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Security forces Airmen battle the HEAT

Staff Sgt. Ryan Hansen
386th AEW/PA

Security forces members here fight the desert heat daily, but a recent battle with HEAT may one day save their life.

HEAT in this case stands for Humvee Egress Assistance Trainer. This special training apparatus is designed to help Airmen know what to do if their tactical vehicle was to rollover.

"This is really a two-part training exercise," said Master Sgt. John Ward, NCOIC of training for the 386th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron. "The first part is how to avoid rollovers in a Humvee, and the second part is if you do get into one, how you get out."

HEAT is an authentic, up-armored Humvee cab suspended six feet off the ground on a flatbed trailer. It sits on two horizontal axles and can turn a full 180 degrees in six seconds. It's powered by an electric motor and has all four seated positions inside the cab including a spot for a gunner.

"This is really a Monster Garage type of machine," Sergeant Ward said of HEAT.

The trainer is owned by the Army's Coalition Forces Land Component Command. It is one of only two HEAT systems in the world and the only one in the AOR. It is designed to increase a military member's awareness of rollover conditions, how they can avoid them, actions to take if they are involved in one and reinforces the use of seat belts.

"Many of our (military members) are dying as a result of vehicle rollovers," said Army Sergeant First Class Eva Roberts, deputy director of CFLCC safety. "When CFLCC heard of the concept we decided to build our own. This training has already been credited for saving one Georgian Soldier's life, which makes this training worth its efforts."



Air Force/Staff Sgt. Ryan Hansen

Tech. Sgt. Jeffry Prough, 386th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, puts Airmen through the Humvee Egress Assistance Trainer here. HEAT provides military members with training on how to escape a rolled Humvee.

After a safety briefing, Airmen enter the HEAT wearing all of their personal protective gear and strap themselves in. The instructor then banks the trainer 25 degrees each way to get the trainees used to the movement before the Humvee is turned all the way over.

"The first time they get in it they're spooked a bit," Sergeant Ward said. "When you're upside down it's easy to get disoriented."

Once their world is turned over, the security forces members take their seat belts off, unlatch the combat locks on the doors and egress out. It takes them an average of 20-to-30 seconds to escape.

"This is very good training," said Airman 1st Class Rufus Dixon, 386th ESFS. "Getting out of the Humvee with all the gear on when it's upside down is hard. It

really takes teamwork."

"Once it's upside down you have to relax, take a deep breath and go through the training steps we were given," said Senior Airman Shila Kingsland, 386th ESFS. "It was very exciting."

"Getting out of the gun turret spot was hard," said Senior Airman Renee Hvizdak, 386th ESFS. "Your weight shifts and you have to really concentrate, but everyone helps out."

Hopes are that HEAT will help curb rollover accidents and end Humvee related fatalities. According to CFLCC, there have been 249 rollover injuries and 90 fatalities since the start of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"This training really helps with their confidence if something like this were to happen to them," Sergeant Ward said. "They've all done a very good job."

Camaraderie...

Lt Col Jeff Shaw
386th EOG

It is my good fortune to have a close family friend who served as a lieutenant in the 11th Armored Division during the Second World War. Many times I have been privileged to listen to his stories and to hear him tell about the days when his unit fought its way through France and into Germany and Austria at the close of the war.

When I told him I was deploying he said he was envious, and wished he could be part of the historic events of our time. He cited the camaraderie and teamwork that he experienced with his fellow tank crews during his days in the war as one of the highlights of his life. I found it interesting to hear this member of "The Greatest Generation" express such a desire to participate in events that seemingly do not compare to the global struggle in which he had been involved.

It finally dawned on me that although in the tough days of 1944 and 1945, many of our predecessors who fought in that great conflict may not have been aware that future generations would hold their accomplishments in such high esteem. Likewise, all of us who are here today, whether Air Force or Army, Navy or Marine Corps, will someday look back on our time with the same pride as those who served in the Second World War, and in all conflicts throughout our history. We are all privileged to have the opportunity to participate in this

monumental effort — one which will undoubtedly be looked back on as a pivotal moment in not only our own history, but in the history of this region, and of the world.

By now many readers are probably thinking they have had enough teamwork, and the only camaraderie they hope to experience in the near future is with their families at home. That's fair enough. However, as we go about our day over here, getting the mission done supporting the boots on the ground, keep in mind that someday we will all look back on these times with tremendous pride — pride in the professionalism and expertise of everyone involved in our operations, the teamwork exhibited everyday by our many groups and squadrons, and the dedication to the mission that we witness daily from the members of our wing and from our sister services.

Once we get this task behind us, pack up our bags and go home, maybe to continue our military careers or separate into civilian life, there will come a day when we'll tell our own stories. Maybe in a few decades we'll go with our families to Baghdad Disney World for a vacation, and when we do, we can entertain our grandchildren with the same types of stories that many of us have heard from veterans of past wars. Hopefully the camaraderie and teamwork that we all experience every day over here will be a highlight of those tales. I know it will be for me.



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Uniform board to release updates to AFI 36-2903

Chevrons back on SNCO's sleeves among changes

WASHINGTON (AFPN) -- An update to Air Force Instruction 36-2903, Air Force Uniform Dress and Appearance, will soon be released, said Air Force officials.

A key feature of this updated instruction will be the return of heritage to the enlisted corps -- chevrons on the sleeves and circles around the U.S. insignia.

"Over the years, we've made changes that made sense at the time, but had the effect of moving us away from our heritage," said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley.

"Chevrons on sleeves and circles around the U.S. insignia are historical symbols of the finest noncommissioned

officer corps on the planet. We need to return that heritage to them and reconnect them to the great NCOs who went before them," he said.

The circle around the U.S. was eliminated in 1991, said Senior Master Sgt. Dana Athnos of the Air Force Uniform Board.

"Yet, every uniform board since received requests to return that to the enlisted force, so it has been done," she said. "Wearing the circle on the lapel has a lasting heritage that dates back to April 27, 1918."

The change will include the removal of senior NCO shoulder boards from the blue uniform and from all upper garments, except the optional wool sweaters. Implementation dates will be reflected in the revised AFI.

The updates will also include information about the new air staff badge and new space

badge. Desert combat uniforms are now only authorized on civilian flights to and from the area of responsibility. Also, Air Force personnel are not authorized to wear desert boots with the battle dress uniform.

As a reminder, Oct. 1 marks the mandatory wear of physical training gear. All Airmen will be required to have one running suit, two T-shirts and two pair of shorts. Also beginning in October, enlisted Airmen will receive an increase in their clothing allowance to offset the increase of the mandatory number of T-shirts and shorts from two sets to three sets in October 2007.

Air Force officials emphasized that Airmen should not wait until October to purchase these items. The revised AFI will clarify wear of the PT gear by specifying that when doing organized PT, the shorts and T-

shirts will be worn as a set and not mixed with civilian clothes; however, at other times the PT gear, to include the running suit, can be worn with civilian clothes.

More clarification will be provided about sister service badges, as well as cell phone use in uniform. New guidance about the wear of flight clothing also is incorporated in the updated document.

The new AFI will be available for all Airmen later this month.

"The Air Force Uniform Board, chaired by Air Force A1, reviews any matters related to Air Force uniforms involving possible improvements, and in turn, provides recommendations to the chief of staff for a final decision," Sergeant Athnos said. "It's a deliberate process that is focused on feedback from the field to better accomplish our mission."

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Welcome



Air Force/Staff Sgt. Jonathan Pomeroy

Col. Ronald Celentano, right, takes the guidon from Col. Paul Curlett, 386th Air Expeditionary Wing commander, during a change-of-command ceremony for the 386th Expeditionary Operations Group July 11. Colonel Celentano comes to base from the Pentagon.

Security Forces Military Working Dog Flight

"In Dogs They Trust ... All Others Get Searched"

Staff Sgt. Ryan Hansen
386th AEW/PA

Regardless of visible distractions and no matter how hard his mind may fight him, Zorro sits patiently, waiting for his next command from his handler.

"House," instructs Staff Sgt. Bryan Gudmundson, a military working dog handler with the 386th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron.

Like a bullet shot out of a gun goes the six-year-old Belgian Malinois mix to the door. Exercise time is over and his reward is rest and relaxation in his nice air conditioned kennel.

Zorro is one of ten military working dogs assigned to the 386th ESFS. They, along with their 10 handlers, play an important role here securing the base and keeping everyone safe.

"They're used as a tool to enhance detection capabilities at our gates and clear vehicles for improvised explosive devices, bullets, weapons or anything like that," said Tech. Sgt. Steve Price, 386th ESFS Military Working Dog Flight kennel master. "They're also used around the base on foot patrols, vehicle patrols and we're starting to augment them with our Viper Flight on listening posts and observation posts."

Military working dogs have been a staple of the security forces for years, but recently they have been called upon even more. Much like their human comrades, these working dogs are finding themselves deployed more and more to the AOR.



Air Force/Staff Sgt. Ryan Hansen

(Above) Zorro, a six-year-old Belgian Malinois mix, jumps over a barrier as Staff Sgt. Bryan Gudmundson, a military working dog handler with the 386th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, runs with him. (Right) Charlie, a six-year-old German Shepherd, and his handler, Staff Sgt. Brian Hudson of the 386th ESFS, go through explosive ordnance detection training here recently.

"Most dogs coming in now will spend half of their service deployed," Sergeant Price said. "One of our dogs, Tino, is on his third deployment to the AOR."

Each military working dog deploys with a particular handler and they spend their entire tour together. After returning back to their home station the dog may be certified on another handler, in order to keep rotations fair among security forces members, so he can

come back and perform his duties.

But while these dogs don't have to worry about leaving family and friends back home, some of them, along with their handlers, experience heartache and struggle adjusting.

"It's hard," said Staff Sgt. Bryan Gudmundson, a military working dog handler with the 386th ESFS. "I'm over here for six months and I'm with him everyday and then I go home and hand him off to





Tech. Sgt. Christine Cleary, a military working dog trainer with the 386th ESFS, gets Aris, a five-year-old German Shepherd, prepped for explosive ordnance detection training here recently. His handler is Senior Airman Aaron Lee.

someone else. That's a tough thing."

"They're like people," Sergeant Price said. "Some dogs do real well (with the trade off), but others struggle. They get real protective and real attached to their handler. It's not always an easy thing."

The military working dogs here are made up of German Shepherds and Belgium Malinois with an average age of six-years-old. However, they do have two younger dogs that are three and one veteran canine that is 10.

"They come to the field at two-years-old," said Tech. Sgt. Christine Cleary, a military working dog trainer with the 386th ESFS military working dog flight. "Some dogs can work up to 12-years-old. It really just depends on breed, number of deployments and their home station. There are a lot of factors that play into it."

Typically the dog and their handler work a regular 12 hour shift mixed in with some resting time for the dog.

"They usually spend time between search pits and on patrol in various areas,"

Sergeant Gudmundson said.

"We like to have them out and have them visible. It's good awareness for everyone."

Upon arrival here the dogs go through a transition period much like every Airman entering the AOR. It takes time for them to adjust to the climate, but unlike their human counterparts, they are unable to let others know when they are not feeling well, so that responsibility falls on their handlers.

"We have to make sure they get the proper amount of water, proper rest and shade," Sergeant Price said. "The cool vest helps them quite a bit, but we monitor them very closely."

The military working dogs continually go through obedience training and are run through explosive ordnance detection exercises weekly in order to stay sharp and on their game.

And at the end of a long, hard work week, the dogs are rewarded with a day off.

"They do start to drag a little bit, so we give them a day where they can sit in the kennel and chill out," Sergeant



(Above) Rocky, a three-year-old Belgian Malinois, and his handler, Staff Sgt. Keith Cook of the 386th ESFS Military Working Dog Flight, go through explosive ordnance detection training here recently. (Below) Sergeant Gudmundson takes Zorro through another exercise.



Gudmundson said. "But after that day off, they're definitely ready to go."

And so are their handlers.

"We're very fortunate to

work with the dogs and the job we do takes patience, but its rewarding," Sergeant Cleary said. "I believe this is the best job in the Air Force."

HVAC Keeps Us COOL

Staff Sgt. Ryan Hansen

386th AEW/PA

The nice, cool breeze created by our air conditioners is often taken for granted – until one breaks down and the temperature of the room rises, bringing the breeze to a halt.

This is the time when the heating, ventilation and air conditioning shop of the 386th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron is called into action. This team of 12 dedicated professionals work to keep our facilities cool.

“We touch nearly every facet of the base and how it operates,” said Tech. Sgt. John Post, NCOIC of HVAC. “We work on equipment that keeps food cold, cool work and relaxation areas, and billets.”

The HVAC technicians respond to 15 to 20 calls a day and strive to be as quick and professional as possible. The jobs vary from blown fuses to large efforts such as complete unit exchanges. When not responding to calls, you can find them performing preventative maintenance such as power washing the units.

“We stay very busy here,” Sergeant Post said. “We have people on the job from 6 a.m. until 1 a.m., six days a week and we’re always on call for emergencies.”

Maintaining, repairing and replacing more than 1,200 units on base is a tough mission for this team. But add in all of the other challenges that come with being in a deployed environment and the task is almost monumental.

“The environment is the worst for us,” Sergeant Post said. “The sand, dust and heat takes its toll on the equipment, it’s a challenge.”

Plus with each additional building that is erected on base, their responsibility increases as well.

“When a new facility is built they’re under warranty for a year,” Sergeant Post said. “But we still respond and troubleshoot the system when an emergency call comes in. In some cases we can make the repair but at other times the contractor will need to come out.”

Another challenge for the team is getting basic parts for repairs.



Air Force/Staff Sgt. Ryan Hansen

(Above) Airman 1st Class Stephen Allen, a heating, ventilation and air conditioning journeyman with the 386th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron, replaces a burnt contactor on an environmental control unit. (Left) Airman 1st Class Andrew Danko, 386th ECES, sits inside an air conditioning unit and writes down information about the condenser fan.



“We just can’t go downtown and go to the hardware store and pick something up,” Sergeant Post said. “And if the part is wrong, we can’t just go exchange it.”

One other issue early on for the 12 man team was experience. Eight of the Airmen have less than five years on the job and for a lot of them, this is their first deployment.

“My very first challenge here was to get them up to speed quickly,” Sergeant Post said. “But I’ve been very blessed by this group. They have done a great job and I couldn’t ask for anything more from them.”

This place is the perfect spot for trial by fire for a young HVAC technician.

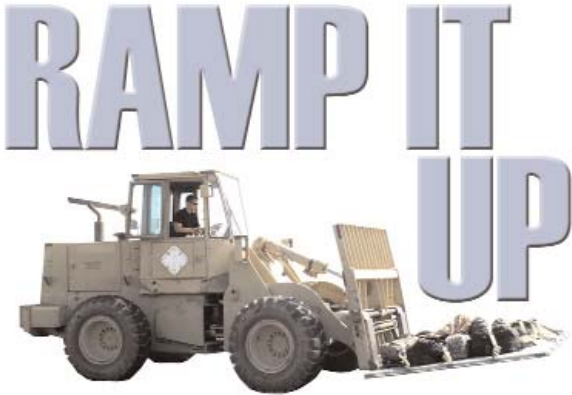
“The experience we get here is something that can’t be taught at tech school,” said Senior Airman David Chapman, an HVAC journeyman. “When we first start out doing this we don’t have a lot of experience. But with each job we get more comfortable.”

However, through all the challenges the team always finds a way to adapt and get the cool air back on for their customers.

“It feels good to know that we’re responsible for such an important thing,” said Airman 1st Class Andrew Danko, an HVAC journeyman. “When we go in and get the job done and the people are thankful, that means a lot.”

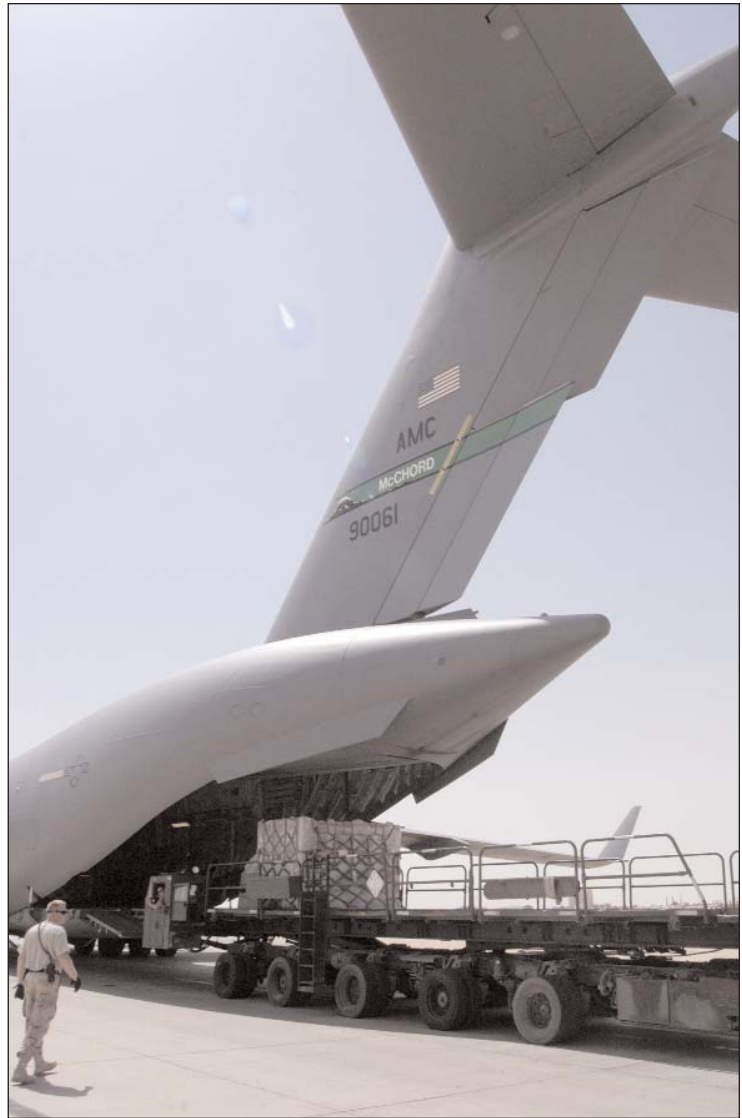
But the HVAC team is quick to point out that they are part of something bigger.

“We’re just a small part of CE,” Sergeant Post said. “Everything we do over here is a team effort and we couldn’t do our job without our squadron’s help.”



Air Force/Maj. Tom Crosson

(Right) Tech. Sgt. Mark Harris, a ramp team shift supervisor with the 386th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron, monitors cargo being loaded on a C-17 here on July 19. The 386th ELRS's aerial port flight is responsible for receiving, accounting for and moving passengers and cargo in and out of the base via air movement. (Above) Senior Airman Chris Royal, and Senior Airman Scott Mayes of the 386th ERLS ramp team, walk out to the flightline.



(Left) C-17 loadmasters finish loading cargo from a 60K loader on July 19. During the past month, Air Force C-130 *Hercules* and C-17 *Globemaster III* aircraft transiting this forward deployed air base have increased airlift operations assisting Soldiers and Airmen in getting needed armored vehicles, repair parts and ammunition to troops in Iraq. (Above) Senior Airman Keith Wilcox, a forklift operator with the 386th ELRS, loads cargo.

386th Air Expeditionary Wing Rock Solid Warriors



**Master Sgt.
Frank Guido**

386th Air Expeditionary Wing Chapel
NCOIC and Chaplain Assistant

Home unit, base: 305th Air Mobility Wing, McGuire Air Force Base, N.J.

How do you support the mission here? I support the mission by helping to provide for the free exercise of religion, assist in visitations while helping the chaplains to offer comprehensive pastoral care for all members of the 386th AEW to include four geographically separated units.

How many times have you deployed and what makes this one unique? This is my first deployment as an Individual Mobilization Augmentee chaplain assistant. When I was on active duty in a previous career field I deployed on numerous occasions. What makes this deployment unique for me is I had to volunteer to deploy forward, otherwise I would have been selected to backfill one of the active duty slots back in the states.

How does your job differ in a deployed environment versus home base? As an IMA Reservist I am there for eight hours once a month, therefore I do not have the opportunity to meet that many folks and build on any relationships while still doing the required training during the normal duty day. Here the days are a bit longer, so I am able to go out with the chaplains to visit the entry control points in the middle of the night with freeze pops and other types of snacks or deliver drinks and snacks to those working on the flightline.



**Tech. Sgt.
Christopher Walsh**

**386th Expeditionary
Aircraft Maintenance Squadron**
Electrical, Environmental Craftsman

Home unit, base: 317th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, Dyess Air Force Base, Texas

How do you support the mission here? I am the lead technician for the Blue Aircraft Maintenance Unit Electrical and Environmental shop. Some of my duties include supporting the launch and recovery of C-130 aircraft as well as troubleshooting complex aircraft electrical problems.

How many times have you deployed and what makes this one unique? This is my third deployment overall and my first with the Dyess team. I am amazed at the resources and facilities here and it makes the 120 days away from home station much easier than I expected.

How does your job differ in a deployed environment versus home base? Other than 12 hour days and high temperatures there is really not much of a difference from home station and the "Rock." We are flying more sorties with fewer maintainers but the people always seem to figure out a way to get the mission done.