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386th Air Expeditionary Wing

July 28, 2006

C-130 aircrews join humanitarian effort

Two C-130 crews assigned to the 386th Air Expeditionary Wing delivered more than 10 tons of food and other relief supplies during two missions this past week to support American citizens leaving Lebanon.

Both missions were no-notice taskings delivered by CENTAF's Combined Air Operations Center. These missions were handed over to the wing's "Bravo Alert" crews that sit on standby everyday to support emergency airlift requests.

"The lightning response of the 386th to swiftly deploy a C-130 allowed CENTCOM and USAFE teams to quickly assess the ground requirements in Cyprus to assist Americans attempting to depart Lebanon," said Col. Paul Curlett, 386th AEW commander. "(Our) C-130's helped set the stage for follow-on American assistance operations in response to the recent contingency in Lebanon."

For the first crew that transported 22,000 pounds of meals-ready-to-eat and comfort items to Royal Air Force Base Akrotiri, Cypress, the mission was not unexpected, but completely welcomed.

"We watched the news while grabbing a quick bite at the dinning facility. When you see events like that unfold in the news, it is expected to get tasked to support it," said Capt. Matt Estoup, pilot and aircraft commander with the 737th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron. "It wasn't a surprise."

The second mission was executed by a veteran aircrew that had done earthquake relief operations in Pakistan and Afghanistan last year. So when they were called upon to move five pallets of supplies that included more MRE's as well as some blankets, bottled water and other logistical supplies, it was business as usual.

"It felt great," said Maj. Anderson, pilot and aircraft commander with the 738th



Air Force/Staff Sgt. Ryan Hansen

Tech. Sgt. Alex Garrett, a loadmaster with the 737th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron, monitors humanitarian supplies as they are loaded onto a C-130 Hercules at Bahrain International Airport. The supplies were later flown to Royal Air Force Akrotiri, Cyprus, for evacuees from Lebanon.

Expeditionary Airlift Squadron. "But you must understand – that's quite normal for us. However, it was nice to get out of the neighborhood and go to someplace green."

Tactics and planning experts from the 386th Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron actually anticipated the tasking in the days leading up to the airlift missions. In preparation they started the process of developing flight plans and applying for diplomatic clearances to fly over countries in the flight path well in advance of being contacted by the CAOC.

"As soon as we saw what was unfolding there we knew that we would be playing a

role in it," said 1st Lt. Blake Greenfield, a tactics officer and C-130 pilot with the 386th EOSS. "We contacted the Air Mobility Division early on and started all the coordination that would need to take place."

The mission of flying supplies into Cyprus was a welcomed change for Maj. Daniel Ganoza, a navigator assigned to the 737th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron.

"Here, we are constantly flying into Iraq to support their reconstruction efforts and to protect American interests. It's a nice break to change the scenery and to provide support to American citizens in time of need," he said.

Are you just getting by?

Lt. Col. Michael Lynch
386th EMXS commander

Gen. George S. Patton once said, "Always do more than what is required of you."

At the end of most days, I often ask myself, did I do more than what was expected of me? Did I provide the leadership, tools and resources required for the airmen in my squadron to successfully perform their duties? Did I do everything I could've done to make things better today than they were yesterday? If I'm honest with myself, the answer often times is, "no."

There's always something more that can be done and I vow to do better the next day. I ask myself that question because if I'm only doing what is required of me, then I'm only doing the minimum required to "just get by" and in the Air Force, whether here or in Iraq or home station, just getting by isn't good enough. My country, my family and the men and women under my command deserve better than the minimum required to just get by.

Today we are engaged in an asymmetric war and the threat to our nation's safety and security is real. "Our nation, our country, our home" ... those are the stakes. A place we call home not only because we were born or naturalized there but because that's where our families, friends and loved ones reside. It's the place where we learned our values and to appreciate the freedoms that make us unique in the world. We often find our duty requires us to be separated from the

ones we love and that we must sacrifice our own personal comforts, freedoms and desires in defense of our country. Never forget what's at stake and never forget the people back home. They count on us to carry out our duties to the best of our abilities. They deserve more than the minimum required to just get by.

In the midst of this war, the Air Force is undergoing some of the most significant changes in its history. Over the next four years, the number of Airmen serving in the Air Force will be reduced by 40,000 with no comparable reduction in our mission. This transformation will also require a reduction in aircraft, equipment and resources. We have proven to be the most effective Air Force in the world — now we must focus on becoming the most efficient. Threats will continue to evolve and we will be expected to counter them quickly and decisively. Because we will be a leaner force, our individual contributions will carry significantly more weight. We are going to have to rely upon each other more than ever and our actions will have a greater impact than ever before. Our compatriots and country will need us to do more than the minimum required to just get by.

General Patton also said, "If I do my full duty, the rest will take care of itself." When you get off duty today, take a moment to reflect on your performance and ask yourself if you did more than what was required of you. Did you do your full duty or just enough to get by? Your answer impacts more people than you can possibly imagine.



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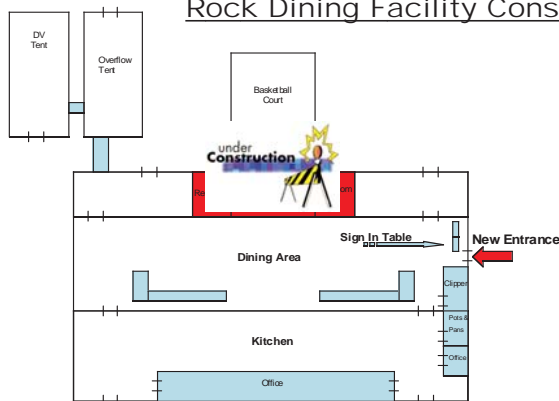
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Rock Dining Facility Construction



The Rock DFAC began its next phase of construction July 24. For the next 30 days, the main entryway and bathrooms will be closed. The temporary entryway will be along the road side of the facility. Thank you for your understanding.

Top 3's seminar offers career advancement tips

Staff Sgt. Ryan Hansen
386th AEW/PA

The Top 3 Council hosted a professional development seminar on career advancement Thursday at the Rock Chapel.

The key speaker at the seminar was Chief Master Sgt. Monte Malek, 386th Expeditionary Mission Support Group superintendent. The event was open to all ranks, enlisted or officer, and designed to give military members an inside idea of how to tackle their careers and get where they want to go.

"The Top 3 is trying to give our enlisted members and even our officer corps information about how they can take control of their career and do certain things that may help them with job opportunities and hopefully promotion opportunities," Chief Malek said. "It was also a great forum for cross-flowing information and experiences with our peers."



Air Force/Staff Sgt. Ryan Hansen

Chief Master Sgt. Monte Malek, 386th Expeditionary Mission Support Group superintendent, talks with attendees at the Top 3 Council's enlisted career advancement seminar Thursday at the Rock Chapel.

The seminar focused on promotion boards, jobs and job titles, stratification, enlisted and officer performance reports and what Air Force leaders are looking for when it comes time for promotion.

"It is never too early in our Air Force career to start thinking about your goals and setting them early will help these troops to achieve them," Chief Malek said. "This is the highest educated group of Airmen our

Air Force has even seen."

More than 25 people attended the seminar and everyone seemed to pick up a tip or two regarding their career.

"I thought it was very good," said Staff Sgt. Steven Emerson, 386th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron. "I have goals for my career and a seminar like this really sets me up for success."

This is just one in a series of professional development seminars hosted by the Top 3 Council this rotation. The council has really tried to pass their experiences in the military onto the younger troops.

"I personally didn't have anything like these seminars in the early part of my career," Chief Malek said. "Instead my supervisors took the time to guide me along a path of success that ultimately blessed me with the opportunity to serve the troops as a Chief Master Sergeant."

Welcome



Air Force/Staff Sgt. Jonathan Pomeroy

Col. Gregory Perkinson, right, takes the guidon from Col. Paul Curlett, 386th Air Expeditionary Wing commander, during a change-of-command ceremony for the 386th Expeditionary Mission Support Group July 18. Colonel Perkinson comes to base from Langley Air Force Base, Va.

JAPANESE CLASS

Time: Every Tuesday and Friday from 7 to 9 p.m.

Place: LRC Classroom

Level: Basic Japanese Conversation

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AIRCREW OPS

C-130 crews ensure wing continues to put "Boots on the Ground"

Staff Sgt. Ryan Hansen
386th AEW/PA

Aircrew members of the 386th Air Expeditionary Wing sometimes call their daily task here laborious, exhausting and strenuous. But there is one word that describes their mission that is unquestioned – crucial.

C-130s from the wing have been providing support to the entire AOR everyday since its activation in 2001. The two airlift squadrons, the 737th and 738th Expeditionary Airlift Squadrons, have averaged more than 1,700 sorties a month and have topped more than 55,000 total since 2003.

"Our mission here is to support the troops in harm's way," said Col. Ronald Celentano, 386th Expeditionary Operations Group commander. "If it wasn't for them, we wouldn't have a mission. And if we don't properly execute our mission then it increases their risk and we can't have that."

The 386th AEW is the primary aerial hub for Operation Iraqi Freedom and also provides airlift support for Operation Enduring Freedom and the Horn of Africa. To execute this mission the wing relies on a fleet of C-130s and roughly 200 aircrew members to deliver the goods. These dedicated Airmen typically fly 12-to-16 hour missions over some of the most dangerous skies in the world 30-to-40 times a deployment.

"We're very lucky to do what we do," said Capt. Travis Sjostedt, a C-130 pilot with the 738th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron. "We really get to see the big picture about what the 386th does."

C-130 aircrews are in such demand that they are not part of the traditional AEF rotation process like most of the Air Force. A lot of them deploy for 90-to-120 days and return home for three or four months before returning back to the flight.

"The C-130 crews are part of what they



Air Force/Staff Sgt. Ryan Hansen

(Above) Capt. Travis Sjostedt, a C-130 pilot with the 738th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron, looks over the skies of Iraq during a mission July 20. (Below) Chief Master Sgt. Dave Niehaus, a flight engineer and superintendent of the 386th Expeditionary Operations Group, pre-flights the aircraft before their mission.

call the enabler force," said Chief Master Sgt. Dave Niehaus, 386th EOG superintendent. "They're deployed more often than a lot of the Air Force and some of them will be gone for eight months out of the year."

This continuous deployment process and daily grind is where the aircrew member's description of repetitive and tiresome comes from.

"The time passes by here and I don't even know what day it is after a while," said 1st Lt. Eric Newton, a C-130 navigator with the 738th EAS. "I just sleep when they tell me to sleep and fly when they tell me to fly."

This challenging lifestyle is not only hard on the aircrew here, but also their family



members back home.

"My wife is used to it by now," said Staff Sgt. Eric Watts, a loadmaster with the 737th EAS, who is on his fourth deployment in three years. "But this one is a little



(Above) The aircrew of CHROME 35 fly into Baghdad International Airport, Iraq, July 20. (Below Left) Staff Sgt. Eric Watts, a loadmaster with the 738th EAS, spots the forklift driver as he delivers a pallet into the back of the C-130 Hercules.



longer than some of the others that I've had."

However, this doesn't mean the aircrews don't love what they do or believe in the mission. Nothing could be further from the truth and the proof is in their incredibly high mission effectiveness rate as they are part of the largest continuous airlift mission since the Berlin Airlift.

"The C-130 was my first choice," said Capt. John Fuccillo, a C-130 co-pilot with the 738th EAS. "It's just a great aircraft and really one of the hardest to fly, in my opinion, because of its aerodynamics."

"When I was in pilot training I wasn't sure what aircraft I wanted to fly," Captain Sjostedt said. "But I talked to a lieutenant colonel and he spoke so passionately about the mission of the C-130 and that really did it for me. This was my first choice at that point."

Although C-130s are middle-aged aircraft, they are reliable. Most of them in the inventory are from the early 1960s and mid 1970s, but they continue to deliver when called upon thanks to the dedication of the maintainers.



Airman 1st Class Joe Scobey, a loadmaster with the 738th EAS, talks to the aircraft commander before takeoff from Mosul Airfield, Iraq, July 20.

"C-130s are the workhorse of tactical airlift," Colonel Celentano said. "Yes, they are old, but they are reliable thanks to some of the finest maintainers in the Air Force that we have here with us. It's phenomenal to see what they can do. Without them we could not do what we need to do."

And as long as the 386th AEW is charged with putting "Boots on the Ground," the aircrews will be here to fulfill that promise.

"It's a team effort and it takes the entire base," Chief Niehaus said. "It's really a beautiful symphony when it all comes together."

CHROME 35 • July 20, 2006 Mission FMUA54524201

6 a.m. – The phone rings and each member of the aircrew are alerted that they have a mission.

6:45 a.m. – After grabbing a quick breakfast, a bus arrives at the dining facility to take the aircrew to the operations group building.

6:50 a.m. – A visit to the life support section provides the aircrew all they need for their flight.

7:15 a.m. – The aircrew goes behind closed doors for a mission brief. They are headed to Mosul Airfield, Baghdad International Airport and Balad Air Base, Iraq, before returning to base. They also receive the latest intelligence to include threats in each area and potential hazards.

7:30 a.m. – The aircraft commander, co-pilot and navigator meet to discuss the flight plan while the loadmasters and flight engineer head to the flightline. The loadmasters configure the aircraft and plan for the proper weight balance. The flight engineer pre-flights the aircraft to ensure the aircraft is ready to go.

8:30 a.m. – The aircraft commander, co-pilot and navigator arrive at the C-130. They go through final checks and talk to the flight engineer to discuss any potential issues.

9:15 a.m. – CHROME 35 takes off for Mosul. On board are 56 Soldiers, Marines and their gear.

11:05 a.m. – The *Hercules* arrives in Mosul. A few passengers and their cargo are unloaded. The aircrew wait for some more passengers to arrive before they can take off for their next mission.

12:20 p.m. – The C-130 takes off again, heading for Baghdad. The passengers on board include a three-star British Army general.

1:35 p.m. – The aircraft lands in Baghdad. The flight engineer immediately notices that they have an issue with their auxiliary power unit. The aircrew go through some quick fixes to see if they can get it going again. If they cannot, the next leg of their mission may be in jeopardy.

3 p.m. – CHROME 35 is on its way to Balad. Although the crew were unable to make the APU work, the navigator called ahead to see if the base would be able provide them power after landing, so they decide to stay on course.

3:35 p.m. – The aircraft arrives at Balad. Because of the APU, the pilot keeps the engines running during the unloading and uploading.

4 p.m. – The aircrew and the C-130 are on their way home. The aircraft reaches its cruising altitude of 18,000 feet.

5:30 p.m. – Mission complete. The aircrew finalize their checklists while the flight engineer discusses the APU with maintenance. They then head back to the operations group building for a post-flight review and to turn in their equipment.

6 p.m. – Following the briefing the aircrew are driven to the dining facility. They are done for the day, but at some point in the next 12-to-24 short hours later, it will start all over again.

ROKAF COALITION DINNER



Col. Jang Kyoung Park, commander of the ROKAF's 58th AW, talks with USAFA Cadet 1st Class James Walker, who is deployed here with the 386th Air Expeditionary Wing intelligence office.



Cadets from the U.S. Air Force Academy and Airmen from the 386th Air Expeditionary Wing were invited to dine with members of the Republic of Korea Air Force's 58th Airlift Wing at their compound July 20. The group received a mission brief from the ROKAF leadership before enjoying a traditional Korean meal. Coalition dinners are a monthly event for the wing. However, this meeting was extra special for the group with the Air Force's best and brightest on hand with Operation Air Force.



USAFA Cadet 1st Class Charles Chambers, left, 386th Expeditionary Maintenance Group, and Cadet 1st Class Matthew Yan, 386th Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron, talk with members of the ROKAF.



Photos by Staff Sgt. Jonathan Pomeroy

Rock hosts Airman, Marine reunion

Staff Sgt. Ryan Hansen
386th AEW/PA

Most military members say 'goodbye' to family and friends when leaving for a deployment. However, one father and daughter were lucky enough recently to say 'hello' during theirs for the first time in more than a year.

Airman 1st Class Malissa Mashburn and her father Marine Corps Sgt. Maj. Jim Mashburn caught up on old times and spent the day together here at the "Rock" June 26. Getting these two together more than 7,000 miles away from home took a little bit of luck and some strategy.

As a member of the 886th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron at Camp Bucca, Iraq, Airman Mashburn is only a few hours away from the headquarters of the 386th Air Expeditionary Wing. So when she heard that her father would come through the "Rock" on his way back to the states for his two-week rest and recuperation leave, she thought she'd see what the possibilities would be for a reunion.

"I went into my chief's office to see if we could work something out," Airman Mashburn said. "And he said he would love to set it up for me."

"When she gave me the dates, I worked with her flight chief to ensure we could get her a couple of days off and I arranged her convoy transportation," said Chief Master Sgt. Timothy Omdal, manager of the 886th ESFS. "Having one of our Airman be afforded an opportunity to see her dad while deployed here is an awesome treat for all of us."

The newly planned reunion would be the first time the two had seen each other since April 2005 when they spent time



Air Force/Staff Sgt. Ryan Hansen

Airman 1st Class Malissa Mashburn and Marine Corps Sgt. Maj. Jim Mashburn pose for a photo together while meeting up here at the "Rock."

together at her father's base in Twentynine Palms, Calif.

"I didn't know how easy or hard it would be for her to come up," Sergeant Major Mashburn said. "But when she told me that it should work out, I was very glad."

"It was like waiting for Christmas," Airman Mashburn said. "I was so excited."

Sergeant Major Mashburn is the Marine Corps sergeant major of the Regimental Combat Team 7 at Camp Al Asad, Iraq. His unit is training Iraqi military members and its police force so they can take control of their country.

"It's something the Marines enjoy doing," he said. "We know what freedom is and I think the people of Iraq are starting to sense that it's in their grasp."

Although his daughter grew up following him around the world as a military brat, he never thought he'd see her wearing a uniform.

"You want the best for your children and you want them to make their own decisions,"

said the 27-year Marine Corps veteran. "She could have done anything she wanted, but she saw the opportunities that the military has to offer and she saw that it was a chance for her to mature, so she took it. She's doing something that not every American is willing to do and I think she's done very well."

"The military is a great jumping off point in life," Airman Mashburn said. "If you don't know exactly what you want to do with your life and you want to get out and make a difference, the military is a great place to do that."

"And having my dad in the military my whole life just kind of showed me the way," she added.

Back home the life-long military family is supported by Airman Mashburn's mother and wife of Sergeant Major Mashburn, Tina, and their oldest daughter, Judy Ann. While they are both very proud of their service, they do worry about them.

"It's a little nerve wracking

for her, but she's very proud of us," Airman Mashburn said. "I know she misses us both."

"She'll get this one back home in about a month and then I'll follow suit," Sergeant Major Mashburn said. "Then we'll all get together and have a good time."

Here in the AOR Airman Mashburn works at Camp Bucca's Theatre Internment Facility. Although this is her second tour in just under three years, this deployment is different as she is providing security inside and outside the camp as well as securing prisoners. When the sergeant major learned that his daughter would be performing such a role outside of her normal career field, he understood that it's just part of the military.

"At first I thought, wait a minute, that's not what she initially came in for," he said. "But being around the Marine Corps, I'm used to change. I have confidence in the Air Force and how they train their people. Their leadership takes care of their people and I have confidence in her abilities."

As it turns out, Airman Mashburn loves the mission.

"I like it a lot better than my normal job," she said. "It's more exciting, the work is harder, but it's a great challenge."

During their reunion the two were so happy to see each other once again that there was hardly even a mention of any inter-service rivalry.

"There's always a little playful ribbing, but it's not too bad," Airman Mashburn said.

Airman Mashburn is scheduled to return home from her deployment in mid-September while her father will have six months to go upon his return from leave.

386th Air Expeditionary Wing Rock Solid Warriors



**Staff Sgt.
Lesly Blackwell**

386th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron
Force Protection Escort

Home unit, base: 78th Medical Support Squadron, Robins Air Force Base, Ga.

How do you support the mission here? I ensure the command and control of all on-duty force protection escorts and posts, update the personnel and vehicle status boards, maintain control of the radio net and dispatch posts to job sites as they are required for specific jobs. I also maintain a chronological log of events and record all security incidents in the logbook.

How many times have you deployed and what makes this one unique? This is my first deployment. I have always wanted to go on a deployment and I am glad that I was given this opportunity. It is a great experience to see how everyone comes together and helps each other out while here. The most memorable part for me would be when I volunteered to help in my career field at the Contingency Aeromedical Staging Facility. I had an opportunity to assist with an Aerovac mission, which I would say was the most impacting moment in my whole career. It also brought in to perspective what dangers the Soldiers serving in Iraq face on a daily basis.

How does your job differ in a deployed environment versus home base? Being an escort has been an enlightening experience. Being assigned to the 386th ESFS and not having any security forces background was a little intimidating at first, but the impact and responsibility that our job has here is tremendous. Ensuring that all of the base personnel are safe and secure while the TCN's are here is an awesome task in itself, but also ensuring that the integrity of the whole base in met is a great responsibility, one that I am proud to be a part of.



**Tech. Sgt.
Gary "Tommy" Landenberger**

586th Expeditionary Mission Support Group
Commander's Support Staff

Home unit, base: 7th Mission Support Group, Dyess Air Force Base, Texas

How do you support the mission here? I conduct administrative and mission coordination activities for the 586th EMSG staff and I'm also the information management officer and client support administrator. I also provide the both 586th EMSG and 586th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron staff with computer and telecommunications resources to accomplish the mission.

How many times have you deployed and what makes this one unique? I have deployed twice, once to Kandahar, Afghanistan and now to Camp Arifjan. This deployment is unique because of our mission. In our group we have a security forces squadron in charge of guarding detainees at the Theater Internment Facility at Camp Bucca Iraq. We also have two truck detachments that run combat convoys in and out of Iraq. In the deployed world, you hear the phrase "tip of the spear," we are the tip of the spear.

How does your job differ in a deployed environment versus home base? My job here is similar to what it is at my home unit, but with much more impact. If our systems go down, critical intel may not be passed to convoy commanders which could place our Airmen in harm's way. I can definitely see how my job positively impacts the Global War on Terror every single day.