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386th Air Expeditionary Wing

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Aircrew delivers mission-critical goods

Maj. Tom Crosson
386th AEW/PA

A C-130 crew assigned to the 738th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron here provided critical support to an Army operating location in Afghanistan July 6 by airdropping essential supplies before a potential enemy attack.

For the customers on the ground, the mission was a necessity. For the aircrew, it was a last minute request that they reacted to and completed without reservation or hesitation.

Aircraft commander Capt. Travis Sjostedt and his crew just completed their last sortie during their 30-day forward deployment to Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan. But as the crew was preparing their aircraft to return to their main operating base, leaders at Bagram AB received a message from the theatre's Combined Air Operations Center that a forward operating base in Afghanistan was short of critical supplies.

According to CAOC officials, commanders at the FOB were concerned that Taliban forces were planning an imminent attack on their location. In order to defend their base, they requested that emergency supplies be delivered as quickly as possible.

The only option for CAOC controllers to get supplies to the FOB was by air drop. CAOC controllers knew that Captain Sjostedt's crew was still at Bagram, so they called the 455th AEW's leadership to ask if the crew was able to support an emergency air drop mission with only a limited amount of time left in their duty day.

"The navigator, First 1st Lt. Justin Newton, went out to talk to our loadmasters to see if they could make it happen, and without delay they said yes," said Captain. Sjostedt.

Within minutes of accepting the mission, Captain Sjostedt's crew of six sprang into life. While personnel at Bagram were palletizing and rigging parachutes to more than



Air Force/Maj. Tom Crosson

(From left) Capt. John Fuccillo, co-pilot, 1st Lt. Justin Newton, navigator, Tech. Sgt. Jonathan Ryal, flight engineer, Capt. Travis Sjostedt, aircraft commander, Airman 1st Class Joe Scobey, loadmaster and Staff Sgt. Eric Watts, loadmaster, pose next to a C-130.

8-tons of supplies destined for the FOB, his flight engineer and two loadmasters scrambled to configure the C-130 to upload and deploy the supplies while the pilots and navigator were planning the mission, flight routes and calculating their drop time. A process that normally takes two to three hours was compressed to under an hour.

"Getting the aircraft ready in such a short time was definitely a challenge," said flight engineer Tech. Sgt. Jonathan Ryal. "Our crew really ramped it up – perfectly."

Lieutenant Newton, spent most of his pre-mission planning coordinating with the local Bagram tactics shop. "We had to coordinate a lot of things with the Army. Our approach to the drop zone, location of the drop zone, times for the drop. We needed to make sure

we were all on the same sheet. Any disconnects and we'd be exposing the soldiers to the enemy longer than necessary."

With the FOB's precious cargo onboard, the crew took off for its designated drop zone. Even while the crew was enroute to the drop zone, they were making last minute adjustments to the approach to the drop zone and preparing the cargo for air drop.

In just under four hours from initial notification, with no room for error and only one chance to make a pass at the drop zone, the crew dropped their 12 bundles of cargo within eight seconds of their scheduled time and within a few hundred feet of the target zone.

What made this mission more extraordinary, according to Lt. Col. William Summers, 738th EAS commander, was that the crew had little combat airdrop experience.

"We are sending out young crews everyday to do complex missions with great success," Colonel Summers said. "It validates the training these crews go through back home."

When asked about their reaction to their impromptu mission, Capt. Sjostedt summarized it simply with "it is the most rewarding experience I've had as an aircrew member ... being part of such an outstanding team effort and realizing that our success had immediate and vital impact to our guys on the ground."

The crew's efforts didn't go unnoticed at the CAOC. Brig. Gen. Thomas M. Gisler Jr., director of mobility forces, praised the crew's performance. "There are some Americans on the ground today still in the fight because of what they accomplished," he said.

The 738th EAS crew has returned here where they are preparing to rotate back to their home station at Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska, where they are part of the 517th Airlift Squadron.

Thank you



Lt. Col. Donald Wingate
586th ESFS commander

Reading the weekly articles and commentaries in our base papers at home and over here, you see the common themes like leadership, commitment, teamwork and integrity. This should be no surprise to the readers for these are values and focus areas of our profession. But with the recent unfortunate events of these past weeks at Camp Bucca, one can not help but focus on some more personnel questions of family and service.

In any deployed environment thoughts of families seem to linger constantly in the minds of servicemen. Questions of whether or not to call today. Thinking about how they are doing. Is Dad taking care of my car? Did my wife get the yard mowed? Is my husband remembering to comb the kid's hair before school? Then wham, you hear the news about an Airmen losing their life. Then it is not whether to call but how quickly you can call; the car, the yard, the hair seem not that important anymore.

Separation from our loved ones is always tough, but family extends beyond blood kin. The Air Force is a family. Trite as that may sound, it is true. There is no greater evidence of that, then in the reaction of service men, both here and at home stations around the world, when tragedy strikes one of our own. There come waves of sympathy for the individuals, their family and the unit. The question then is, "how can I help?" The answer is support those who are hurting, be patience with those who are grieving, remember the lost fondly for they are

brothers in Arms, our kin. They were our kin because we all share the common bond, "Willingness to Serve." They stood beside us and said, "I Do," to serving their country. There are few stronger bonds than that.

Having been a security forces squadron commander a few times, I would always ask the new airmen in the unit why they chose to serve. I would typically get answers for the education, steady job, travel, and to serve their country. I would always press by asking them why is service to their country important. I would get looks from the airmen as if I just asked them why the sky was blue. It just is.

Service to our country is important to all of us. It may not be the number one reason why we joined the Air Force, but it is on the list. There are plenty of opportunities for Airmen to separate and we all know of a few back home that seem to never make it on the deployment list. There are other ways to get an education, steady jobs do exist on the outside, and *Forbes Magazine* has yet to name this area as a hot tourists destination. We all choose to serve, to be in a hostile distant land separated from our families.

Thomas Paine wrote, "These are times that try men's souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of their country; but he that stands now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman."

I, like Thomas Paine, say thank you. Thank you for service in this time of crisis for our nation. Thank for your willingness to do what others can not. And just simply, Thank You.



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Tae Kwon Do students strut their stuff during demo

Staff Sgt. Ryan Hansen
386th AEW/PA

Airmen from the 386th Air Expeditionary Wing joined members of the Republic of Korea Air Force for a Tae Kwon Do demonstration and promotion test July 8 at the Rock Fitness Center.

The evening started with a rousing demonstration by all the black belt instructors.

Attendees then watched more than 25 students go through their promotion tests in order to earn their next belt.

"Students are tested in what they have learned for their belt level, including basic movements such as kicking and punching, forms and breaking techniques," said 2nd Lt. Noelle Bomberger, a project manager with the 386th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron, who holds a second degree black belt and helps instruct students.

The white belts tested in

Taeguk Sam Jang, the third Poomse, and basic movements, Lieutenant Bomberger said.

Yellow belts tested in their form, Taeguk O (5) Jang, and completed a series of spinning kick combinations, while the blue belts completed Taeguk Chil (7) Jang, she said.

"If they pass the test, they receive the next belt," Lieutenant Bomberger said. "The belt ranks are white, yellow, blue and red."

Classes are held three times a week here and are taught by a variety of Korean instructors.

Also during the festivities, Grand Master Kim Dong, a captain with the ROKAF, was presented with a thank you by their commander and the 386th AEW vice commander, for his dedication.

If anyone is interested in taking part in Tae Kwon Do, please contact Lieutenant Bomberger at 442-3761.



Republic of Korea Air Force/Capt. Kim Dong Myoung

1st Lt. Kim Hyo Hyeon, an intelligence officer with the Republic of Korea Air Force, breaks some plywood during a Tae Kwon Do promotion test and demonstration July 8 at the Rock Fitness Center.

Welcome



Air Force/Maj. Tom Crosson

Col. Eric Fox, right, takes the guidon from Col. Timothy L. Hale, former 386th Air Expeditionary Wing commander, during a change-of-command ceremony for the 386th Expeditionary Maintenance Group June 27. Colonel Fox comes to base from Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

DCU DESTRUCTION

The time has finally arrived. Your flight itinerary is in hand, your outprocessing check list is almost completed and final goodbyes are close at hand: but what to do with those three or four sets of Desert Camouflage Uniforms and desert boots?

A long four, six or twelve months of wear, tear, wind and sand has made them unserviceable. Before you pack them into your baggage, remember you can leave unserviceable DCU's with the 386th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron's Individual Equipment Element in Bldg. 626. Please call 442-2864 or 442-7137 for more information.

Ensuring military uniforms do not fall into the hands of the enemy is an important force protection concern. Military equipment, uniforms and other items must never be discarded in any container other than approved bins controlled by military personnel.

Points of contacts differ from base-to-base. Ensure you contact the appropriate authority before you discard any military items.

"Cargo off the Ground"

Aerial Port Flight shatters old cargo record in June

Maj. Tom Crosson
386th AEW/PA

The 386th Air Expeditionary Wing touts itself as one of CENTAF's busiest airlift hubs. The wing's motto, "boots on the ground," represents the mission of moving warfighters in and out of Iraq, Afghanistan and the Horn of Africa.

However, if the wing keeps moving as much cargo and equipment as they did in June, the wing might want to consider changing its motto to "cargo off the ground."

The 386th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron set a record in June, moving 4,240 short tons of cargo, surpassing the wing's previous monthly record by 426 tons. For the first half of the year, the squadron moved an impressive 20,000 short tons of cargo, almost double what they moved in the first half of 2005.

"Our Airmen in LRS continue to set new standards for excellence. The record cargo movement in June is a testament to their drive for continuous improvement and their commitment to "boots on the ground" — put them in, sustain them, and bring them out," said Col. C.K. Hyde, 386th AEW vice commander about the squadron's accomplishment. "Our warfighting effectiveness in Iraq starts (here) and our LRS troops provide the logistical lifeline that ensures mission success."

The 386th ELRS is respon-



sible for receiving, accounting and air movement of passengers and cargo in and out of the base. It is also responsible for transporting Air Force personnel and cargo to and from the international airport. The 70 active duty, Air National Guard, and Reserve airmen, along with the help of four Marine Corps liaison NCOs, who make up the squadron's Aerial Port Flight work 24/7 to track and move cargo brought here by Air Force, sister service and coalition units and ensure that it gets to its final destination safely and on time.

In total, 360,000 passengers and 35,000 short tons moved this year has kept 4,735 trucks and 8,000 buses off of the roads of Iraq. This in turn mitigates the risk of IED attacks on our troops and equipment.

As in every deployed work



Air Force/Maj. Tom Crosson

(Top) Tech. Sgt. John Zimmerman, left, and Staff Sgt. Howard Fulbright, both cargo handlers with the 386th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron, prepare cargo for transport to a location in Iraq. (Above) Tech. Sgt. Kenneth Womack, left, and Tech. Sgt. Tobey Pruitt, put the final touches on a pallet of cargo before it's transported.

center, ELRS troops overcome some obstacles to accomplish their mission. Despite working through 120+ degree heat, constant sand storms and other issues

they typically don't face back at their home stations, Master Sgt. Kenneth Womack said the challenges just help him increase his level of expertise and experience.

"Back at home station, we typically only deal with Air Force cargo," the squadron's special cargo handling superintendent said. "Here, we get cargo from the sister services and from civilians. It forces you to be smart on how different cargo is handled and tracked by the different services."

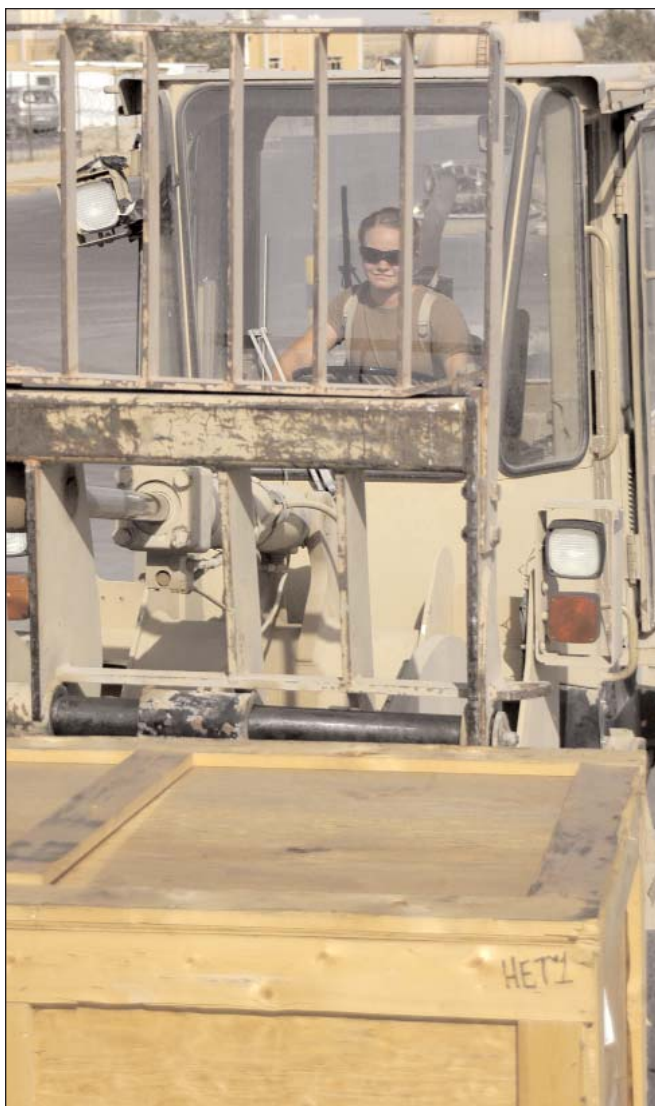
"We have many first time deployers in the squadron," said Tech.Sgt. Tobey Pruitt, a reservist on his third deployment. "We've been able to train them up quickly. They've adapted well to deployed operations."

This may not be the only record the ELRS breaks this year. With the scheduled rotation of Army units in and out of Iraq and the upcoming AEF rotation in September, Maj. Jesse "Dusty" Pearson, Aerial Port Flight commander, said the ELRS is expecting to see the usual summer surge of passengers and baggage transiting the base.

"Our workload changes like the seasons," Major Pearson said. "We've seen a high volume of cargo move through here over the past few months. Next month, we'll see an increase in the movement of passengers that will last through the next few months."

To help prepare for the surge and to help sustain operations in the future, Major Pearson said that his team is working on adjusting manning and operating procedures at the Theater Gateway Passenger Terminal, as well as consolidating several different aerial port work centers into a centrally located campus adjacent to their cargo yard.

Regardless of what's thrown at them, Major Kevin Gaudette, commander of the 386th ELRS, said he is confi-



Senior Airman Nicole Shearer, a forklift operator for the 386th ELRS, moves a box of equipment in the 'grid yard' where cargo is palletized and prepared for transport throughout the CENTCOM area of responsibility.

dent the Aerial Port Flight will excel. "The wing has high standards. Not just for the ELRS, but for our maintainers and aircrews as well. Our dedication to those standards is reflected in our success rates. Every Airman in the wing realizes the importance of our mission. They step up every day to do whatever it takes."

The ELRS's record-breaking month hasn't gone unnoticed. Lt. Gen. Gary L. North, 9th Air Force and U.S. Central Command Air Forces

commander praised ELRS and the entire 386th AEW for their accomplishments during a recent visit to the base.

"The members of the 386th ... do a fabulous job. It's clear that our air mobility machine has enabled us to move people and equipment throughout the region," he said. "The distances are large and the challenges are immense, and our airlift capability has enabled the combined air forces to ensure the mission has been met in every area."

Aerial Port Flight

The Aerial Port Flight here processes all inbound and outbound cargo and they track and trace cargo for all services, government agencies and coalition partners.

Leadership & Personnel

• 386th ELRS commander: Maj. Kevin Gaudette

• Aerial Port Flight commander: Maj. Jesse "Dusty" Pearson

• Aerial Port Flight superintendent: Senior Master Sgt. William "Gene" Bullen

Personnel: 74 (58 Reserve, seven active duty, five Guard and four Marine Corps)

Key Sections

• Air Terminal Operations Center: Responsible for command and control over all Aerial Port work centers. The "nerve center" of the aerial port.

• Cargo Processing: Responsible for logging, scheduling, preparing, and tracking inbound and outbound cargo.

• Special Handling: Responsible for receiving, storing and shipping hazardous materials and munitions.

• Load Plans: Responsible for planning cargo for missions, to include aligning loads with aircraft configuration, weight, and balance limitations.

• Passenger Operations: Generates all passenger manifests for the Theater Gateway Passenger Terminal at the Army's Life Support Area.

tops in blue

Tops In Blue, the Air Force's premier entertainment showcase, brought their music, dance and comedy -- all performed by men and women in blue -- to base for 90 minutes of non-stop live entertainment to the Rock Auditorium July 7.



The theme for this year's version of Tops in Blue is, "What's Love?" They have performed more than 20 shows so far this year and will tour the AOR until July 19.



Photos by Staff Sgt. Ryan Hansen

This Squadron Puts 'Services' Before Self

Staff Sgt. Ryan Hansen
386th AEW/PA

Being away from family and friends at a deployed location is hard enough, but imagine doing it without the 386th Expeditionary Services Squadron.

Luckily we have this group of more than 60 Airmen that have arguably more effect on everyday deployed life than any other squadron on base. They give us a place to sleep, feed us, keep us in shape and help us recharge our batteries to take care of the mission.

"Our mission is certainly multi-tiered," said Maj. Michael Marvich, 386th Expeditionary Services Squadron commander. "We see the true mission here that we train for in the states and we see an immediate return."

From sponsoring cultural trips into the city to bringing the Tops In Blue to base, the services team is split into several sections to manage their wide ranging mission.

One of the first things we do upon arrival here is stop at the lodging office. They put a roof over our head, give us linens and a place to call our own.

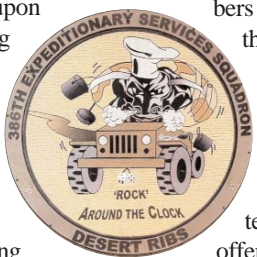
"The lodging team has oversight on all issues relating to the bed down of troops here," said Mater Sgt. Jeff Race, lodging operations superintendent. "We also bed down transient personnel, aircrews and distinguished visitors."

Providing three squares a day for the entire base falls upon the shoulders of the food service team. They are responsible for all menu options at the Desert Winds and Desert Breeze dining facilities.

"We are here as the quality assurance evaluator for the dining facility food contract," said Senior Master Sgt. Stanley Pamphille, 386th ESVS superintendent. "We police the food preparation and serving procedures to ensure compliance with the food code."

Another group of services personnel provide Airmen all they need to stay fit to fight. This team manages all activities, intramural sports and other programs at the Rock Fitness Center and fitness center annex.

"It's critical to offer our deployed mem-



bers with an outlet to release from the stress and frustration of the daily grind that may develop from work and being away from home and loved ones," said Master Sgt. Ernest Ridings, fitness center superintendent. "The fitness center offers individuals with multiple outlets to accomplish just that."

Providing the base populace with a place to unwind, check personal email or catch up on events back home is the task of another group of services specialists. They run the Flex Recreation Center, Mirage Morale Tent and Oasis.

"These facilities allow folks to relax and recharge the batteries," Major Marvich said. "We're trying to get them ready to go back out into the field and do their job."

Another facility the services team runs is the learning resource center. Here Airmen can borrow books, read magazines, rent movies, study or schedule an appointment to take tests.

"There is a test control officer on board who offers (College Level Examination Program), (Career Development Course), Excelsior and (Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support) testing," Sergeant Pamphille said. "In addition, our



Air Force/Staff Sgt. Ryan Hansen

(Above) Staff Sgt. Kent Kaisaki, a fitness center specialist with the 386th Expeditionary Services Squadron, spots someone in the weight room (Left) Senior Airman Frederick Guild boxes up a flight meal.

TCO convoys to Camp Bucca, Iraq, once a month to offer these testing opportunities to troops deployed out there."

Besides running those facilities, the 386th ESVS also plays a role in managing and scheduling many other activities and events around base. They take care of rationing water, they have administrative oversight and provide training for the honor guard, manage the pool, schedule events at the auditorium and amphitheater and sponsor morale events like the bazaar among other things.

"We also have our mortuary affairs mission," Major Marvich said. "It's something we don't like to highlight and we keep it in the background, but it's obviously very, very important."

The services squadron here is also very flexible when planning events and their commander said that the sky is the limit.

"The key with recreation is creativity," he said. "There are no parameters to what we can do. It's just creativity that brings events and ideas out. Whatever we can do to get the camp populace out and get them regenerated."

And while this group is spread all over the base with a very diverse mission, there is one thing they're all trying to do.

"They love what they do and they love being here for the base," Major Marvich said. "We've got some tremendous Airmen from many different bases and they have molded together in a tremendous way, they're energetic, they're outgoing and they want to do great things for everyone here."

386th Air Expeditionary Wing Rock Solid Warriors



**Staff Sgt.
Rahel Kibler**

**386th Expeditionary
Operations Support Squadron**
Information Management

Home unit, base: 45th Mission Support Squadron, Patrick Air Force Base, Fla.

How do you support the mission here? I'm assigned as the primary Client Support Administrator (formerly Work Group Manager) for the 386th Expeditionary Operations Group. This includes the 386th EOSS, 737th and 738th Expeditionary Airlift Squadrons.

How many times have you deployed and what makes this one unique? This is my second deployment. This one is unique because I'm assigned directly with a flying organization. It gives me new insight into what the flying mission is all about and what it takes to keep it going.

How does your job differ in a deployed environment versus home base? As a deployed IMer I get to focus on frontline computer maintenance. Back at home station, most of the communications squadron is contracted out and it limits my career field from preparing for our wartime mission as CSAs.



**Senior Airman
Anthony Palma**

**386th Expeditionary
Logistics Readiness Squadron**
Air Terminal Operations Center Controller

Home unit, base: 46th Aerial Port Squadron, Dover Air Force Base, Del.

How do you support the mission here? I support the mission here by overseeing flight line and aerial port operations on behalf of the ELRS. I disseminate information to our other work sections making sure passengers and cargo are being moved.

How many times have you deployed and what makes this one unique? This is my first deployment and it has been a good experience so far. I have learned a lot from the experience and more importantly from the people around me.

How does your job differ in a deployed environment versus home base? We are sometimes short handed around here, so it is a little more hectic. The weather and threat level here are such a variable you have to stay on your toes at all times. At home station, things tend to go accordingly to schedule without the constant changes.