

RED TAIL FLYER

332d Air Expeditionary Wing, Balad Air Base, Iraq

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as leaders, innovators

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THE WING COMMANDER WANTS TO HEAR FROM



Brig. Gen.
Robin Rand
332d Air
Expeditionary Wing
Commander

As a service for Balad Airmen, the 332d Air Expeditionary Wing operates the Commander's Action Line.

The line is a way for Balad Air Base members to get answers to questions or express concerns about life on the base. Brig. Gen. Robin Rand, 332d AEW commander, gives action line queries his

personal attention. The *Red Tail Flyer* will publish those items that are of general interest to the Balad Air Base population.

In addition to using the commander's action line, Balad Airmen are asked to remember their chain of command when dealing with problems and concerns.

The action line can be reached via e-mail at redtailflyer@blab.centaf.af.mil. People using the action line should include name, unit and phone number in case additional information is needed and for a timely response.

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Reservists lead trauma care advances



Front page photo by
Senior Airman James Croxon

Weather outlook

Today	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Dusty 116/86	113/84	111/80	113/80	113/80	Dusty 115/84	115/84

RED TAIL FLYER

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332d Air Expeditionary Wing
Commander

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The public affairs office can be contacted at 443-6005, or by e-mail at: redtailflyer@blab.centaf.af.mil or 332aew.pa@blab.centaf.af.mil.

The crimson used throughout the publication alludes to the original Tuskegee Airmen of the 332d Fighter Group.

The Tuskegee Airmen were the first African Americans to be trained as WWII military pilots in the U.S. Army Air Corps. They were known as the Red Tail Flyers because of the crimson paint scheme on their aircraft's tails.

<http://www.balad.afnews.af.mil/library/redtailflyer/index.asp>

A CHANCE TO

Live Free

by Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Conrad Navarro
332nd Air Expeditionary Wing

The day started like any other Sunday; a morning full of preaching, leading services, and enjoying some rich moments of fellowship with the Airmen who had gathered to worship.

As a chaplain deployed to Iraq, it looked as though the day was shaping up to be just your typical Sunday.

After a quick lunch, I decided to visit the sick and wounded at our hospital. At the hospital, Soldiers and Airmen shared with me about how they were wounded, and some shared about their loved ones back home. In return, I would listen and occasionally interject a brief word of encouragement or a prayer for healing or of thanksgiving as appropriate.

That day, several wounded insurgents were being cared for by our medical team along with an Iraqi soldier, and a couple of Iraqi civilians who were either caught in the crossfire of battle or had suffered some other sort of life-threatening injury.

I stopped at the bed of an Iraqi girl who had been the victim of a hit-and-run accident and suffered severe brain damage. Truth be told, she'd probably never recover and live out the rest of her life in an unresponsive state. Her father was with her. In the days since she arrived, he had been there at her bedside and remained hopeful. Who could blame him? The

man had two wives and four sons, but this young child was his only daughter. As I approached her bed, I greeted the father, touching my heart with my right hand as a sign of respect and appreciation. He too touched his heart and then said, "Hello." The father did not speak English, but had learned a few words in the three weeks he had been there at his daughter's side. Noticing the cross on my uniform, the father brought his hands together as he would in prayer, and then pointed to me and to his daughter, and then pointed toward the sky. I knew what he was asking.

In an act of faith and trust, here was an Iraqi Muslim father asking an Air Force Christian chaplain to pray for his daughter. Why? Perhaps, because at that moment, the only thing that really mattered was his daughter. The expression on the man's face told me that if there were any way he could possibly trade places with his precious child, he would do it without the slightest hesitation. At that moment, our differences seemed insignificant. Funny, how being a loving and caring parent is something that connects you with another parent, despite differences in language, culture and even religious perspectives.

Then I remember thinking about the sermon God had given me to preach that morning. It was from the Gospel of John; the miracle of Jesus healing of the royal official's son. Now, as I stood there looking at the little girl's father, it was as though the story had suddenly come to life.

Through an improvised form of sign language, I asked if I could touch his daughter's hand. Understanding what I was asking, the father nodded yes; I reached out and gently took hold of her precious little hand,



and prayed.

When I finished, I turned to her father, and his hands were clasped in prayer, and with tears in his eyes he said, "Thank you."

I touched my heart, and he in turn touched his twice and then pointed to me. As I moved on to my next patient I thought about how you hear some in the media talking about how the Iraqi people don't appreciate what we're doing and they just want us to leave their country. Well today, I met one appreciative Iraqi dad, who I am certain, is glad that we're here.

Next I went over to visit a 13-year-old boy that looked more like a nine year old because he was so thin and small. He was the victim of a car bomb. Physically he was going to be okay, but it will take time for him to get over his fears. The blast broke his leg and he was hit in the abdomen with shrapnel that had to be surgically removed. The boy had a scar that ran from the bottom of his stomach to his sternum. Following the blast, no one was able to locate his parents or family. They were probably killed by the bomb.

I watched as the nurse carefully changed the bandage on the boy's stomach. She had just left his bedside to get more surgical tape when suddenly rockets began hitting close and hitting hard. The base alarm blared out for all to take shelter.

It was the most intense attack I'd experienced in the two months I'd been in-theater. Instinctively, I leaned over to comfort and shelter the boy the best I could.

When the attack ended, I looked into his still frightened eyes and asked, "Are you going to be okay?" to which he exclaimed, "Pepsi? Pepsi?" He loved Pepsi, and the nurses would bribe him with the stuff.

Later that afternoon, as I thought about comforting the Iraqi boy during the attack, I thought about my own son; how that's what I would have done with him if he had been frightened. And how in the moment of terror, the fact that this child was an Iraqi made no difference at all; my response was simply to comfort a scared and injured little boy, who should never of had to go through the horrors he'd survived. I remember during the attack thinking how this kid should be laughing and playing soccer with other children his age, in a neighborhood where it's safe to go out and play; a place where he could live in freedom and without fear.

That's really what all of us over here are trying to do – to give the children over here like him, the opportunity to live free from repressive regimes and the terror of insurgent coercion; to make his country a safe place, where the children of Iraq can live and play without fear.

The consequences of complacency

by Master Sgt. Jeffrey Oyer
332d Air Expeditionary Wing Ground Safety

On January 28, 1986, America lost Air Force Lt. Col. Ellison Onizuka, Maj. Francis "Dick" Scobee, Capt. Gregory Jarvis, Navy Capt. Michael J. Smith and Dr. Ronald McNair, Judith Resnik and Christa McAuliffe. These professionals lost their lives because of indifference. False security created by apathetic people caused a space shuttle and its hand-picked crew to perish.

Originally scheduled for a Jan. 22 liftoff, mechanical and weather delays pushed the launch back. Finally, the launch was set for 11:38 a.m. EST Jan. 28. However, during the week, mid-level engineers found an O-Ring in

the right solid rocket booster not meeting specifications. In the engineers' willingness to please upper management, they chose not to inform their leadership of potential mechanical failures. After all, it was time to launch. No more delays!

As the Challenger launched, the engineers must have felt satisfied with themselves as the shuttle thrust from earth at T+0.678. That is, until grey smoke poured out the right solid rocket booster. The questionable O-Ring failed to expand and seal the aft strut. The results were and still are terrifying. These engineers worked diligently for years to see the Challenger take flight. Mission completion was near, but complacency dashed all of their efforts.

Our Air Expeditionary Force rotation is hitting its stride and getting the mission done. We have an opportunity to positively influence Operation Iraqi Freedom while delivering combat air power for American right here, right now.

Lowering standards to being content with your character or satisfied with performing



your duties well enough just to get by will prevent the delivery of our call for freedom. With team goals, we must strive to complete our mission to the best of our abilities in an effort to boost freedom's call.

Providing a false sense of security, apathy, pleasing management for individual gain and self-gratification is complacency – the same complacency that lost seven lives in 1986. Staying our course, following technical orders, complying with standard operating procedures and standing up for what is right are the tasks each of us must fulfill; we must continue to uphold the heritage of the Tuskegee Airman.



T U S K E G E E A I R M A N O F T H E W E E K



Photo by Senior Airman James Croxon

AIRMAN 1ST CLASS SUNG CHO

Unit: 332d Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron

Air Force Specialty: Air Transportation specialist

Home station: Dover Air Force Base, Del.

Family: Born in South Korea. Mother, father and three siblings immigrated to the United States in 1993.

Years in the Air Force: 1 year, 6 months

Deployments: one - this one is the first

Education: Earned 28 credits towards Community College of the Air Force; taking an online class while deployed

Off-duty contribution at Balad: 332d AEW Honor Guard, Air Force Theater Hospital volunteer, squadron soccer team member

On-duty contribution at Balad: Coordinated release of 188 pounds of human blood to 226th Medical Logistics; returned 1,000 pallets and 1,450 side/top nets to Air Mobility Command – vital to recovery of \$1.4M in airlift assets, and trained cargo tie-down procedures to 10 General Dynamic employees, resulting 100 percent airlift compliance.

Airman receives Purple Heart after IED attack near Balad



Story and photo by
Senior Airman
James Croxon
332nd Air Expeditionary Wing
Public Affairs

On July 21, less than

five miles north of the largest air base in Iraq on July 22, a roadside bomb made from a 155 mm mortar shell exploded, engulfing a vehicle in flames and riddling it with shrapnel holes.

"Cowboy!" yelled Staff Sgt. Michael Stewart to his teammate.

A native of Cleveland, Texas, Airman 1st Class Joshua Collins was nicknamed "Cowboy" because of his slow Texas drawl and outgoing personality, making his teammates laugh as he drove the lead truck. He now found himself outside the truck he had been driving only moments before, hearing someone yelling his name but not knowing who it was.

"Cowboy, I can't get out of the truck," someone said.

Through the shock Airman Collins recognized the voice calling him. It was his truck commander, Sergeant Stewart. Airman Collins tried to climb back in the truck to rescue his supervisor, teammate and friend but realized for the first time he was injured.

Shrapnel from the improvised explosive device had torn through the floor boards, severing the brake lines of the truck,



Photo by Senior Airman James Croxon

Airman 1st Class Joshua Collins is comforted July 22 by a fellow Airman from the 70th Medium Truck Detachment at the Contingency Aeromedical Staging Facility. Airman Collins received a Purple Heart for injuries he received from an improvised explosive device during a convoy.

the batteries and his ankle. As he looked down at his mangled and bloodied boot, he felt the pain for the first time.

"Cowboy, I can't get out," Sergeant Stewart yelled.

"I can't get in," Airman Collins called back.

At that moment, fellow Airmen assigned to the 70th Medium Truck Detachment ran to help the two stricken Airmen, extracting Sergeant Stewart from the truck and performing combat lifesaving measures on Airman Collins.

Based at an undisclosed location in Southwest Asia, the Airmen were on their way to Mosul in northern Iraq when the explosion halted their trip

just north of Balad Air Base.

"Rankins came to me first and cut my boot off, cut my pants leg open," Airman Collins said, less than a day after the attack as he waited at the Air Force Theater Hospital's Contingency Aeromedical Staging Facility.

Standing near Airman Collins' bed, Airman 1st Class Clive Rankins listened to his friend retell the horrific event just after Airman Collins received the Purple Heart from Brig. Gen. Robin Rand, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing commander.

"(Airman) Rankins held me like a child until help showed up," the husky Texan said. "He

was crying, I was crying. He cradled my head in his lap and talked to me while the Army medics (called to the scene) worked to save my foot."

Within minutes Airman Collins was brought to the Air Force Theater Hospital via an Army HH-60 Blackhawk helicopter.

Airman Collins was injured only minutes away from the central military medical hub in Iraq. The hospital's staff of about 400 medics, doctors and nurses cares for an average of 750 patients a month. Once in their care, the medical staff removed the shrapnel from the wounded Airman, ultimately saving his foot.

"It was the scariest moment of my life," Airman Collins said. "The whole time the medics were working on me I kept praying that I'd get to see my wife Shawna again."

The entire detachment of about 20 Airmen visited Airman Collins as he waited for an aeromedical evacuation flight to Germany. After a while Sergeant Stewart came to the bedside, his ear stitched and swollen, his only wound from the attack. He leaned down, and whispered into the ear of his Airman, teammate and friend.

Tears poured down both of their faces. As one man waits for a flight home to heal, the other heads back on the road.

Vice commander receives Bronze Star

by Master Sgt. Julie Briggs
332d Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

The 332d Air Expeditionary Wing vice commander received the Bronze Star on Thursday for his leadership supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom, helping Iraq transition to democracy.

Col. Tip Wight has served as the vice commander for the only Air Force wing based in Iraq since Aug. 29, 2005.

During his one-year tour, Colonel Wight provided leadership to more than 28,000 Airmen at four geographically separated bases and about 50 forward operating locations across Iraq over four Air Expeditionary Force rotations.

His efforts ensured continuous, forward deployed combat air power from Iraq's most-attacked base and the Department of Defense's busiest, single-runway operation during the most turbulent period in Iraq's history, according to his medal citation signed by Lt. Gen. Gary L. North, 9th Air Force and U.S. Central Command Air Forces commander.

Since August 2005, deployed forces assigned to the 332d AEW generated more than 3,000 combat sorties and provided more than 12,000 hours of on-call combat air power. Air patrol sorties protect ground forces, in garrison and during convoy operations; support ground force raids and deter attacks on infrastructure and people.

In addition, Colonel Wight assisted with process improvements that ensured positive control of more than 300,000 air traffic movements across all 277,000 square miles of Iraqi air space. He also oversaw the execution of more than 109 construction projects valued at \$164 million, normalizing airfield operations and upgrading facilities to the expeditionary standard, according to his citation.

The colonel was also commended for supporting three new C-130 missions and helping establish Balad AB as the center of the hub-and-spoke airlift concept. This effort helped decrease the number of convoys needed on the most dangerous routes in Iraq. Consequently, reducing the number of troops exposed to possible improvised explosive devices.

He also was instrumental in supporting the world's largest Predator operation. These unmanned aerial vehicles give U.S. forces an advantage identifying enemy activity. The Predators support day-to-day ground operations by identifying, tracking, monitoring and engaging hidden threats.

Colonel Wight's leadership during a mass casualty event at the only forward-deployed Air Force theater hospital since Vietnam contributed to an overall 97-percent patient survival rate.

His next assignment is as the NATO director of staff at Ramstein AB, Germany.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Tony Tolley

Col. Tip "Spike" Wight, 332d Air Expeditionary Wing vice commander, gets hosed down Wednesday after his final flight here. The fini-flight tradition of hosing down a pilot after his last flight in an airframe or duty station is both a Royal Air Force and U.S. Air Force tradition.

Air Force F-16 brings in insurgents

COMBINED AIR OPERATIONS CENTER, Southwest Asia — A U.S. Air Force F-16, called to help investigate the origin of a mortar strike against a military base in northern Iraq, tracked the attackers and passed information to ground forces that led to the apprehension of the insurgents July 22.

The F-16 pilot observed a pickup truck speeding away from the area of the launch site, and followed the vehicle to a house. He passed the location to ground forces who investigated the house and found indications that explosives had been present.

The occupants were detained for further investigation.

“Make no mistake about it, coalition aircraft are present overhead, and we’re watching out for those who want to harm innocent civilians and attack coalition forces,” said Maj. Gen. William L. Holland, deputy Combined Forces Air Component commander, U.S. Central Command. “We have found many non-traditional ways to employ airpower, in both Afghanistan and Iraq, and we’ll do all we can to ensure the safety of their citizens and the success of the coalition.”



Photo by Senior Airman Brian Ferguson

An F-16 Fighting Falcon connects with the refueling boom of a KC-135 Stratotanker during a refueling mission. The jet, from Hill Air Force Base, Utah, flies out of Balad Air Base, Iraq.

Two F-16s reach milestone

by 1st. Lt. Adrienne Stahl
332d Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

Two F-16s assigned to the Black Widows of the 421st Expeditionary Fighter Squadron and Aircraft Maintenance Unit celebrated their 6,000th flying hour during two recent Operation Iraqi Freedom combat missions over Iraq.

Flown by Lt. Col. Mark Cline, 421st EFS commander, and Capt. Nick Edwards, the Black Widow’s flagship, aircraft number 88-0471, and the 388th Operations Group flagship, aircraft number 88-0428, were the first Block 40 F-16s to achieve this milestone in combat.

This accomplishment is rare, only one other Block 40 F-16 in the Air Force inventory has reached the 6,000 flying hour mark.

Designers of the F-16CG forecasted the aircraft design life to be 8,000 flying hours,

according to Lockheed Martin officials. However, the Air Force expects the F-16 to be in service beyond the year 2020, taking the jets beyond 8,000 flight hours.

Aircraft 88-0428 was accepted into service in September 1989 and aircraft 88-0471 was accepted in January 1990 and assigned to the 388th Fighter Wing at Hill Air Force Base, Utah, ever since. Both were deployed in support of Operation Desert Storm, four times in support of Operation Southern Watch and three times in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The dedicated crew chief on aircraft 88-0471 is Senior Airman Trent Nelson with assistants Senior Airman Jason Wall and Senior Airman Tom Manues. The DCC on aircraft 88-0428 is Senior Airman Victor Alvarez with assistant Senior Airman James Speicher.

“It is an honor to crew such a great jet, espe-

cially doing what she was made for here in a combat zone,” Airman Nelson said. “It’s a great feeling to crew the flagship and launch Colonel Cline for a milestone like this, but it’s just the pride of the squadron taking care of business.”

Upgrades and improvements to the engines and parts of the jets through the Service-Life Extension Program have helped extend the life of these aircraft, said Capt Mark Sloan, the 421st AMU officer in charge.

However, for these jets to have reached this milestone is a testament to the maintenance professionals that work these jets every day.

“I’ve seen these jets roll over the 3,000, 4,000 and 5,000 flying hour mark, and the incredible thing is that after all these hours, they are flying as well today as they did when they were accepted off the production line,” said Chief Master Sgt. Dave Edwards, 421st AMU NCOIC. “The reason these jets have performed this well, for this long, is the blood, sweat and tears the maintainers pour into these aircraft.”

Raptor requirements

WASHINGTON (AFPN) – The Air Force will meet all requirements to proceed with multi-year funding on purchasing of the last 60 F-22 Raptor aircraft.

During a July 26 testimony before the Senate Armed Service Committee air-land subcommittee, Secretary of the Air Force Michael W. Wynne said the service has met five of six legislative requirements for proceeding with multi-year funding on the F-22 aircraft.

"The one I lack, really, is the authorization from the Congress," Secretary Wynne said. "I believe we have met five out of the six, the sixth being the funding, which I intend to meet in the fiscal year 2008 program objective memorandum."

In order to proceed with multi-year funding on the F-22, the Air Force must meet the six criteria laid out in Title 10 U.S. Code, Section 2306B. That part of the law requires the Air Force to show the multi-year contract promotes national security, the number of aircraft required is stable, the aircraft design is stable, the contract will result in substantial savings, the costs estimates for the contract and cost avoidance are realistic, and be able to provide stable funding throughout the contract period.



2007 force-shaping initiatives

WASHINGTON (AFPN) – Air Force officials announced Wednesday new force-shaping initiatives to be used to meet the required 2007 fiscal year end-strength numbers.

The new initiatives are designed to bring the officer numbers down as the enlisted end-strength numbers are on target for 2007. Officials said more than 8,000 officers must separate through normal attrition, retirement or force-shaping measures to achieve the required balance in force.

"It's important to keep in mind what force shaping is all about: the present and future state of the Air Force," said Lt. Gen. Roger A. Brady, deputy chief of staff for manpower and personnel. "We have to balance our (force) for now and the coming years to have the force we need to win the long war we are in now and be prepared for whatever comes next."

The Air Force will ask for volunteers and initiate involuntary shaping programs to achieve a balanced force. The force-shaping program maximizes the Air Force's voluntary separation authority and allows implementation of involuntary shaping programs as required.

The Air Force starts the 2007 force-shaping program with three tools to lower the number of active duty officers. These three initiatives are Voluntary Separation Pay, Selective Early Retirement Board and a fiscal 2007 Force Shaping Board.



The B-1 Lancer, adequate to meet today's needs with the help of airframes like the F-22 Raptor, won't meet the needs of future long-range strike capabilities.

New long-range bomber on horizon for 2018

LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE, Va. (ACCNS) – A new bomber scheduled for operation as early as 2018 will enhance America's long-range strike capabilities, according to Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley in a recent Armed Services Committee speech.

In a step to develop future long-range strike capabilities, Air Combat Command is conducting a study that is looking at aircraft platforms and weapon improvements. Air Force leaders will use the study to decide the best pathway for providing long-range strike capabilities for the future Air Force. This process normally takes about two years, but the 2018 target requires accelerated efforts.

The new bomber is necessary to recapitalize the Air Force's fleet of B-52 Stratofortress and B-1 Lancer "legacy bombers," and to counter advanced anti-access systems of America's enemies, said Lt. Col. Kevin Shorb, chief of Air Combat Command's Next Generation Long Range Strike Division. Modern enemy anti-access systems, such as surface-to-air missiles and enemy aircraft, are emerging and becoming common, he added.

In the speech, General Moseley said the current bomber fleet is adequate to meet America's needs today, despite its age – but that's likely to change in the future without a new platform.

The B-52 and B-1 are not expected to engage a target in guarded enemy territory without the help of advanced airframes like the stealthy F-22 Raptor, according to Lt. Col. Tony Siler, ACC chief of the Ground Dominance Capability Team.

"We refer to it as, 'Kick down the door,'" said Colonel Siler. "Taking down a portion of the enemy's air defense is the initial part of air warfare."

Focus on Baghdad as Iraqis lead

BAGHDAD — Iraqi security forces are increasingly taking the lead in operations as Baghdad becomes the focal point in the fight for Iraq, a coalition spokesman said Monday in Baghdad.

Maj. Gen. William B. Caldwell IV, spokesman for Multi-National Force - Iraq, said in a press conference that Iraqi Soldiers and police are at the forefront of operations "to make their capital safer" and that they are setting the stage for Baghdad to emerge as a center for business and learning.

Insurgents and death squads have blanketed Baghdad with bombings, murders and kidnappings over the past week and a half, seeking to uproot the newly-formed democracy and derail the government.

"Baghdad is the center that everybody is fighting for," he told reporters.

General Caldwell noted Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's assessment published in the Wall

Street Journal. He quoted Maliki as writing: "Security plans to quell the violence in Baghdad, the capital and most populous city, face serious challenges that must be overcome. Together, we can and will succeed."

That success, the general said, appears near. Recent tips provided by Baghdad citizens to Iraqi Soldiers and police have led to the capture or killing of insurgents and the foiling of bombing and kidnapping plots. Such triumphs demonstrate the growing capability of Iraqi security forces, he said, adding that America remains firmly in al-Maliki's camp. General Caldwell vowed that U.S. troops will do "whatever it takes" to bring security to Baghdad.

Coalition officials have said the recent murders and kidnappings in and around the capital don't seem to be the work of any one particular group.

"It's been a random of Iraqi personnel that we've picked up that



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jacob N. Bailey

have been associated with death squads," Caldwell said.

He warned that people conducting illegal activities in Baghdad will be arrested.

"Anyone who is conducting activities outside the law obviously we are targeting," General Caldwell said.

During the past week, Iraqi security forces, working with coalition forces in support, have intensified operations aimed at quelling the violence. General Caldwell said there has been 19 such operations, 17 of them inside Baghdad.

Medical evacuation
Iraqi Soldiers carry a wounded comrade to a U.S. Army UH-60A Blackhawk helicopter during a medical evacuation mission near Tal Afar, in northern Iraq, on July 17.



Know what this is?

If you can identify this object, send an e-mail to redtailflyer@blab.centaf.af.mil. No one was able to correctly identify last week's picture, here it is again.

Air Force Reservists lead trauma care advances

By Lt. Col. Bob Thompson
332d Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

As coalition forces fight to help Iraq transition to democracy, Air Force surgeons here are fighting to save lives with new surgical knowledge that may benefit military and civilian medical care for years to come.

Finishing his third tour in combat, Air Force reservist Col. (Dr.) Jay A. Johannigman has performed surgery on about 900 patients, saving hundreds of lives.

"In every major conflict, military trauma surgeons have pushed the envelope," he said. "It's been a long time since Vietnam. The military medic has re-emerged as a leader and innovator, leaning forward and taking home important medical lessons."

When Colonel Johannigman returns to his civilian job as the director of trauma at Cincinnati's University Hospital in Ohio, he'll take with him three significant surgical lessons for his civilian counterparts.

"Throughout the theater, doctors use 'shunts' – a plastic tube – as a quick repair to bridge together the two ends of a torn blood vessel," he said. "That is unheard of in the states."

Also, he said combat has proven to him the importance of using tourniquets.

"Out here, every Soldier carries a tourniquet in his medical kit," he said. "This has clearly saved the lives of numerous Soldiers that have come through here. It remains a harsh combat statistic that 10 percent of our combat casualties bleed to death from wounds to the arms or legs. Tourniquets can prevent this."

He said that he will push the civilian medical community to make sure all paramedics back home carry tourniquets to stop excessive bleeding.

The third lesson is the value of using whole blood when replenishing a wounded service member whose own supply has dipped dangerously low.

"This is a lesson we've had to relearn," he said. "Whole blood is a tremendous asset which provides all the components necessary to stop bleeding and carry oxygen for the injured patients."

He said combat surgeons often rely on "the walking blood bank" of co-workers and fellow

military troops who donate blood which is immediately transfused into a wounded patient.

Continuing Colonel Johannigman's work as vice commander of the Air Force Theater hospital is fellow reservist Col. Mike Yaszemski who helped fine tune aeromedical evacuation procedures as the mobilization assistant to the Air Mobility Command surgeon general.

"The No. 1 advancement I've seen during this conflict is en route care," Colonel Yaszemski said. "In Vietnam, from the time of injury till the patient was able to get back to the states averaged 43 days. Today, we're getting wounded troops back to the states often-times within 48-72 hours."

"When an urgent trauma patient is being transported, their condition can go bad in a heartbeat," said the spine surgeon from the Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minn. "Now we have critical care air transport teams that are like an intensive care unit in the sky."

As part of an annual workshop, the colonel streamlined what the airborne medics carry, trimming their equipment from 750 to 550 pounds. Also, he ensured that each of the teams, consisting of a flight surgeon, flight

nurse, respiratory therapist and medical technician, follow the same duty and crew-rest standards that other aircrew use.

Sixty percent of the aeromedical evacuation mission is done by Air Force Reserve Command. Since the beginning of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom, the Air Force has transported thousands of patients and only one has died en route, a Soldier with unsurvivable burns.

"When we build the critical care air transport teams, we ask, 'What would we like onboard the aircraft if we were a very sick troop lying on a stretcher?'" Colonel Yaszemski said.

The Air Force Theater Hospital averages about 750 patients a month. According to records, about 96 percent of the trauma patients treated here survive to move on to the next stage of care. This is the best rate in military medical history.

"I'll always remember the young Marine who came here on Father's Day and required 248 pints of blood and three operations on his first day with us," Colonel Johannigman said. "The team effort of our medics was successful in helping this wounded hero make it back alive to the states where he continues to recover from his wounds."

"It is a unique privilege to care for these military men and women," he said. "We strive to give the very best care to everyone that comes to our door."



Photo by Senior Airman James Croxon

Medics work to stabilize a patient at the Air Force Theater Hospital here July 19. As the central military medical hub for Iraq, the 332d Air Expeditionary Wing averages about 750 emergency surgical operations a month and is leading new advances that may save lives.


Uniform Tips



Do

Tight-fitting shirts may only be worn if a DCU blouse is worn over it.

Additional guidelines can be found in 332d Air Expeditionary Wing Instruction 36-2903, *Dress and Personal Appearance Standards*, section 2.



Yes, you can wear this.
But you have to keep it
under wraps ... or, DCUs.

Don't

This & That

Spiritual power

Chaplain (Col.) Gary Carlson, U.S. Central Air Force command chaplain, stands surrounded by the 332d Air Expeditionary Wing chapel staff July 21. This was Chaplain Carlson's first visit to Balad.



Photo by Senior Airman Kerry Solan-Johnson



Balad Religious Schedule

Catholic Services

Daily Mass

5 p.m. Monday through Friday

Tuskegee Chapel

Saturday

4:30 p.m. Reconciliation

Tuskegee Chapel

5 p.m. Mass

Tuskegee Chapel

Sunday

9 a.m. Sunday Mass

Tuskegee Chapel

11 a.m. Sunday Mass

AFT Hospital Chapel

Confessions available by appointment

Protestant Services

Saturday

7 p.m. Liturgical Service

Tuskegee Chapel

Sunday

9:30 a.m. Traditional Service

AFT Hospital Chapel

11 a.m. Contemporary Service

Town Hall

2 p.m. Church of Christ

Tuskegee Chapel

2 p.m. Gospel Service

AFT Hospital Chapel

5 p.m. Traditional Service

Tuskegee Chapel

7:30 p.m. Traditional Service

AFT Hospital Chapel

Wednesday

8 a.m. Liturgical Morning Prayer

Tuskegee Chapel

Other Services

Sunday

3:30 p.m. Orthodox Prayer Service

Tuskegee Chapel

7 p.m. Latter Day Saints Sacraments

Tuskegee Chapel

8 p.m. Latter Day Saints Sunday School

Tuskegee Chapel

Friday

7 p.m. Friday Shabbat Service

Tuskegee Chapel

Study groups

Sunday

8 p.m. Parenting Children

Tuskegee Chapel

Monday

8 a.m. Parenting Children

Tuskegee Chapel

9 a.m. Parenting Adolescents

Tuskegee Chapel

8 p.m. Parenting Adolescents

Tuskegee Chapel

8 p.m. Women's Bible Study

Tuskegee Chapel

Tuesday

7 p.m. Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Tuskegee Chapel

8 p.m. Song of Solomon

Tuskegee Chapel

8:30 p.m. Catholic Discussion Forum

Tuskegee Chapel

Wednesday

8 p.m. Study of 1 & 2 Thessalonians

Tuskegee Chapel

Thursday

4 p.m. 40 Days of Purpose

Tuskegee Chapel

7 p.m. Marriage Enrichment

Tuskegee Chapel

Friday

10 a.m. Renovation of the Heart

Tuskegee Chapel

8 p.m. Renovation of the Heart

Tuskegee Chapel

For more information on worship opportunities or needs, call 443-7703. For the after-hour duty chaplain, call 443-3320.

Sustainer Theater



Today
2 p.m. - Mission Impossible III
5 p.m. - Just My Luck
8:30 p.m. - You, Me and Dupree
Saturday
11 a.m. - You, Me and Dupree
2 p.m. - Just My Luck
5 p.m. - You, Me and Dupree
8 p.m. - Mission Impossible III
Sunday
2 p.m. - You, Me and Dupree
5 p.m. - Mission Impossible III
8 p.m. - Just My Luck
Monday
5 p.m. - The Da Vinci Code
8 p.m. - You, Me and Dupree
Tuesday
5 p.m. - You, Me and Dupree
8 p.m. - RV
Wednesday
5 p.m. - Just My Luck
8 p.m. - You, Me and Dupree
Thursday
5 p.m. - Goal! The Dream Begins
8 p.m. - You, Me and Dupree
Aug. 4
2 p.m. - The Ant Bully
5 p.m. - The Ant Bully
8 p.m. - Talladega Nights: The
 Balad of Ricky Robby

Just My Luck

Lindsay Lohan, Chris Pine

Ashley is a young professional just out of college. She also happens to be the luckiest woman in the world, who has lived a super-charmed life and has always taken her good luck for granted. When she kisses a handsome stranger at a costume party, Ashley accidentally swaps her good fortune for his horribly bad luck, and her charmed life turns into a living hell.

Rated PG-13 (sexual references) 103 min

Mission Impossible III

Tom Cruise, Ving Rhames

Super-spy Ethan Hunt has retired from active duty to train new IMF agents. But he is called back into action to confront the toughest villain he's ever faced – Owen Davian, an international weapons and information provider with no remorse and no conscience. Hunt assembles his team – his old friend Luther Strickell, transportation expert Declan, background operative Zhen, and fresh recruit Lindsey – to travel the globe pursuing Davian and rescue Hunt's love, Julia. Rated PG-13 (violence & menace images, sensuality) 126 min

You, Me and Dupree

Owen Wilson, Kate Hudson

Carl and Molly Peterson are just starting their new life together – complete with a cute house, boring neighbors, stable jobs and the routines of newlywed existence. There's just one unfortunate hitch in their perfectly constructed new world. And his name's Dupree. Randy Dupree, Carl's oldest friend and perpetual bachelor, has found himself with nowhere to go after being fired. Rated PG-13 (sexual content, nudity, crude humor, language, drug reference) 108 min

The Ant Bully

Julia Roberts, Nicolas Cage

New in town, Lucas Nickle has been taking out his frustration on the innocent ant hill in his yard. But one day the ants retaliate. Using a magic potion, they shrink Lucas down to ant size and sentence him to live like an ant in their colony. In this strange, new world, Lucas will learn important lessons about friendship, get a whole new perspective on life and ultimately find the courage to stand up for himself. Rated PG (rude humor, action) 117 min