'm *in* the Air Force' or 'I'm *in* the Army,'" Chief Nicklas said. "It's that little word *in* that makes us bigger and better than what we would be individually."

Guardisman promoted during flight

By Tech. Sgt. Joseph Kapinos
AFCENT Combat Camera Team

Very rarely do flight orders, which list the names and ranks of the aircrew, have to be altered in the middle of a mission. But on Sept. 25, an exception was made when Tech. Sgt. Nathan Neidhardt was promoted to master sergeant.

Instead of the standard pin-on ceremony normally done during their weekend training, the sergeant wanted to do something different.

"I wanted to make it memorable," said Master Sgt. Nathan Neidhardt. "Everybody gets promoted in front of their peers. I wanted to tell people how, for me, it was special and unique. There are not a lot of people who can say they took off as a technical sergeant and landed as a master sergeant."

Sergeant Neidhardt became that master sergeant during his pin-on ceremony tens of thousands of feet above the Afghan countryside. He had just completed refueling a Belgian F-16A Fighting Falcon and while they waited for the next plane to arrive, he stood proudly at attention in front of the American flag while the orders were read by the aircraft commander promoting him to his next rank.

Lt. Col. Ken Folger, acting deputy of operations for the 340th Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron and Chief Master Sgt. Tim Treinen, chief boom operator, stood by with him and "tacked on" his new name tag. Lt. Col. Folger is the squadron commander of the 117th Air Refueling Squadron at Forbes Field, Kan., where Sergeant Neidhardt is a member.

Once the ceremony was complete and congratulations given, it was time for a bit of levity as the pilots stated over the intercom that "snacks and refreshments were available on the veranda."

The moment over, it was back to business for Sergeant Neidhardt and the rest of the crew as there were more planes to be refueled.

A Kansas native, Sergeant Neidhardt was born just outside of Wichita. Calling himself a "Guard baby," he followed his father, Col. Hans Neidhardt, into the guard almost ten years ago.

"My father works at the state level for the adjutant general for the state of Kansas," Sergeant Neidhardt said. "Serving in the Air National Guard



U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Angelita Lawrence

Master Sgt. Nathan Neidhardt, 340th Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron boom operator, has a nametag depicting his new rank 'pinned on' by Lt. Col. Kenneth Fogler, 340th Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron pilot, Sept. 25. Sergeant Neidhardt was promoted on board his KC-135 Stratotanker while in mid-flight over Afghanistan.

was always something I wanted to do. It's what my family does, it really is a tradition."

"Nate" originally wanted to become a pilot and saw serving in the Guard as a way to accomplish his goal. He initially looked at serving in the Guard unit at his home state's McConnell Air Force Base; his plans changed when the mission there switched from B-1 bombers to KC-135 tankers.

"I was close to finishing my degree when the [base realignment and closure list] changed the mission at McConnell," Sergeant Neidhardt said. "I saw becoming a boom operator was my way of getting my foot in the door. Before I started flying I was working in maintenance as a fulltime Guard

member. Luckily my unit was able to keep me fulltime when I changed jobs."

But being a "boom" really got into his blood.

"Seven years later, I have my degree, and I have taken all the tests required to become an officer -- I just really find it hard to let go of this job," he said. "I truly enjoy what I get to do every day."

And flying everyday is just what this husband and father of two does, especially downrange, where the mission rate for the tanker aircrews is rigorous. The 340th EARS "Mighty Pythons" routinely fly more than 20 sorties a day, seven days a week flying missions in support of operations throughout the area.



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24 hours a day,
'And overtime on Sundays'

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**Protestant
Saturday**

7:30 p.m., Contemporary, Chapel

Sunday

- 9:45 a.m., General Protestant, CAOC 1st Floor conference room
- 9:45 a.m., Contemporary, Chapel
- 11 a.m., General Ops Town, Bldg 3952
- 11:30 a.m., Traditional Service, Chapel
- Noon, Church of Christ, BPC Fellowship
- 1:30 p.m., LDS Service, Chapel
- 4 p.m., Liturgical, Chapel
- 7 p.m., Church of Christ, Multi-purpose room
- 7:30 p.m., Gospel, Chapel

Roman Catholic Mass

6 p.m., Monday-Friday
Blessed Sacrament Chapel

Saturday Mass

6 p.m., Mass, BPC Mall area

Sunday Masses

- 8 a.m., Mass, Victory Chapel
- 11 a.m., Mass, CAOC 1st floor conference room
- 6 p.m., Mass, Victory Chapel

**Jewish
Muslim
Buddhist
Orthodox
Earth Religions**

See Chapel staff or call 437-8811 for more information.

No greater honor than this

By Chaplain (Capt.) Kenneth Moore
379th Air Expeditionary Wing Chapel

On an occasion that has become all too frequent, we gathered in the heat of the night. Anxious warriors in our own right, brothers and sisters in arms, we all gathered. Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, officers and enlisted, were compelled to come. As I looked upon the ocean of faces, I pondered what was going on in their minds. Some were stoic, while others' faces shared the pain and appeared mystified. Nervousness seemed to increase as the group, put aside any differences or concerns of their own and focused on the white vans that have pulled to the ready point of the flightline to begin the journey for our fallen warriors.

Solemnly, without a word, we made our way to the aircraft that will take our comrade to the next place on their journey home, not caring about the fact of not knowing their name or branch of service. We were only thinking they are somebody's son, daughter, spouse, brother, sister. They are our brother and our sister. In that moment, my mind and heart is filled with deep pride, to be able to honor our fallen warriors who paid the ultimate sacrifice.

While the Code of Conduct is the legal guide for the behavior of military members who are captured by hostile forces, Article I encapsulates the caliber of our fallen warriors and the sacrifice they honorably choose. It reads:

I am an American, fighting in the forces which guard my country and our way of life. I am prepared to give my life in their defense.

I'm almost certain that none of our fallen warriors wanted to die but they lived by a code that put others before self and freedom above oppression. They were willing to give their own life so that others might live. While some may never understand the reason why we serve or how we can mourn over someone we never knew, we know that the price of liberty does not come cheap.

I am reminded of another word that is printed in my favorite book by which I live and guide my life:

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no man than this that a man lay

down his life for his friends." (John 15, verses 12-13, Revised Standard Version)

Our fallen warriors were everyday men and women who may never have considered themselves heroes, but are heroes in the hearts of many. They lived and gave their lives for something in which they believed. An article in the Code of Conduct, or a passage of scripture in the good book, they were willing, they gave, and they paid the ultimate price.

While I hope we never have to lose another warrior in the fight to guard our country's way of life, I know it is inevitable. Ironically, there was a man in biblical days, from humble origins and from an everyday family. He, too, lived by a code and died for a purpose. While He is known by many names and many people, He gave His life for all, those who knew Him and those who know Him not. He gave his life so that others might live.

The white vans arrived at the aircraft and paused between rows of comrades who want to honor their fallen warriors. The honor detail moved in unison as our commander, Brig. Gen. Stephen Wilson, called all to attention. With the command of "present arms" slowly our salute brought a wave of emotion as I, along with some others, felt a tear well up in our eyes.

Without pause, the honor detail removed each casket and carries our fallen warriors through the columns of honor. The last warrior had been placed on the aircraft now, our final salute given, but one final act remained. Realizing that there is a greater power than us all, we boarded the aircraft and bowed our heads. I rendered our prayer aloud, as others prayed quietly in their own way, to their own God. We prayed for our fallen warriors, their families, and all who mourn.

With our prayer ended, in a final act of gratitude for the sacrifice made, some exited the aircraft touching the coffin leaving an imprint of our connectedness as battlefield warriors.

No greater honor have I had then to participate in receiving and sending our fallen warriors home. No fallen warrior passes through the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing without being treated as a member of our family, on their way home. If you have not participated in a fallen warrior ceremony, I encourage you to take the opportunity to do so.

Follow the happenings of the 'Grand Slam' Wing at <http://379aew.dodlive.mil>, on Facebook at '379th Air Expeditionary Wing' and on Twitter @379AEW

Desert Chiefs Scholarship Winner

Airman 1st Class Chris Gutierrez, 379th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron, received a \$100 scholarship from the Desert Chiefs Group, Sept. 26, in Southwest Asia. Airman Gutierrez is using the funds to help pay for college textbooks, allowing him to finish his CCAF degree this fall.

New Education Center Hours

Effective today, the Education Center at the BPC Mall will be operating Monday through Saturday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, call 437-0016.

Tobacco Cessation Classes

The Tobacco Cessation Program will have the following sessions in October:

Mornings: 8 to 9 a.m. Oct. 6, 13, 20 and 27

Evenings: 5 to 6 p.m. Oct. 10, 17, 24 and 31

The sessions will be held at the Mental Health Clinic located in Bldg. 10090, in the Coalition Compound. Participants may attend either the morning or evening sessions but must complete all four modules. The program focuses on the behavioral changes needed to increase long-term abstinence from tobacco products. It is a group process-centered class that incorporates behavioral change with nicotine replacement therapy. To sign up for a module session, call Master Sgt. Lisa Ware at 437-8767.

Fire Department Muster

Fire Prevention week runs Oct. 4 through 11. To close out the week, the fire department will hold a fire prevention muster Oct. 11 starting at 10 a.m. at the CC Basketball Courts featuring events such as a hand-over-hand fire hose pull, a hose pack carry and a team bucket brigade. For more information, contact Tech. Sgt. John Serrato at 437-8771 or 437-5504.

Soccer Players Wanted

Interested male players are needed to form a team to play soccer against various branches of the Host Nation Military. A U.S. team will be formed among interested service members from on base and nearby Camp As Sayliyah. Coalition forces are also welcome to try out for the team. Try-outs will be held in the near future and practices will begin in October with official matches being held in January. Male or female volunteers are also needed to be part of the coaching and administra-

tive staff. Details for the try-outs will be publicized as soon as they become available. If interested or for more information, call 436-0100 or 436-0109.

Shuttle Schedule Update

In response to customer feedback, the bus shuttles have changed. The Blue Line will no longer service the BPC DFAC. The Red Line will reduce times to 15 minute intervals and includes an additional stop at SOCCENT. Additionally, the Green Line Express will now utilize the bus stop inside the CAOC parking lot and include a stop at the Grab-n-Go. View the commander's channel for updated routes. Additionally, signs will be posted in all bus stops showing the new routes and times. For any questions, contact Vehicle Operations at 436-0616 or 436-0617.

Uniform Disposal

The proper disposal of military uniforms is a force protection issue. The 379th ELRS transit shipping point has established an unserviceable uniform disposal program. Four locations are available to drop off uniform outer garments; however, boots, PT gear or civilian clothing is not permitted. Uniforms can be taken directly to the TSP (Building 3718 near the wash rack). They can also be dropped off at collection boxes located by Jack's Place, the Coffee Beanery in the CC complex and outside of the BPC BX. For questions, contact TSP at 437-2352.

Professional Development Courses

Professional Development courses are held every Wednesday and Friday at 8 a.m. and 7 p.m. at the Airmen Readiness Center. These classes are taught by senior enlisted leaders in an effort to provide personal and professional growth opportunities for deployed members. Pay grades of E-1 through O-3 are welcome to attend. For more information, to suggest a topic, or to volunteer to teach, call Master Sgt. Mandy Midgett at 436-4184.

Weekly Right Start, Finish Briefings

Anyone newly arrived to the installation or scheduled to depart in the next couple of months is required to attend a mandatory Right Start or Right Finish briefing, whichever is applicable. To ensure all personnel have the opportunity to attend these appointments, Right Start briefings will now be held every Tuesday and Friday beginning at 6:45 a.m. and Right Finish briefings will be held every Friday beginning at 5 p.m. Briefings take place in the CC Theater, located in Memorial Plaza. Proper attire for this mandatory appointment is uniform of the day; PT wear is not authorized.

**Safety Snapshot:
The only excuse for poor safety is poor planning.**

Senior Air Craftsman Chris Rimmer loads equipment using a Groves 422 crane. SAC Rimmer is deployed in support of Operation TELIC, the UK's activity in Iraq, and Operation HERRICK, the UK's support to ISAF activity in Afghanistan.



	MODEL	422
	YEAR	2007
	SERIAL	83087
	V.I.D.	LVIA/260
CRANE WHEEL MOUNTED FAST MOBILE FULLY BLENDING WITH TELESCOPIC BOOM (10 RW 18VCL-11-28 TONS) L.L.A. (17,500 KG (10.1 V.M.))		
MANFR [GROVE EUROPE LTD] TYPE LVA422E		
SERIAL NO. 83087 RES NO 152 04 AA		
CEN NO LVIA/260		