

DESERT EAGLE

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Viper Team stands ready
with 'on-spot' comm

Department of Air Force
DESERT EAGLE

Volume 9, Issue 47

Editorial Staff

Commander

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Capt. Martha Petersante-Gioia

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Senior Airman Michael Matkin

Editor

Senior Airman David Dobrydney

Multimedia

Tech. Sgt. Jason Edwards

Tech. Sgt. Michael Gray

Staff Sgt. John White

Staff Sgt. Robert Barney

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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.



Right, Master Sgts. Bryan Doyea and Juli Croft, 379th Expeditionary Communications Squadron Viper Team members, set up and prepare a Viper communications package aboard a C-130 Hercules, Monday, in Southwest Asia. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Robert Barney)

Ways, whys of thank yous

By Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Stephen Voyt
379th Air Expeditionary Wing
Chaplain

I remember an old television commercial from many years ago. It went like this: "So you are interested in joining the Peace Corps, here's your first test." At this point you see a glass being filled to the middle with water. "If you say that the glass is half empty, forget it. If you say that the glass is half full, you might be the type of person we are looking for."

That image of looking at a glass and saying whether it is half empty or half full has become the standard by which we talk about thankfulness. To say thank you is to recognize what we have rather than what we do not have. Unfortunately, it seems to be much easier to comment on what we don't have. But it is really our choice on whether we have a negative outlook on life instead of a positive one.

I am sure you have run across people here on base who have a long list of what is wrong with being deployed here. You hear things like 'I have to wear a uniform all the time, even when I am just going to the showers,' 'now I have to tuck in my T-shirt even when I am working out,' 'I don't have enough free time,' 'the Wi-Fi isn't strong enough' and so on, and so on. We tend to forget that we do have warm showers, that we have wonderful gyms in which to work out and that we can e-mail or even Skype pretty much any time we want. Very few deployment locations have what we have here.

Granted there are some things which are genuine difficulties that

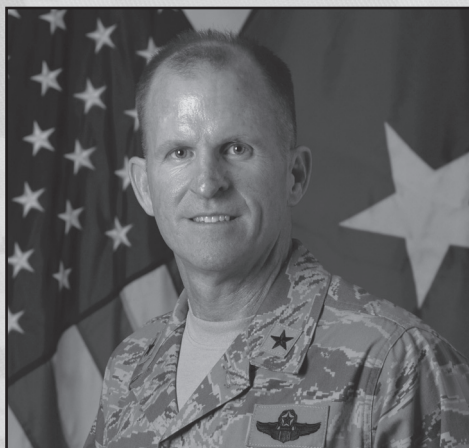
happen because we are deployed. We are separated from our families back home, and we do miss out on birthdays, anniversaries, and holidays. That, indeed, is part of the price that comes with wearing the uniform of our country. And we know for some the price is even higher. You need only witness a fallen warrior ceremony to see first-hand how high that price is for some of our brothers-and sisters-in-arms.

This week we celebrate Thanksgiving. Most of us are familiar with the story of the Mayflower and the Pilgrims who left England on Sept. 20, 1620, to start a new life across the ocean. What we sometimes forget is that of those 110 people who sighted the land of the New World on Nov. 10 and would then found the new settlement of Plymouth, less than 50 would be alive by the time spring arrived the following year. It was a desperate and critical time for the Pilgrims. What saved the colony from complete collapse was that it received help from the local tribe of Patuxet native Americans.

Through the course of 1621 the Pilgrims learned from the Patuxets how to survive in this new land. By the fall, the colony had good reason to celebrate. They did not sit back and complain about what they did not have; rather, they were thankful for what they did have. And so they came together with their friends and celebrated what is now remembered today as the first Thanksgiving in America.

There are many good lessons that we can take from that story. First, when things are not going well and you feel like

SEE THANKFUL ON PAGE 5



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.

Anti-virus software -- internet's hand sanitizer

By Master Sgt. Edward Merica
Air Force Forces Central A2
Information Assurance Manager

One day while I was catching up on the latest news back home over Skype, my laptop's security suite went crazy. It turns out that someone else nearby had a virus infected laptop that was eagerly looking for a fresh victim. Alert after alert flashed by notifying me of repeated attempts to take my system over. Because I always keep my security tools up-to-date and operational, the only effect these attacks had was in trying my patience.

The wireless Internet services that we receive free of charge do not have security appliances like those we use on our official networks. These are open, unsecured networks, and using them is always 'at your own risk.'

Risks taken by one are actually shared by all on these networks. Just as immunization and hand-washing policies



Tech. Sgt. Andrea Potts, 379th Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron conventional maintenance bay chief, and Tech. Sgt. Daniel Drury, 379 EMXS conventional maintenance technician, utilize the free WiFi service at the Base Exchange in Southwest Asia, Nov. 11.

have proven effective in preventing the spread of infectious disease, the

Department of Defense established the "Anti-Virus Home Use Program" to prevent the spread of computer-borne epidemics. Knowing that we often e-mail work home and then e-mail back between our personal and work e-mail accounts, the Joint Task Force – Global Network Operations provides all DoD government servicemembers licensed security tools to safeguard their personal computers. A variety of tools from both McAfee and Symantec are available. Once installed you only need to schedule a regular scanning routine based on usage, and the tools automatically stay updated with the latest virus signatures and firewall rules.

The "Commercial Internet FAQ," a link on the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing intranet, is highly recommended reading. It has useful facts about local wireless network services, legal and technical issues everyone should be aware of, and configuration guides for each common personal computer operating system.

An infected computer spreads its digital disease to each computer it sees the moment it gets a chance, and the carrier does not know they just put others around them at risk of infection. We developed good wingman habits of getting our immunizations, covering our mouths when we cough, turning away when we sneeze and always washings our hands to prevent the spread of disease. Likewise, we all are responsible for ensuring that we are online safely and securely. When we reduce our own risk of infection, we are helping everyone around us to enjoy healthy computing too.

RAF opens new headquarters



Left, Royal Air Force Commander-in-Chief of Air Command Air Chief Marshal Sir Christopher Moran cuts the ribbon during the ribbon cutting ceremony dedicating the new No 83 Expeditionary Air Group headquarters here, Tuesday, in Southwest Asia. The No 83 Group was first formed in the UK on April 1, 1943, and has supported numerous campaigns and operations, including current operations HERRICK and TELIC.



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

Left to right, Master Sgt. Juli Croft, Staff Sgt. Dustin Sampson and Staff Sgt. Justin Bradshaw, 379th Expeditionary Communications Squadron Viper Team members, set up and prepare a Viper communications package aboard a C-130 Hercules, Monday, in Southwest Asia. The Viper Team provides secure and non-secure communications aboard aircraft for top officials traveling throughout the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility in support of operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

Viper team keeps VIPs connected

By Senior Airman David Dobrydney
379th Air Expeditionary Wing
Public Affairs

Even in the air, military leaders and heads of state must always have the ability to communicate.

In the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility, the 379th Communications Squadron's Viper Team is on call 24/7 to provide that vital communication link.

Taking its name from the brand of their gear, the mission of the Viper Team is to provide roll-on airborne communications for the U.S. Central Command commander as well as any other distinguished visitors they are tasked to support, said Viper Team NCO in Charge Master Sgt. Juli Croft, deployed here from Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho. "We provide access to both classified and unclassified information and secure voice capabilities," Sergeant Croft said, which gives leaders the ability to make decisions about operations in real time should the need arise.

"Normally the communications infrastructure is embedded at the location into which they're flying; the Viper Team provides a communication bridge from one ground spot to another," Viper Team member Master Sgt. Bryan Doyea, deployed from Grand Forks AFB, N.D., said.

The Viper Team is a one-year special duty assignment for communications Airmen. As such, there are requirements that are above and beyond those found on a normal communications deployment.

"In order for us to go on a job, we have to be on crew orders," Sergeant Doyea, who is on his second Viper deployment, said. "We have to go through [Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape] training, water survival training, and high-altitude chamber testing. Within the Air Force communications community, there are a select few that get to go through this."

Those select few are drawn from three Air Force Specialty Codes to give the team a wide range of

knowledge. "We have computer operators, tech controllers, and [satellite communications] operators," Sergeant Croft said. The team members help those from different AFSCs so that all members will be prepared to tackle any issue that may arise during a mission.

"We cross-utilize our experience, practice those skills, and train each other on our strong points because when we send out a team, it could include any of us," team member Master Sgt. Dustin Sampson, deployed from Scott AFB, Ill., said.

Teams of two or three will go out on a typical mission, which can be as short as a one-day trip to Baghdad or as long as a weeklong tour of the AOR. For each flight, there are nine cases of equipment weighing 1,200 pounds to be loaded onto the aircraft. "We are our own ground crew," Sergeant Sampson said. Additionally the team boasts a one-hour response time for short-notice missions.

Sergeant Doyea said that even after the aircraft touches down, their job continues.

“When the customer gets off the plane, often a lot of their staff will stay on board to coordinate the next stop or collect the necessary reports. Even when we’re sitting on the tarmac, we are still up and running to provide the required information,” he said.

The only one in the CENTCOM AOR, the Viper Team was first organized in 2005. At the time, Sergeant Doyea said, Viper teams were based out of Andrews AFB, Md., and were usually committed to supporting other VIPs when then-CENTCOM Commander Army Gen. Tommy Franks requested support. General Franks requested a team be stood up within the AOR for his communication purposes and since then, the CENTCOM commander has been the primary customer for Viper support.

As time passed however, the spectrum of operations the Viper Team supports has gradually expanded. When they aren’t tasked to fly with CENTCOM Commander Gen. David Petraeus, the team has supported flights carrying other officials such as the Secretary of the Air Force. On occasion they are even asked to support Coalition Partners.

“When this team was first established, its mission focus was AOR-specific, but after several years the scope has expanded. We’ve flown from Europe all the way over to Japan,” Sergeant Doyea said.

Sergeant Sampson best summed up the Viper Team credo. “Basically, it’s anytime, anywhere,” he said.

Right, Master Sgt. Bryan Doyea, 379th Expeditionary Communications Squadron Viper Team member, sets up and prepares a Viper communications package aboard a C-130 Hercules, Monday, in Southwest Asia.



Help others, you’ll be thankful you did

FROM THANKFUL ON PAGE 2

you are at the end of your rope, allow yourself to accept help from others. If the Pilgrims in their pride had said to the Patuxet Indians that they needed no help, chances are they would not have survived a second winter. Second, if by chance you see someone who is struggling, be willing to offer a helping hand. No one is able to survive, much less succeed, on his or her own. The person you help today more than likely

will be the one who reaches out to you when you are down. Finally, keep a positive and thankful attitude in your life. A cloud of negativism will only serve to block you from reaching out to others, or have others reach out to you. The negative attitude of one person saps the energy of everyone. Most people will run as far as possible away from such an individual, which in the end only makes that person more negative.

Most of us here now are not going to be home for the holidays this year. Too often this has already happened in past years. We are going to miss not being with our families once again.

But if we look beyond ourselves and reach out to those who might need our help or accept help when we need it, then we will be able to remember the blessings we do have in our lives here and now.

Financial stewards ensure mission success

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

When servicemembers need foreign currency to purchase gifts and souvenirs from the local area, they visit the 379th Expeditionary Comptroller Squadron where they find ready and willing experts to assist servicemembers. However, helping servicemembers with currency exchange is just one part of the finance office's mission.

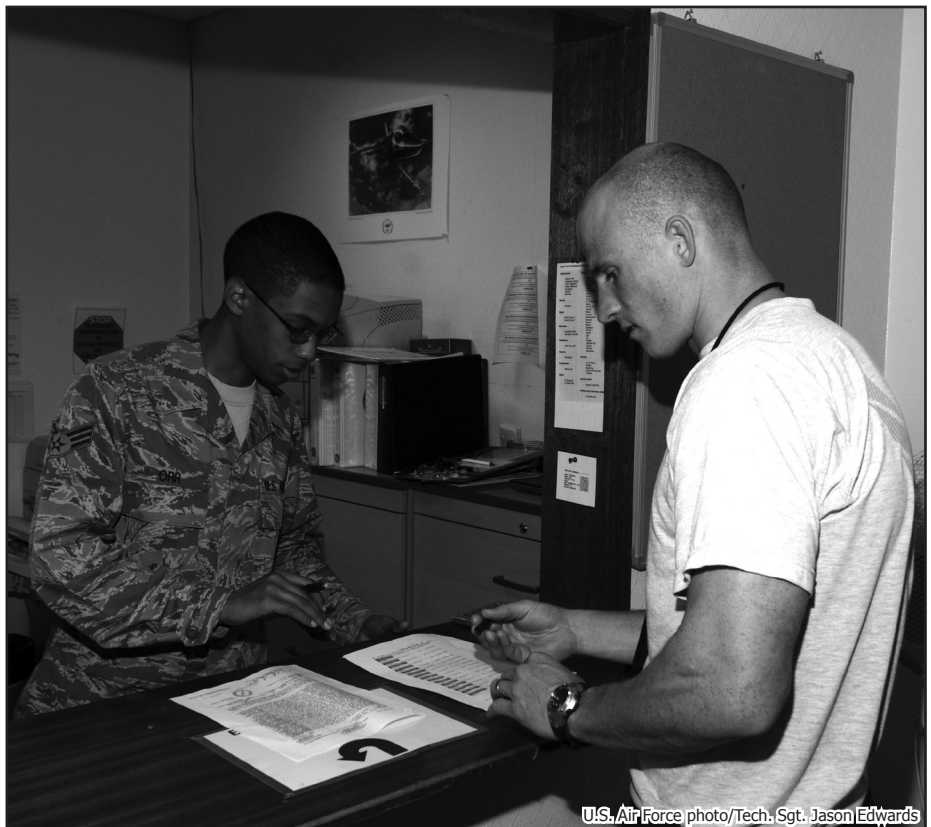
"Our mission is to provide high-quality customer service, to include decision support analysis, by presenting base leadership with the most accurate financial data in order to make an informed decision to execute the wing's mission," said Senior Master Sgt. Durand Phillips, 379 ECPTS superintendent, deployed from Altus Air Force Base, Okla.

The 379 ECPTS also offers support through military banking and financing systems for deployed servicemembers by providing 24/7 access to their checking accounts through the use of the EagleCash card program, said Staff Sgt. Karina Myers, 379 ECPTS customer service technician, deployed from Anderson AFB, Guam. The EagleCash card program is a cash management tool designed to support U.S. military personnel deployed in combat zones and on peacekeeping missions. The program uses smart-card technology and off-line batch processing to reduce the amount of U.S. currency in circulation overseas, and to take workload out of the base finance office, thus freeing up military personnel for other essential duties.

"What makes finance a vital part of the overall mission is that we supply [servicemembers] the resources and equipment they need to accomplish their mission," Sergeant Phillips said. "This is part of the way we contribute to the fight. By doing our job, we allow [servicemembers] to focus on their mission and not the financial part of it."

To help servicemembers stay focused, the 379 ECPTS ensures everyone and everything is getting paid, including the base's bills as well as the servicemembers. They also make sure personnel get any financial advice they may need, Sergeant Myers said.

To make sure the base's bills are being paid, the 379 ECPTS works closely with the 379th Expeditionary Contracting Squadron, said Maj. Michael Bryant, 379 ECPTS budget officer,



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

Senior Airman Anson Orr, 379th Expeditionary Comptroller Squadron customer service technician, assists a customer with military pay entitlements in Southwest Asia, Nov. 12. The 379 ECPTS handles all military pay issues for deployed members, as well as managing the budget for the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing. Airman Orr is deployed from Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D. in support of operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

deployed from the Pentagon, Washington D.C. The relationship between finance and contracting is an important part in providing goods and services to the base; contracting procures the items and finance makes sure the bills are paid. Basically, finance does the paperwork and sends it to contracting who, in turn, makes the purchase.

Accounting for the funds to pay for these services is handled by the budgeting section, a six-person shop that manages the base budget of more than \$79 million, Major Bryant said. However, besides the budget they also manage a lot of other funding executed here by Air Forces Central Command and other outside agencies. The total amount of base funds executed in fiscal year 2009 was more than \$451 million.

"Being in charge of such a large budget is a lot of responsibility and it takes a lot of effort to scrutinize everything that is being purchased to make sure we are doing everything according to fiscal law; however, the [servicemembers] here do an outstanding job," Major Bryant said.

One of their biggest challenges in

working with such a large budget is balancing it every day. "It requires a lot of teamwork and communication to monitor the status of funds, pay the base bills and enforce budget policies," Major Bryant said. "We are talking about budgeting millions of dollars every day, and we can't be off by even 10 cents."

Accounting for all of the funds that come through the base becomes even more difficult when the number of transactions increases, Sergeant Myers said. Typically the finance office serves more than 200 customers a day, but when a large rotation comes through that amount can almost double, thereby increasing the funds that flow through the finance office.

The 379 ECPTS accounts for millions of dollars every day, striving to be good stewards of U.S. taxpayers' dollars. They do this by ensuring the missions of the 379 AEW, Air Forces Central Command and other outside agencies have the necessary funding and that the funding is used appropriately. These financiers also provide one-on-one assistance to individual servicemembers, ensuring financial distractions do not hinder the mission.

Airman 1st Class Raymond Beattie

379th Expeditionary Communications Squadron
Network Control Center Administrator

Home station: Schriever Air Force Base, Colo.

Arrived in AOR: November

Deployment goals: To learn and gain as much experience as possible.

Best part of the deployment: Working in a different atmosphere than from back home in Colorado, the feeling of being closer to today's fight and getting to contribute directly.

Hobbies: I love playing and watching sports. I play soccer mostly and was on the base team for Schriever. Also playing videogames such as Madden 2010 or NBA 2k10.

Best Air Force memory: Not one specific memory stands out as it has been a collected group of things that has made being in the service special so far. From graduating basic training and tech school, to getting to my first duty station and help fixing major issues for our base, then now to my deployment.

Nominated by Staff Sgt. Branden Conerly: "Airman Beattie has shown the eagerness to work and learn in an intense environment."



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

Tech. Sgt. Derrick Magee

379th Air Expeditionary Wing Staff
Knowledge Operations Management NCOIC

Home station: Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio

Arrived in AOR: May

Deployment goals: Doing my best, improving my fitness level, being ready to test for master sergeant, and going back to school.

Best part of the deployment: Knowing that what I do makes a difference.

Hobbies: Working out and reading.

Best Air Force memory: Being recommended for and receiving an Air Force Commendation Medal as a Senior Airman.

Nominated by Master Sgt. Donald Taggart: "Sergeant Magee is a true professional in all he does supporting the command section and wing staff to include resource advisor duties and knowledge operations management areas of expertise. He constantly performs his duties efficiently and spot-on every time. His outgoing personality, positive attitude and willingness to assist others make him a valuable asset to the wing and U.S. Air Force."



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

Senior Airman Melvin Penaflorida

64th Expeditionary Support Squadron
Civil Engineer Flight Entomologist

Home station: Charleston Air Force Base, S.C.

Arrived in AOR: September

Deployment goals: Be able to exceed the mission's expectation, meet new people and work on my CCAF degree.

Best part of the deployment: The interaction and the rapport established with the diverse people on base.

Hobbies: Singing, reading mystery novels and anything to keep me physically active.

Best Air Force memory: Being able to help the people devastated by Hurricane Katrina in Mississippi and Louisiana.

Nominated by Capt. Matthew Lee: "Airman Penaflorida is doing an excellent job as a Pest Management and Environmental Quality Assurance Evaluator. He is actively involved in the Chapel program, ministering through music to fellow Airmen. He is an active member of the AEG, participating in the planning of events fostering morale and esprit-de-corps. His continuing initiative serves as a source of motivation for all members of the CE Flight."



U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Kyle Ray



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

Above, Staff Sgt. Michael Thomas and Senior Airman William Hunt, 37th Aircraft Maintenance Unit crew chiefs, remove refueling hoses from a B-1B Lancer after a refueling, Nov. 15, in Southwest Asia. The 37 AMU works to keep the B-1 operational and safe for missions in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility. Sergeant Thomas and Airman Hunt are deployed from Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D. in support of operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom.

Right, Robert Jalbert, Dyncorp aircraft and power plant technician, wipes clean the landing gear struts on a C-21 aircraft, Tuesday, in Southwest Asia. Dyncorp contractors provide total aircraft system maintenance services, logistical support, and management processes to maintain the C-21 fleet in operation throughout the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility.



Deployed servicemembers participate in Southwest Asia, Thursday. The Great Smoke-Out, encourages deployed personnel to quit smoking permanently.





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

in a 5K run as part of the Great Desert Smoke-Out at Desert Smoke-Out, inspired by the Great American personnel to stop smoking for one day with the goal of



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



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

U.S. Navy Aviation Warfare Avionics 2nd Class Joseph Koh serves during a volleyball competition, Wednesday, in Southwest Asia. U.S. servicemembers took part in a joint military volleyball tournament with their host nation counterparts designed to foster the relationship between the U.S. and the host nation while promoting athletic competition.

Holiday mailing deadlines, prohibited items

By Master Sgt. George Flaig
379th Expeditionary Communications Squadron Postmaster

Beginning Friday, the volumes of mail processed by post offices around the world will more than double. With that being said, customers must plan accordingly and mail packages as soon as possible. To ensure packages make it to their destination by Dec. 25, adhere to the shipping deadlines for shipping from Southwest Asia to the U.S. and vice versa:

- Priority and First Class: Dec. 4
- Parcel Post or Space Available: Nov. 20

Additionally, avoid sending the following prohibited items:

- Unexploded and exploded ordnance, including landmines, rockets, submunitions, grenades and other explosives
- Pistols, revolvers, rifles, and other concealable firearms to include, but not limited to, short-barreled shotguns and short-barreled rifles, replica handguns including handguns with or without lighter fluid, and antique firearms. (Note: Afghanistan allows antique firearm mailings.)
- Knives with a blade that opens automatically by hand pressure applied to a button or other device in the handle, or by operations of inertia, gravity, or both, or with a detachable blade propelled by a spring-operated mechanism
- Ammunition (live or spent) or empty casings
- Weapon or firearm parts such as magazines, bolt assemblies, receiver assemblies, stock, barrel, etc.
- Drugs such as anabolic steroids, narcotics, hallucinogens, stimulants or depressants
- Alcohol including intoxicating liquors having 0.5 percent or more alcoholic content by weight
- Food products laced with alcohol
- Poisonous drugs and medicines
- Matter that can deteriorate in the mail, create a health hazard, or cause an obnoxious odor, nuisance, or disturbance to other mails or clerks under ordinary mailing conditions

- Pork and pork products
- Fruits and vegetables, unless presented in dry condition
- Live or dead birds, animals or reptiles
- Batteries
- Plants, plant products, or other articles capable of carrying a dangerous plant disease or insect infestation
- Live poisonous insects and spiders, including camel spiders
- Flammable and combustible liquids, gases, and solids
- Fireworks
- Radioactive materials
- Toxic substances, including clinical specimens, unless mailed by medical facility
- Matches or cigarette lighters (any kind, to include replica pistol lighters)
- Dry ice
- Oxidizing substances and organic peroxides
- Etiologic agents including clinical specimens, unless mailed by medical facility
- Magnetized material, including compasses
- Pesticides
- Pandering advertisements
- Sexually oriented advertisements, material, lewd or pornographic matter
- Adult toys
- Matter inviting violence
- Matter promoting or furthering an animal-fighting venture
- Sand and soil
- Chemical warfare defense equipment such as C-bags
- War trophies (defined as any captured or abandoned enemy material): captured enemy weapons (this prohibition also includes demilitarized, or otherwise disabled war souvenirs, such as AD-47s, AK-74s RPK machine guns, and RPGs), military equipment such as generators, radios, communication devices, and chemical defense equipment

Direct all questions to the Post Office at 437-8717.



Photo No. 151 (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/Staff Sgt. Robert Barney

Senior Airman William Hunt, 37th Aircraft Maintenance Unit crew chief, reviews technical orders while refueling a B-1B Lancer, Nov. 15, in Southwest Asia. The 37 AMU works to keep the B-1 operational and safe for missions in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility. Airman Hunt is deployed from Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D. in support of operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom.

Aircraft maintainers keep mission flying high

By Chief Master Sgt. William Miller
37th Aircraft Maintenance Unit

“It never ends” are three words I have learned from a quarter century of service. Three words I have lived by in aircraft maintenance through 25 years, four commands and nine mission design series aircraft from fighters to heavies. “It never ends” is Airmen working hard every day, getting out there on the aircraft elbow deep in the J.O.B fixing jets to put iron in the air. It is our mission.

Have you ever wondered what it takes to get the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing’s only weapons delivery platform, the B-1B Lancer, in the air and into the fight?

Some might say “it’s the four afterburning engines that power the aircraft. We see them burning bright at night as the bomber takes to the air and we hear their thundering roar well into the distance. Air Force members know aircraft sortie generation includes not only flightline maintenance but also support from all agencies across the wing. Teamwork from Airmen across

the wing ensures every MDS on base meets its assigned air tasking order. I want to say a few words about the B-1 maintenance Airmen, who they are and what they do to generate B-1B sorties for the Grand Slam Wing.

Who are the B-1 mechanics?

The B-1 mechanics are assigned to the 37 AMU and comprised of Airmen across several AFSCs, including two civilians. All are the subject matter experts on the flight line and know firsthand what needs to be done to generate sorties. Their faces are marred from blowing sand and too much sun. Their uniforms are stained and have a unique smell from petroleum oils, lubricants and sealants used to maintain the aircraft. The work can be unforgiving and some B-1 mechanics find that out the hard way, resulting in trips to the clinic for busted knuckles and pulled muscles. The B-1 mechanics are professionals who do not hesitate to forego chow or work extended hours to accomplish their mission and get aircraft out of the chocks with four engines roaring, landing gear up and into the air.

What do B-1 mechanics do?

The mechanics’ mission is to generate crew-ready aircraft through inspections, servicing and fixing unscheduled maintenance actions that are either pilot reported or ground-found write-ups. If the aircraft is not scheduled for flight, there are scheduled inspections and delayed discrepancies that are worked to ensure the aircraft’s health is maintained to maximize fleet utilization. This allows combatant commanders to call upon the Lancer to provide close air support and precision munitions delivery in the forward operating location.

Now, you might say, “that doesn’t sound too bad.” On paper, it doesn’t, but the B-1 is a unique aircraft with many complex systems and sub-systems. It has been flying over the skies of the AOR for close to a decade, and has proven its worth to ground Soldiers and high-value target planners time and time again. As with any mechanical system, over time it breaks hard and requires the tenacity and synergy of the mechanics to get this work horse back into the fight.



Senior Airman Brad Emerson, 37th Aircraft Maintenance Unit offensive aviation systems technician, checks for proper installation of the Sniper Advanced Targeting Pod on a B-1B Lancer, Nov. 15, in Southwest Asia. Airman Emerson is deployed from Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D. in support of operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom.

The B-1 mechanics may not get rich or famous during their careers. They have one of the most demanding and challenging jobs on the ramp. That is keeping the 379 AEW's B-1B Lancers

ready for any and every mission.

Since the 37 AMU took over the Air Tasking Order in late July, the B-1B's performance indicator trend line has steadily increased from 32 percent to

a high point of 89 percent this past month. There is no "I" in team, but there is an "I" in win and the 37 AMU B-1 mechanics have proven to be a winning team.



Staff Sgt. John Termun, 37th Aircraft Maintenance Unit crew chief, checks a circuit panel aboard a B-1B Lancer, Nov. 15, in Southwest Asia. Sergeant Termun is deployed from Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D. in support of operations Iraqi 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

11:30 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

Earth Religions

Wednesday

2 p.m., CC Ministry Center

Jewish

Friday

9 p.m., Multi-purpose room

Muslim

Buddhist

Orthodox

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

Let us not become weary Rewards await those with patience

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

With the new rotation in full swing and many already counting down days and gearing up for home, I would like to congratulate all those leaving for their outstanding dedication and professionalism, and I encourage them to perform with continued excellence and proficiency. In the epistle Galatians, chapter six, verse nine, we are told: "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest, if we do not give up."

Each of us has made profound sacrifices in our lives to serve our country. We have worked what may have seemed like endless hours, we have performed tasks and duties for which we may never be recognized, we have endured being away from loved ones, and missed out on significant events in the lives of those most dear to us. While we have made many sacrifices, we have gained much along the way.

We have assured that while we stand watch on the threshold of danger, those whom we love may sleep with satisfaction that God is watching over them as we stand watch as defenders of our great nation. We have formed bonds and forged new relationships that will last a lifetime; we have learned the meaning of teamwork and the art of cooperation without compromising our own set of values.

While there is no place like home, we realize that home could not be safe without our presence here. With so much at stake, we can't afford to let our fatigue and desires for home cloud our minds.



We must give our all until the mission is complete. In our hours of weariness or fatigue, take the time to renew your spirit by communing with your god, exercising your physical body and tending to the needs of your emotional mindset. Take the time to reflect positively on the good and don't dwell on the bad. While time may be moving slower or faster than we would like, and home is our ultimate goal, I encourage you to enjoy the journey traveled; that's where life's lessons are learned and appreciation for the journey takes place. When you have come to the end, it's then that you realize your true accomplishment and the challenges that made you a better Airman and stronger person.

When the mission is complete and we have fulfilled our obligations, we will receive our just reward. Take satisfaction in knowing you are making a difference and each person's contribution has an impact. Find the joy in your craft and the strength within to continue on your path of excellence and give thanks, for a greater reward awaits us all.

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 toi-

letries, 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

Hanukkah Celebration

The Jewish holiday celebration of Hanukkah will begin Dec. 11 at 5 p.m. and continue every evening through Dec. 18 in the Victory Chapel multi-purpose room. For more information, contact the chapel at 437-8811.

U.S. Currency in AOR reduced

The Air Force Central Command commander recently signed a memo reducing U.S. currency in the AFCENT area of responsibility. To ensure compliance, check cashing limits with the 379th Expeditionary Comptroller Squadron are reduced to \$100 per month. In addition, Airmen may receive up to \$100 in U.S. currency per month as a debit from their EagleCash card. These actions reduce fraud and risk to servicemembers. If you have any questions, contact Finance at 437-7086.

Community Joy Night

A Community Joy Night, which includes a night of music and preaching, will be held every Friday at 7:15 p.m. in Victory Chapel. For more information, contact the chapel at 437-8811.

Medical Appointments Trial Basis

In an effort to enhance customer service, the 379th Expeditionary Medical Group has begun to offer a limited number of primary care appointments on a trial basis. Same-day only appointments can be made by calling 437-4216 and are available Monday through Saturday from 7:20 a.m. to 5 p.m. Appointments should only be made for urgent care, not routine or follow-up care. As a reminder, patients can continue to be seen on a walk-in basis at the clinic, 24/7.

H1N1 Vaccine Now Available

The 379th Expeditionary Medical Group is offering H1N1 vaccines to all military servicemembers, to include Coalition, joint forces, civilians and contractors. The vaccine is mandatory for military servicemembers. The vaccine is available 24/7 at the medical clinic on a walk-in basis. For more information, call 437-4234.

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 di-

rectly 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.

Civilian Clothing Needed

The Emergency Leave Clothing Locker is in need of civilian clothes for members arriving from downrange who are going home on emergency leave. Having clothing allows servicemembers to get home faster since they are not authorized to wear military uniforms on commercial flights. The following men's items are needed: pants and jeans, collared shirts with short or long sleeves. The following women's items are needed: pants or jeans, shirts that do not expose the abdomen or are low cut, sweaters and jackets in good condition, sweatshirts or pullovers in good condition. Conservative items only; no shorts will be accepted. Items may be dropped off at PERSCO in Bldg. 3979. For more information, contact Tech. Sgt. Thomas Harden at 437-3058.

New Base Organization

The Southwest Asia Free-Thought Association is a private organization comprised of atheists, agnostics, secular humanists, freethinkers and other non-religious individuals. Meetings are held weekly. For times, locations or more information, e-mail Tech Sgt. Richard Hamelin or call 437-5111.

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.

Running Rules

Running on Enduring Freedom Road in Coalition Compound is prohibited. Runners and walkers should use the sidewalk along the trailers. Also, headphones are not authorized while running or walking on base roads. Always run against traffic, in single file. Runners must yield to vehicles at all times.

Ranks of the Royal Australian Air Force



**Aircraftman/
Aircraftwoman
(Technician)**
Comparable to
Airman



**Leading
Aircraftman/
Aircraftwoman**
Comparable to
Airman First Class
and Senior Airman



Corporal
Comparable to
Staff Sergeant and
Technical Sergeant



Sergeant
Comparable to
Master Sergeant



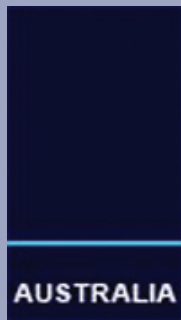
**Flight
Sergeant**
Comparable to
Senior Master
Sergeant



Warrant Officer
Comparable to
Chief Master
Sergeant



**Warrant Officer
of the Air Force**
Comparable
to Chief Master
Sergeant of
the Air Force



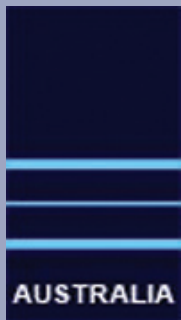
**Pilot
Officer**
Comparable to
Second Lieutenant



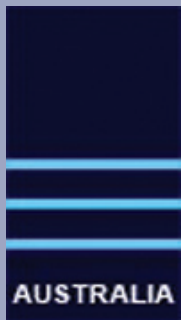
**Flying
Officer**
Comparable to
First Lieutenant



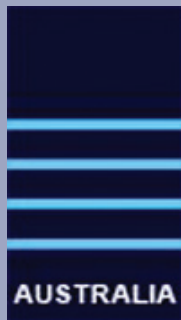
**Flight
Lieutenant**
Comparable to
Captain



Squadron Leader
Comparable to
Major



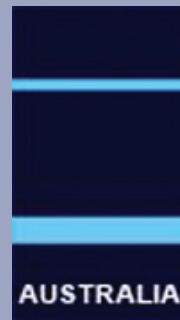
Wing Commander
Comparable to
Lieutenant Colonel



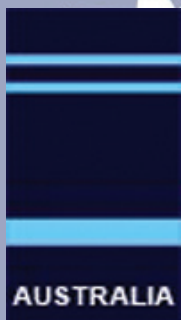
Group Captain
Comparable to
Colonel



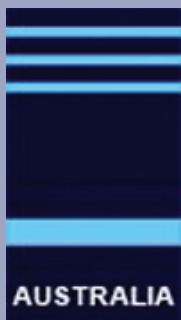
Air Commodore
Comparable to
Brigadier General



Air Vice Marshal
Comparable to
Major General



Air Marshal
Comparable to
Lieutenant
General



Air Chief Marshal
Comparable to
Air Force
Chief of Staff



**See next week's
edition of the
Desert Eagle
for ranks of the
Royal Air Force.**