

DESERT EAGLE

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Fuel fit to burn
each time, every time

DESERT EAGLE

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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.



Staff Sgt. Michael Brady, 379th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron fuels laboratory NCOIC, performs an API gravity determination test on aviation gasoline, Oct. 14, 2009, in Southwest Asia. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Robert Barney)

Commentary

Changing how we do business

By Lt. Col. Alexander Koven
7th Expeditionary Air Command and
Control Squadron Commander

Change has always been a part of the Air Force. You see it every day here with the way Airmen support the fight. The B-1B Lancer, designed to penetrate into enemy territory, is now using a targeting pod and global positioning satellite-aided weapons to conduct close air support. In previous conflicts, Air Control Squadrons needed to be within line-of-sight of the aircraft they controlled. Now they control the fight from thousands of miles away.

For my own platform, engineers designed the Joint Surveillance Target Attack System to detect Warsaw Pact-era tank columns crossing the Fulda Gap in Germany. In today's battlefield, JSTARS is producing actionable information for the counter-insurgency fight while supporting real-time operations through an upgraded communications suite. Our concept of war fighting has transformed.

Change also impacts an Airman's quality of life. As a lieutenant who deployed frequently to this part of the world, the rules limited me to two 15-minute phone calls a week back home. Squadrons had more typewriters than computers and I broke out the air tasking order with a pencil and a photocopier. At my home squadron, 60 people shared a single laser printer. E-mail was a new concept and few people had access to the Web. Most amazingly, the Air Force was able to launch sorties without the use of PowerPoint. Overhead projectors, wax pencils, and acetates worked fine. Our concept of using technology has transformed.

Today's Airmen enter an Air Force

that is network-centric. Information travels instantly with the press of a button. Air Force Instructions and forms are available online. Airmen huddle around Wi-Fi hot spots to keep in contact with loved ones, work on their education, or network with others on a global scale. It used to take the power of a mighty nation to reach around the globe. Now an individual is capable of doing the same. Our concept of using information has transformed.

Change will continue for the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing as our mission. From our position here in Southwest Asia, our wing helps bring stability to this region. Our mission will ensure that critical natural resources are available for the world economy, while building lasting relationships with our friends and allies. Airpower, with its unique attributes, provides critical capabilities required for operations in this region. These capabilities span from logistics, to intelligence, to surveillance and reconnaissance, to kinetic and non-kinetic effects. You, the Airmen of the Grand Slam Wing, provide the Joint Forces Air Component Commander options and capabilities for the future. Over time, this wing's mission has transformed.

One of the first changes is the way the 379 AEW is manned. Like mine, many of the commander positions have become 365-day tours. Other key positions will shortly follow. This continuity will ensure better integration of squadrons and their capabilities. Another change that many who came to "Camp Andy" have witnessed is the great improvement in facilities that has occurred and continues. As these improvements move forward, the Grand Slam Wing will continue its transformation to meet today's and future's challenges.

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@auab.afcent.af.mil.

Reserve wing CC visits deployed unit

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

A group of reservists deployed here recently received a visit from a special guest from back at their home station.

Brig. Gen. James L. Muscatell Jr., 403rd Wing commander at Keesler Air Force Base, Miss., arrived here, Oct. 10, to visit with his Airmen during his final stop of a tour of the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility.

His tour was arranged as part of the Joint Monthly Access to Reserve Components program, which is a U.S. CENTCOM-sponsored program which allows Army and Air Reserve Component general officers and their senior enlisted members the opportunity to visit Reserve and National Guard Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines serving in the AOR.

Most often, it is Army reserve leaders who use the program. "We were told we were the first Air Force Reservists who have used the program in the past year," said General Muscatell, who was joined on his tour by 403rd Wing Command Chief Master Sergeant Anthony Woitalla.

General Muscatell had deployed to the AOR once before as a unit commander and was eager for another opportunity to see Airmen in the field. When his superior was unable to go on this tour, General Muscatell was asked to go in his stead.

"Because our Airmen are working for other commanders, we don't want to be seen as usurping their authority," General Muscatell said, "but we're here to reinforce their authority; I've been doing that at every base I've been to."

General Muscatell



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

Left, Brig. Gen. James L. Muscatell Jr., 403rd Wing commander, Keesler Air Force Base, Miss., chats with Master Sgt. Joshua Stanton and Staff Sgt. Dana Kelley, 746th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron C-130J loadmasters, during his visit, Oct. 10. Sergeants Stanton and Kelly are deployed from Keesler AFB in support of operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

oversees more than 1,400 reservists in the 403rd Wing and has been able to visit with almost 300 deployed to various areas in the AOR, including more than 150 members deployed here to the 746th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron. For the 403rd members stationed here and elsewhere, General Muscatell wanted to pass on a message from their local communities back in Mississippi.

"The people back home are following every pound of cargo and every passenger you're moving," he said. "Civic leaders call and tell me 'we've been reading about your unit.' They're keeping up and are so proud of what you're doing."

The Keesler Airmen in the 746 EAS arrived in September and are already maintaining a 103 percent mission completion rate. "Back at Keesler, they don't get an opportunity to really exercise their skills like they do in the AOR," Chief Woitalla said, likening the

Airmen's experience to 'trial by fire.' "In the short time they've been here, they've learned and grown so much," he said. "They've met the challenge admirably."

Lt. Col. Donald Buckley, 746 EAS commander, said it was an honor and a pleasure to have General Muscatell and Chief Woitalla visit with the unit. "Our members get a good feeling from knowing their wing commander is behind them backing them up," he said.

Besides succeeding in their primary mission, Chief Woitalla cited the contribution reservists make in the form of volunteering, using the knowledge from their civilian jobs. He mentioned a group of Airmen stationed as firefighters in Iraq who, in their spare time, are using their carpentry skills to renovate the fire station. "They bring a great mix of skills and abilities," Chief Woitalla said, "because they have a whole other skill set [from their civilian jobs] to tap into."

But General Muscatell and Chief Woitalla have been impressed the most by the ease with which the different components of the Air Force and sister services work together.

"How integrated the forces are is testament to the professional force we have," Chief Woitalla said. "Whether they're active-duty, guard or reserve, you can't really tell the difference between the personnel."

General Muscatell came to the same conclusion.

"The active-duty can't do it by themselves, the Guard can't do it by themselves, the Reserve can't do it by themselves. It takes all of us working together," he said.

As their tour of the AOR came to an end, Chief Woitalla said that in his 27-year Air Force career, he considered this tour the highlight. General Muscatell agreed.

"We've come here to increase their morale, and it has increased ours. It's been awesome," he said.

Keeping AF equipment runni

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

Servicemembers go to technical school to learn the basic skills of their military job and they receive hands-on experience when they go to their first duty assignment. However, with the high operational tempo and numerous tasks required of them day in and day out, the servicemembers of the 379th Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron aerospace ground equipment flight, here, have an opportunity to perfect and enhance their maturing skills.

"This is an awesome learning experience for me," said Airman 1st Class Terrell Chester, 379 EMXS AGE apprentice, deployed from Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany. "I have learned a great deal more than I ever could at my home station, because, there is a unique opportunity to learn about a lot of different equipment



Clockwise from top, Airman 1st Class Kara Rouse, Staff Sgt. Donald Frazier and Senior Airman Kevin Desautels, 379th Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron aerospace ground equipment members, replace a main hydraulic pump on a hydraulic test stand, Wednesday, in Southwest Asia. The stand is used during B-1B Lancer maintenance. Airmen Rouse and Desautels are deployed from Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D. and Sergeant Frazier is deployed from Dyess AFB, Texas, in support of operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

from a lot of different aircraft here. Plus, there are so many people here with years and

years of experience that any time I have a question, I can find someone who can answer

it for me."

Although [servicemembers] learn a great deal about their jobs in [technical] school they can learn a great deal more here because we are responsible for so much equipment and because of the accelerated rate at which we work. [Servicemembers] can learn at the rate of months instead of years here," Senior Master Sgt. John Bush, 379 EMXS AGE flight chief, deployed from Charleston Air Force Base, S.C., said.

The amount of experience that more than 100 servicemembers from more than 16 different bases bring to the 379 EMXS AGE flight is another great opportunity for newly trained AGE servicemembers. "It is a unique opportunity for them to learn from some very seasoned technicians," Sergeant Bush said.

The flight must be staffed with a large group of skilled technicians because they



Staff Sgt. Donald Frazier, 379th Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron aerospace ground equipment craftsman, helps replace a main hydraulic pump on a hydraulic test stand, Wednesday, in Southwest Asia. The stand is used during B-1B Lancer maintenance. Sergeant Frazier is deployed from Dyess Air Force Base, Texas in support of operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

ing challenge for today's AGE



Staff Sgt. Chris Holt, 379th Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron aerospace ground equipment driver, returns equipment to a nearby ready line after use, Wednesday, in Southwest Asia. The AGE shop transfers necessary ground equipment to all aircraft here supporting operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. Sergeant Holt is deployed from Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany.

maintain more than 500 pieces of support equipment such as generators, air conditioning carts, bomb lifts and hydraulic jacks, Sergeant Bush said.

"We also have to know about electronics, pneumatics, fuel and oil," Airman Chester said, "as well as knowing how to take apart engines and rebuild them."

This large array of equipment is used constantly here, so frequent maintenance

must be performed, Sergeant Bush said. All equipment must be inspected twice a year, although most electrical power equipment is also given a tune-up every 180 days. In the month of September alone, AGE completed more than 96,000 service inspections.

"The air conditioners are one of the most important pieces of equipment on this flightline and keeping our air conditioners running is one

of the most difficult tasks we do," Sergeant Bush said. "The summer heat is especially tough on them because they are running non-stop."

The cooling units are used to cool an aircraft's avionics or other electrical systems when Airmen are working on them, Sergeant Bush said. Without the cold air cooling the components, they would generate too much heat and systems would be damaged.

Even with the stress

from the extreme heat and constant use that is put on the AGE equipment here, they have been able to sustain an equipment in-commission rate of more than 93 percent.

"It's difficult for an AGE flight to maintain an in-commission rate that high," Sergeant Bush said. "An average shop dreams of sustaining that rate; it is a testament to the extremely good job we are doing. The [servicemembers] work very hard and they take pride in their work."

This pride is also evident in the quality of the equipment they send out to be used by maintenance workers and aircrew on the flightline, which had a 99.2 percent reliability rate in September, Sergeant Bush said. To reach such numbers, the AGE flight must not only work at a fast pace but must also work as a team.

"The work here is too big for just one person, so we have to rely on each other to get all of the jobs completed," Airman Chester said.

To the AGE flight, working as a team doesn't just mean working within their own flight; they also support aerospace ground equipment for their sister services and coalition forces. Recently, the Navy needed to change the landing gear tires on one of its aircraft and AGE was able to help them accomplish the job by providing them an aircraft jack. In September, they supported the Navy and coalition partners on more than 65 different occasions collectively with aerospace ground equipment needs.

With so many hands-on opportunities working with numerous and diverse types of equipment, as well as with skilled craftsmen, new members of the AGE career field can learn and grow in Southwest Asia at an unparalleled rate.

College brings classes to Soldiers

By Army 1st Lt. Benjamin Smith
1-43 Air Defense Artillery Battalion

As the days pass for Bravo Battery, 1-43 Air Defense Artillery Battalion, so grows the list of accomplishments for its Soldiers. Awards, promotions, and valuable experience continue to pile up for Soldiers like Spc. Leonel Perez, a Bravo Battery tactical control assistant. In addition to these accomplishments, Specialist Perez has elected to add another: college.

In a partnership with the University of Maryland-College Park, here, the Soldiers of the 'Cobra Strike' Battalion are getting the opportunity to take selected college classes. Shannon Mason, UMUC downrange field representative, said that due to the need for 24-hour operations required at site, a solution was found to allow the Soldiers to attend classes: bring the classes to the Soldiers.

Starting in July, instructors from the UMUC have taught classes several times a week at the Battery tactical site. Adapting their classes to allow for Soldiers to take part, even while on shift, has allowed Specialist Perez, and many others, an opportunity that most don't get, even back in garrison.

"The civilian job market is as competitive as ever now, and just having military experience isn't enough to get a good job nowadays," Specialist Perez said. "I know I will need college experience as well as my military skills to support my family once my time in the Army is done."



Spc. Brianna Netzinger, Bravo Battery's Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Defense specialist, prepares for an upcoming exam in Math 103. Specialist Netzinger is one of many Soldiers of Bravo Battery taking college courses through the University of Maryland-College Park.

Specialist Perez is not alone. Bravo Battery had almost 20 personnel attend Spanish courses on site. While only one course is taught at a time, almost as soon as the Spanish class was completed, a mathematics course began and attracted Soldiers from Charlie Battery as well. More classes are planned for the coming months, from foreign languages to the sciences.

Spc. Joseph Ledford, a Bravo Battery orderly room clerk, looks forward to taking more classes as they become available. "Every class I can take here

is one less I have to take at home, when I can spend more time with my family instead of in a classroom."

Bravo Battery Headquarters Platoon Leader 2nd Lt. Corey Anderson is glad to see his Soldiers improving their education. "I've tried to impart a sense of how important higher education is both in and out of the military," Lieutenant Anderson said. "It's good to see so many of our people taking advantage of this opportunity to get ahead."

For information on off-duty education, contact the Education Office at 437-8710.



Rock hard

Senior Airman Walter Hernandez, 379th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron pavement and heavy equipment journeyman, maneuvers a boulder, Oct. 11, in Southwest Asia. The 379 ECES pavement and heavy equipment section placed large boulders around U.S. Air Force assets for an added measure of force protection.

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

Staff Sgt. Andrea Lay

379th Expeditionary Contracting Squadron
Contingency Contracting Officer

Home station: Ramstein Air Base, Germany

Arrived in AOR: July

Deployment goals: Improve my fitness level, continue to work on my bachelors degree.

Best part of the deployment: Being able to work with the local contractors and learning a new culture.

Hobbies: Writing, reading, painting, listening to music.

Best Air Force memory: When I received my assignment to Germany after being stationed stateside for three years. I always wanted to live overseas.

Nominated by Capt. Darryl Randolph: "Sergeant Lay's outstanding coordination with 379AEW and tenant unit customers ensured a seamless and effective end of the fiscal year 2009 closeout. She used sound business judgment while satisfying the various units' requirements."



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

Tech. Sgt. Darlene Randall

746th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron
Aviation Resource Manager

Home station: Keesler AFB, Miss.

Arrived in AOR: September

Deployment goals: Execute duties in a timely manner and exceed standards while exercising an active leadership role.

Best part of the deployment: Being part of a vital mission of the United States Air Force. Working closely with the men and women of the 815th "Flying Jennies" Airlift Squadron.

Hobbies: Preparing new recipes, camping with family, shopping and sports.

Best Air Force memory: Receiving the Distinguished Graduate award in Aviation Resource Management.

Nominated by Lt. Col. Keith Gibson: "As the NCOIC of the Squadron Aviation Resource Management shop, Sergeant Randall has been a vital part of the 746 EAS. Sergeant Randall and her shop prepare more than 60 aircrew personnel for their missions by creating pre-and post mission reports, flight orders, and maintaining their flying history."



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

Staff Sgt. Benjamin Wise

379th Expeditionary Medical Group

Unit Deployment Manager and Command Support Staff NCOIC

Home station: Sheppard AFB, Texas

Arrived in AOR: July

Deployment goals: Finish my CCAF Degree in Transportation Management, lose some weight, gain muscle and get into shape

Best part of the deployment: Being able to ensure the people in the group are fully taken care of when it comes to arriving and redeploying home.

Hobbies: Hanging out with friends, watching sports, playing table tennis and watching movies.

Best Air Force memory: The best service memory is being able to travel all around the world and meet different people from different countries as well as meeting new friends on station or deployed.

Nominated by Lt. Col. Christopher Morgan: "Sergeant Wise is a proactive NCO who coordinated the removal of 2.5 tons of medical waste and expired medications. He volunteered time to support the Blood Transshipment Center and for intramural sports by refereeing and keeping score for soccer games."



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

Left, Airman 1st Class Ted Schaefer, 421st Expeditionary Fighter Squadron crew chief, marshals a transiting F-16 Fighting Falcon to a stop, Tuesday, in Southwest Asia.



Left, Royal Australian Air Force Sergeant James Bennett, No. 37 Squadron avionics technician, positions an air-conditioning unit as the crew prepares a C-130J for departure, Oct. 11, in Southwest Asia. The No. 37 Squadron C-130Js provide intra-theater combat airlift support throughout Southwest Asia in support of Australian and allied forces. Sergeant Bennett is deployed from RAAF Base Richmond, Australia, in support of Operation Slipper, Australia's military contribution to international campaigns against terrorism.



Staff Sgt. Sidney Boyd, 379th Expeditionary Systems technician, changes a telephone Wednesday. The 379 ECS telephone is maintaining all base voice systems and is deployed from Lackland Air Force Base in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.



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

Left, Senior Airman Sam Challis, 379th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron structural journeyman, removes theater seating to make space for a new projection room at the Coalition Compound theater here, Tuesday. The CC theater is being upgraded to a first-run movie theater and is expected to be complete by the end of October. Airman Challis is deployed from Luke Air Force Base, Ariz. in support of operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.



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

ditionary Communications Squadron voice network system line circuit card within the main distribution frame, the maintenance shop is responsible for installing and more than 13,000 telephone lines. Sergeant Boyd is based, Texas in support of operations Iraqi Freedom and



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

Airman 1st Class James McConnell, 379th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron water and fuels system maintenance journeyman, installs plumbing inside a latrine during a renovation project recently, in Southwest Asia. The 379 ECES maintains and upgrades base facilities, when required, to ensure buildings meet Air Force standards. Airman McConnell is deployed from Peterson Air Force Base, Colo., in support of operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

Flash point: Fuels lab answers burning need

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

Although the team is small and their job narrow in scope, the 379th Expeditionary Logistics and Readiness Squadron fuels lab holds the lives of servicemembers and the safety of aircraft in their hands.

Fuel is a single-point failure commodity, said Staff Sgt. Michael Brady, 379 ELRS fuels lab NCO in charge, deployed from Dyess Air Force Base, Texas. "You don't want anything going wrong with the fuel when an aircraft is taking off and flying."

To make sure that the fuel burns as it should, the fuels lab ensures that the fuel received here meets Air Force specifications from the time it arrives, to the time it is issued.

"[Servicemember] safety is the bottom line," said Master Sgt. Eugene Cataldi, 379 ELRS fuels information support center NCO in charge, deployed from Elmendorf AFB, Alaska. The lives of the aircrew and multi-million dollar aircraft are in their hands, so the fuel lab technicians make sure the highest quality fuel is used in both aircraft and base equipment, such as servicemembers' vehicles, to successfully complete the base's varied missions.

To ensure the fuel is safe, technicians use multiple tests in determining whether or not it meets Air Force standards,



Staff Sgt. Damon Griffin, 379th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron fuels laboratory technician, tests a sample of JP-8 fuel, Wednesday, in Southwest Asia. The fuels laboratory ensures all fuel received meets Air Force standards from reception to its usage by local aircraft or ground vehicles. Sergeant Griffin is deployed from Ramstein Air Base, Germany, in support of operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

Sergeant Brady said. When fuel fails it is often because of a specific problem, such as too much particulates or solids. To account for all possible fail scenarios, technicians put the fuel through multiple tests, conducting more than 1,500 tests and analysis each month.

If a problem is discovered in the fuel, the failure can often be corrected to allow safe use, Sergeant Brady said. For

example, if the fuel has failed because an additive is too high or too low, the technicians can either dilute the fuel or add more of the additive.

"Additives are very important for many different reasons and having the correct amounts of additives in the fuel can affect the operation of aircraft, which can mean life or death," said Staff Sgt. Damon Griffin, 379 ELRS fuels lab technician, deployed from Ramstein Air Base, Germany. "For example, because many aircraft fly at very high altitudes, the temperature of the fuel can drop dramatically. If the fuel becomes too cold, ice crystals may form which can cause the aircraft to stall. Keeping the fuel at stable temperatures is where one of the fuel additives comes in; it acts as an antifreeze."

Another test they put the fuel through is called the flash point test. This test finds the lowest temperature at which fuel from a test portion will 'flash' when an ignition source is applied. A change in flash point may indicate the presence of potentially dangerous contaminants, Sergeant Griffin said.

Identifying contaminants or other irregularities that may pose fuel problems is an essential job and every gallon of fuel through the base is entrusted to the 379 ELRS fuels lab to guarantee it is safe -- safe for the equipment and aircraft, but more importantly, safe for the servicemembers who operate these assets.



Staff Sgt. Michael Brady, 379th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron fuels laboratory NCOIC, performs an API gravity determination test on aviation gasoline, Wednesday, in Southwest Asia. Sergeant Brady is deployed from Dyess Air Force Base, Texas in support of operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.



Weapon once-over

Master Sgt. Franklin Richardson, 379th Air Expeditionary Wing weapons safety manager, inspects a AGM-65 prior to being loaded onto a P-3 Orion, Thursday. The 379 AEW Safety Office conducts spot inspections for all base units and coordinates with the Air Force Safety Center to ensure standardization. Sergeant Richardson is deployed from Barksdale Air Force Base, La. in support of operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

This Week's Caption Contest

Photo No. 145

The winner is...

"This force shaping is really starting to take its toll."

- Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Brockman,
379th Expeditionary Civil
Engineer Squadron

Honorable mention:

"There has GOT to be a better way to get rid of the hiccups!"

- Staff Sgt. Leah Smith,
Combined Forces Special Operations
Command Central



Photo No. 146 (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.



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

Tech. Sgt. Vernon Smith, 379th Expeditionary Medical Group biological augmentation team NCOIC, extracts simulated ribonucleic acid from a nasopharyngeal swab sample for H1N1 screening, Tuesday, using the Joint Biological Agent Identification and Diagnostic System. Members of the 379 EMDG BAT team are the first Air Force personnel certified in detecting H1N1 using JBAIDS technology. Sergeant Smith is deployed from Tinker Air Force Base, Okla. in support of operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

379 EMDG first to validate new system

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

The 379th Expeditionary Medical Group has acquired a new tool in its never-ending quest to keep base residents healthy.

The Joint Biological Agent Identification and Diagnostic System has been modified to aid in diagnosing patients with the H1N1 flu virus. Housed in its own trailer, the JBAIDS is managed and run by the Biological Augmentation Team.

"When we first arrived here, there was nothing in [the trailer]," said Tech Sgt. Vernon Smith, team NCOIC, deployed from Tinker Air Force Base, Okla. "Within a week, we had it cleaned up and ready to go."

The U.S. Army Medical Research Institute for Infectious Diseases at Fort Detrick, Md., recently found a way to apply it to H1N1 detection. Biological Augmentation Team Chief Maj. Lorenzo Gabiola and Sergeant Smith were the first Air Force members to be

trained on the testing methods.

"We were lucky to have the training before we arrived in country so we could hit the ground running," Sergeant Smith said, adding that in other deployed areas trainers were sent to the AOR to bring medical personnel up to speed on the system's capabilities.

Being one of only two people trained to operate JBAIDS here, Sergeant Smith understands the difference between this mission and the job he performs as a lab

technician at his home station.

"I consider this my 'bonus job,'" he said. "It's a great mission."

The 379 EMDG Public Health Flight recommends whether a patient needs to be tested based on the servicemembers' answers on the Department of Defense Global Influenza Surveillance Program questionnaire.

"Not everyone who has a cough or a runny nose has the flu," Major Gabiola said, "but when they have several symptoms, especially fever, they will most likely be tested."

When a patient is identified as potentially having the virus, a nasopharyngeal swab is taken. The sample is taken to the JBAIDS lab and transferred to a viral transport medium, which is stored at -70 degrees Fahrenheit to isolate the virus.

Next, ribonucleic acid is extracted from the sample. RNA is the genetic material that will signal the presence of the virus. During extraction, great care must be taken to avoid contaminating the sample and protective equipment must be worn to minimize the risk of exposure to the virus.



After extraction, reagents known as primers and probes are added. These attach themselves to the RNA and allow it to be seen more easily when the sample is placed in the JBAIDS machine. The machine uses a chain reaction technology that copies and amplifies the virus's genetic signature so it can be positively identified.

The entire procedure from extraction to identification can take up to five hours to complete and the area around the machine must be kept extremely clean to ensure the integrity of the sample. "It is a very complex and sensitive machine," Major Gabiola said, also deployed from Tinker. "It requires 100 percent accurate procedures."

The procedures used by the BAT were recently validated by the Center for Disease Control, which means results no longer need to be sent elsewhere for confirmation. "We're the first JBAIDS in the AOR to 'go live,'" Major Gabiola said. As a result, the Major said the turn-around time for test results is now 24 to 48 hours as opposed to seven days or more when the samples were sent to labs in Europe or the U.S. for analysis.

Faster results means a faster return to the fight for warriors who fall ill here in Southwest Asia.



Tech. Sgt. Vernon Smith, 379th Expeditionary Medical Group biological augmentation team NCOIC, adds an extracted sample and reagents to glass capillaries.



Maj. Lorenzo Gabiola, 379th Expeditionary Medical Group biological augmentation team chief, analyzes a simulated sample, Tuesday, using the base's new Joint Biological Agent Identification and Diagnostic System, which amplifies ribonucleic acid for H1N1 detection. Major Gabiola is deployed from Tinker Air Force Base, Okla. in support of operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.



VICTORY CHAPEL

Open seven days a week,
24 hours a day,
'And overtime on Sundays'

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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.

Encouragement through words

By Chaplain (Capt.) Cornelius Johnson
379th Air Expeditionary Wing Chapel

It says in the book of Proverbs that "death and life are in the power of the tongue." In other words, our words carry a lot of power. We all remember the saying as children when we were teased, 'sticks and stones may break my bones, but names will never hurt me.' That saying is only partly true, because while sticks and stones may break our bones, names can hurt us a lot worse. Have you ever stopped to realize the impact and power that your words have? We don't think too much about it but, by our words, we can build up, tear down, encourage or discourage someone.

What type of words do you speak to other people here? Are we encouraging people or discouraging them? What do we tell new arrivals when they get off the plane? Do we speak positive words or do we immediately begin to complain? Do we complain to them about the heat, having to wear PT gear all the time, the base rules, long work hours, the food, what our work sections are doing wrong, and a host of other grievances?

Think of the negative impact we have on newcomers when they get off the airplane and they hear us complaining about the problems at the base. The fact of the matter is it is difficult enough for newcomers to leave family and friends, adjust to different time zones, get use to the heat



and humidity, be in a different country and get acclimated to a deployed setting, without hearing complaints about how bad the base is from those who have been here for a while.

If we learn to have a good attitude and speak positive words, we can help make the situation a lot better. By our words we can encourage people and, if we have a good attitude, others will also be encouraged to have a good attitude. Keeping a positive attitude and speaking positive words can make a world of difference to the people around you. Let's face it, we have a lot to be thankful for here. We ought to be thankful for WiFi, off-base privileges, free movies, concerts, chapel activities, and many other amenities.

So let's stop the complaining and learn to speak positive words of encouragement to those around us.

Relax at Jack's Place

Jack's Place is a volunteer-run facility, monitored by chapel-core personnel, which provides U.S. and coalition servicemembers of all religions a quiet, wholesome place to relax, study, read and meet with friends while enjoying refreshments.

The building includes amenities such as a stocked game room, free



select toiletries, magazine racks, snacks and a free book exchange.

Since Jack's Place is part of the chapel, there is also a variety of free religious reading materials. There are also computers for personal use.

For more information or to volunteer to work at Jack's Place, call the Victory Chapel at 437-8811.

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

POW and MIA Relay Run

The Camel Club, a Combined Air and Space Operations Center E-1 through E-6 organization, will be sponsoring a relay run, carrying a Prisoner of War and Missing in Action flag around the CAOC compound Saturday from noon to midnight. The goal of the run is to keep the flag moving for the entire 12 hours. The run is open to all base personnel. Participants may sign up to reserve a time or may join at any time. Participants may run with a group, a partner or alone. Participants should meet outside the CAOC fence near the entry control point. The run is designed to raise awareness of POWs and MIAs and to raise funds for Combined Federal Campaign charity, National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia. Donations will be accepted for this charity during the run. For more information, e-mail Tech. Sgt. David Sims.

CGOC Get-Together

Come join other company grade officers Oct. 26 from 7 to 11 p.m. on the right side of the Desert Eagle Lounge for an evening of food, fun, and entertainment. Free food and beverages will be available with a limited bar tab provided by the CGOC. Awards for best costumes and top crud teams will be given. For more information, contact 1st Lt. Jacob Becker at 437-5528.

Flightline Fest

Flightline Fest will be held Oct. 29 from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. The flightline will feature numerous static displays of aircraft and other support functions. Breakfast and lunch will be served at the event. All base personnel are invited.

Nominate Your Mentor

The Rising 6 is sponsoring a monthly Mentorship Award Program that allows junior enlisted members, E-6 and below, an opportunity to recognize and show appreciation to their leaders. Membership in Rising 6 is not a requirement to submit a nomination. Nominations must be completed on an AF Form 1206 with five bullets. This month's nominations are due no later than 5 p.m., Oct. 31. For more information, e-mail Staff Sgt. Brandy Elliott or call 437-2234.

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.

Friends of Bill

Friends of Bill will be meeting Mondays at 6:30 p.m., in Building 10006 in the Coalition Compound. For more information, contact Master Sgt. Lisa Ware at 437-8767 or Tech. Sgt. Jennifer Lyon at 437-7080.

Flu Vaccines Available

The 379th Expeditionary Medical Group is offering flu vaccines to all military servicemembers and eligible Department of Defense civilians through October. The vaccine is mandatory for military servicemembers. Walk-ins will be handled daily at the Medical Clinic. For more information, call 437-4234.

Off-Base Travel Reminder

In accordance with AUABI 10-6008, personnel may wear the duty uniform off-base when conducting official business. However, when traveling in uniform, uniform blouses must be removed upon departure from installation, and replaced upon arrival at destination; flight suits should be unzipped and folded at the waist upon departure and zipped upon arrival at destination; only the T-shirt should be visible. For more information, contact 379th Air Expeditionary Wing Force Protection at 436-0198.

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.

Right Start and Right Finish

The Tuesday Right Start briefings have been temporarily suspended. Additionally, due to the renovation in the CC Theater, Right Start briefings will now be held in the BPC Theater on Fridays at 6:45 a.m. Right Finish briefings will remain in the CC Theater on Fridays, but the new start time is 5:45 p.m. For more information, contact Capt. Marcus Hampton at 436-0144.

Safety Snapshot:
You get the level of safety
that you're prepared to
walk past.

Airman 1st Class Matt Wojciechowski, 379th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron, competes in the hose spray event during a fire muster competition, Oct. 11, in Southwest Asia. The 379 CES Fire Department concluded fire safety week here with a muster that simulated multiple events and exercises firefighters perform on a regular basis.

