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386th Air Expeditionary Wing

Aug. 18, 2006

# Camp Patriot command changes hands

**Maj. Tom Crosson**

386th AEW/PA

KUWAIT NAVAL BASE, Kuwait – A change of command ceremony was held here Aug. 16, as the 586th Expeditionary Mission Support Squadron's Detachment 1 began their third six-month tour as Camp Patriot's tailored logistics element.

The ceremony recognized the outgoing detachment's accomplishments over the past six months, and welcomed the incoming team as they prepare to carry out the mission of providing logistical support to Camp Patriot.

The 34 Airmen who make up Detachment 1 are responsible for the operation and maintenance of Camp Patriot. The detachment provides command and control of the installation, manages all the base infrastructure, plans and executes all construction and maintenance projects, provides billeting and manages all Army contracts that deal with base support.

Col. Pete Micale, 586th EMSG commander congratulated the detachment for completing a tour filled with many unique accomplishments.

"You have done amazing things here," he told the outgoing detachment. "The area is more secure thanks to you...you have improved the appearance and functionality



Air Force/Maj. Tom Crosson

**Col. Pete Micale, 586th Expeditionary Mission Support Group commander, left, hands the guidon to Lt. Col. Arthur Rozier, 586th EMSG Det. 1 commander, during a ceremony at Camp Patriot on Kuwait Naval Base Aug. 16.**

of buildings to make them more secure while making it easier for people to access the facilities here."

He also praised the detachment for improving the living conditions for the installation's transient and permanent-party personnel.

Colonel Micale also cited the detachment's relationship with the host nation and other services as a factor in the team's success.

"The friendship and respect you have garnered from the host nation and our sister services has made the mission here fly. It's relationships like these that can help change the world."

For Lt. Col. Tim Henke, the

time during the ceremony to thank his personnel for their service.

"To the 34 Airmen that we brought with us from Fort Sill. This was an unusual mission for us in the Air Force, but this team came together very quickly. Detachment 1, you have truly raised the bar and everything you've done here is a reflection of your hard work and dedication and perseverance."

After Colonel Henke relinquished command, Lt. Col. Arthur Rozier accepted the detachment's guidon from Colonel Micale, formally marking the beginning of the third rotation of Air Force personnel at Camp Patriot.

After taking command, Colonel Rozier praised the outgoing team and challenged his personnel "raise the bar" even higher.

"Lt. Col. Henke and the outstanding team he has led here have established a great program and they set the bar high. We look forward to working shoulder to shoulder with our host nation friends and our sister services to continue the great traditions (the previous rotation) have started here" he said. "To the incoming team, you need to be proud of the mission you are getting ready to embark on. It is a very critical and important mission, and you are up for the task."

outgoing detachment commander, the experience working in one of the truest joint and combined environments in the theatre was truly eye-opening.

"I came here from the Pentagon and the people in D.C. talk a lot of Joint language...but when you come to a place like this, you truly see what 'joint' really means. It means people getting together, working together with our host nation who we can not do anything without, working together as services, as teams, as friends to build relationships to get the mission done" he said.

Colonel Henke also took

# We're Deployed

## We don't need to worry about that!

**Col. Eric Fox**

*386th EMXG commander*

Many have used the following analogy to underscore a message about setting priorities. I will do the same, but with a minor twist in focus so hang with me. Imagine you are given a big jar, rocks of various sizes, pebbles, sand and a pitcher of water. Your goal is to get all the items into the jar. For us, the items represent the many elements of our lives and mission here. If you try this exercise, you will learn you must fill the jar in the right order to get all items to fit. Hint: you start with the biggest rocks and pebbles.

These elements represent the foundation of our mission, the elements that make the mission happen. The others are important, but without getting the biggest rocks in first, you cannot get everything in the jar; you will fail on key elements and thus fail in the mission.

Now imagine life on the Rock if everyone applied, "I'm deployed and don't need to worry about that," thinking. What would life be like if we narrowly focused on the core of our mission, only on the biggest rocks? No dorms, only tents and trekking outside to the bathroom or shower. No chapel, no Rockers Lounge, no Flex, no pool, no ... you get the picture, but can you appreciate the loss? How about the dining facility? There were certainly no Otis Spunkmeyer cookies, Baskin Robbins or soft ice cream. As little as a year ago, most of this was not there, not even the hot sauces, peanut butter or the other improvements we enjoy. If someone hadn't put attention to areas beyond the core mission of feeding and housing Airmen, we would still be living 12 to a tent and eating Meals-Ready-to-Eat.

Our quality of life evolved because those before us invested time and resources to make our base better while still executing the mission. In our analogy, these improvements would be the smaller rocks, pebbles, sand and water. The analogy is mostly used to highlight the process of focusing first on the big things, to prioritize the many elements that make-up the mission. What I would like to stress is getting the jar completely full with nothing left over represents success. Filling the jar in the right order is the process, important, but the full jar with nothing remaining represents our ability to get the total mission done, today, tomorrow, next week and for decades to come. The completed jar represents our ability to sus-

tain excellence in all elements leading to mission success for the long war. Those elements include taking care of mind, body and spirit. Taking care of our facilities, vehicles, tools and the discipline to live by and enforce Air Force rules. It also includes respecting the property and culture of our host nation and taking care of each other. All these elements are necessary to excel at our mission over the long haul. To ignore any of them will over time undermine our foundation and lead to mission degradation or failure.

We have the benefit of following a multitude of Airmen who took the jar, added their contributions and helped fine tune the 386th Air Expeditionary Wing to where we now consistently turnout record performance. They established the way to long-term success by constantly raising the bar and making things better in mission effectiveness and quality of life; they carefully worked those smaller rocks, pebbles and sand in around the big rocks. They left things as good as or better than they found them. They moved us along the continuum of expeditionary operations, from contingency toward the steady state we experience at main operating bases; our call now is to fly onward and face the challenges ahead.

The Air Force is facing tough new challenges. To meet these challenges we must become more efficient without losing effectiveness; or better still, improving both simultaneously. To make this happen we must assimilate Continuous Process Improvement into the core of our Air Force culture; CPI needs to be at the heart of how we get the mission done. Changing our culture can be painful and some will resist it. Unfortunately we have to face the pain to reap the gain. Some of you are feeling the pain ... paraphrasing a young Security Forces member: "... a year ago we worried about not getting blown-up or shot, and now the biggest thing we are worried about is if everyone is wearing their seatbelts." I had to smile at hearing this nostalgic contrast. Not just because of the irony, but because it's the result of our doing our mission well. She was there alive and fully mission ready because we did our duty well. What a marvelous testament to the success we have achieved ... we are moving onward and upward ... keep adding to the jar.



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# Preparing your baggage for redeployment

## Redeploying personnel need to be aware of CENTAF restrictions

**Capt. Timothy Wright**  
386th ELRS

During deployments, personnel tend to accumulate numerous items they didn't deploy with. All those souvenirs from the bazaars and additional physical training uniforms can consume space and weight from the authorized allowance.

As AEF 1/2 personnel get closer to departing, every member needs to be aware of the CENTAF baggage restrictions.

Redeploying personnel are authorized two personal bags and three mobility bags (A, B and C) plus a cased weapon. Keep in mind, if you did not deploy with an A, B or C-bag you are not permitted to replace the authorization with a personal bag. Therefore, if you deployed with only two personal bags you redeploy with only two personal bags.

In most cases, members deployed here with two personal bags and a modified A-bag which contained a canteen, web-belt, poncho, mask, etc. Personnel can ship these items as an A-bag authorization but are not permitted to place personal items in the modified A-bag. In this instance, members will have two pieces of personal luggage and an A-bag with the modified items.

All bags must not exceed 70 pounds each and not be greater than 62 linear inches defined as length + width + height. Any bag exceeding 70 – 100 pounds will be considered two pieces toward a member's authorization; any item over 100 pounds will not be accepted. Total baggage weight must not exceed 350 pounds.

Of course mobility bags, duffel bags and rucksacks aren't the only type of luggage being shipped. Many travelers like to pack their personal items and/or gear in foot lockers. Foot lockers are required to comply with the same baggage restrictions. If you plan on buying

## Another barrier hit



Air Force/Staff Sgt. Jonathan Pomeroy

**An F-15 fighter jet tests the new aircraft arresting barrier at the end of the runway here Aug 11. The 386th Air Expeditionary Wing's new barrier was constructed by the 386th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron. It is expected to increase safety and catch aircraft before they roll off the end of the runway.**

a foot locker make sure it does not exceed the 62 linear inch restrictions. The foot lockers currently in stock at the Base Exchange measure exactly 62 linear inches and are authorized. Be careful not to exceed the weight restrictions.

In some cases, excess baggage is authorized. The authorization has to be on the Contingency and Exercise Deployment orders upon deployment. Certain career fields are given excess baggage on the CED orders and include: Pararescue, firefighters, explosive ordnance disposal, tactical air-control party, special operations, security forces, office of special investigations and combat camera. For these career fields, members are authorized a total of eight bags not to exceed 560 pounds.

Why all these restrictions? Tanker Airlift Control Center establishes planning factors for all personnel traveling to/from the AOR. The planning factors allow TACC to contract aircraft with

maximum size loads which dictate the total number of personnel available to fly on any contracted mission. What this means is that if members exceed their baggage restrictions there is the potential for the aircraft to be overweight. If this occurs, there is a possibility for personnel to get "bumped" from the a/c and their bags beat them home.

Baggage restrictions are identified in the CENTAF reporting instructions and the CENTAF passenger routing instructions which are available on the 386th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron Log Plans intranet site at <https://intranet.salem.af.mil/2006/emsg/elrs/Logistics%20Plans/Deployments.sh> tm. In most cases, if not all, every member's CED orders also identify the authorizations.

If you still have questions related to redeployment baggage restrictions please contact 386th ELRS/LGRR at 442-2042 or 2037.

# ROKAF Approaches Milestone

## Unit celebrates two years of support in Oct.

**Staff Sgt. Ryan Hansen**  
386th AEW/PA

On Oct. 12, the Republic of Korea Air Force celebrates two years supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom here with the 386th Air Expeditionary Wing.

This milestone is a momentous occasion for members of the ROKAF's 58th Airlift Wing and one they are very proud of.

"Each member of the Dayman unit feels that he is an ambassador of Korea and the same goes for me," said Col. Jang Kyoung Park, 58th ALW commander. "In meeting our two-year anniversary with renewed enthusiasm and fervor, everyone at the Dayman will raise the stature of the ROKAF and increase our effort in conducting OIF as a member of the coalition."

The enthusiastic feelings for their hard work over the past two years and dedication to OIF are also felt by their coalition partners from the Air Force.

"Our ROKAF coalition C-130 forces have been great partners in Operation Iraqi Freedom and have worked side-by-side with our U.S C-130 forces here," said Col. Paul Curlett, 386th AEW commander. "They have demonstrated outstanding professionalism



Courtesy photos

**A C-130 from the Republic of Korea Air Force's 58th Airlift Wing is loaded with soldiers from the ROK Army. The 58th ALW provides airlift support to the Zaytun division in Erbil, Iraq.**

and performance flying missions into the most challenging airports in the AOR."

Over the past two years the ROKAF's 58th ALW has relied on a fleet of C-130s to support their mission. On a daily basis they provide airlift support and supplies to the ROK Army's Zaytun division in Erbil, Iraq.

"When the Zaytun division is in rotation we fly two C-130 missions a day and in other times we fly four times a week on average, carrying passengers and supplies," Colonel Park said. "We also provide airlift for coalition passengers



**A C-130 flight engineer and pilot from the ROKAF's 58th ALW fly over the skies of Iraq during a routine mission.**

and cargo when approved by ROK Joint Chiefs of Staff."

The 58th ALW includes about 160 deployed mem-

bers with most of them on six month rotations. This includes a variety of specialties, all highly trained to accomplish the mission.



(Above) Aircrew from the 58th ALW go over the details of a mission into Iraq. (Below) A maintenance troop from the wing replaces flares on one of their C-130s.

"We all take pride in the fact that we represent the ROKAF and are contributing to the mission here," said Chief Master Sgt. Byung-Gi Son, 58th ALW command sergeant. "Six months can be a long or short period of time, depending on the way one sees it, but I want it to be the most memorable time in my life regardless."

And with such a small number of troops, each member of the 58th ALW is counted on very heavily to do their part.

"We are operating with a minimum crew and each man has to pull his own weight, even more so than with missions back home," Chief Son said. "We still have many hard days ahead of us, but I believe our pride will aid us in successfully accomplishing our mission."

While the personnel of the 58th ALW are focused on the mission they still have the chance from time-to-



time to interact with their coalition partners. This opportunity to learn from each other and strengthen their teamwork is one each unit enjoys.



"The United States and the Republic of Korea have always maintained a close relationship," Colonel Park said.

"Through working together with the U.S. Air Force, not only do we strengthen our relationship, but also our combined warfighting capability."

"Their partnership has



(Above) ROKAF honor guard members present the Korean national flag and 58th ALW flag during a ceremony. (Right) A maintainer places a protective cover over the prop of a C-130.

been deeply appreciated by our hosts and all joint and coalition forces assigned here," Colonel Curlett said.

While the two-year anniversary is an impressive milestone, all members of the coalition still realize they face many challenges in the years ahead. However, everyone knows they'll be able to overcome these trials as they continue to work together.

"Furthermore, together with our Japanese, (host



nation) and Australian partners, we will achieve peace and accomplish the rebuilding of Iraq," Colonel Park said. "Continuing to work together is critical in the accomplishment of this goal."

# FIGHT NIGHT VI



1st. Lt. Dave Guerra, right, 386th Air Expeditionary Wing protocol office, connects on Army Staff Sgt. Erick Holmes in the third round of their Fight Night VI bout Aug. 11, at the Rock Amphitheater.



(Above) Airman 1st Class Jose Rodriguez, left, 386th Expeditionary Communications Squadron, takes a swing at Senior Airman Michael Mysliwiec, 5th Expeditionary Air Mobility Squadron, during the second round of their three round match. (Right) Staff Sgt. Ray Mansfield, 386th ECS, comes out of his corner ready to box.





Senior Airman Derrick Jackson, left, 386th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, connects on Airman Demetrious Bass, 386th Expeditionary Services Squadron, during the first round of their match.



Senior Airman Matt Raimo, left, 386th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron, tries to connect a punch against Army Sgt. Edwin Ortiz during the first round of their match. Twenty six boxers trained for more than four weeks to participate in the event. This was the second Fight Night of AEF 1/2 and the sixth overall here at the Rock. More than 200 people attended.



(Above) Airman 1st Class Robert Constantin, left, 386th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, positions himself to hit Airman 1st Class George Wong, 386th ESFS. (Right) Staff Sgt. Erika Valdez, 386th ESFS Force Protection, wraps her hand and wrist before her bout.

### Fight Night VI Results

- Senior Airman Katie Leiler defeated Army Spc. Anna Lisa Baum
- Staff Sgt. Erika Valdez defeated Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Fanita Hite
- Staff Sgt. Ray Mansfield defeated Airman Demetrious Bass
- Senior Airman Derrick Jackson defeated Airman Jafri Shahed
- Airman 1st Class Eric Luttrell defeated Senior Airman Ryan Burchell
- Senior Airman Matt Raimo defeated Army Sgt. Edwin Ortiz
- Airman 1st Class Jose Rodriguez defeated Senior Airman Michael Mysliwiec
- Airman 1st Class Robert Constantin defeated Airman 1st Class George Wong
- Senior Airman James Pennington defeated Airman 1st Class Gustavo Arenas
- Army Sgt. Daniel Jackson defeated Staff Sgt. James Davis
- Airman 1st Class Kurtis Buenting defeated Airman 1st Class Eddie Coots
- Staff Sgt. Brent Watkins defeated Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class James Lyons
- 1st Lt. Dave Guerra defeated Army Staff Sgt. Erick Holmes



*Photos by Staff Sgt. Jonathan Pomeroy*

# CONVOY OPS

*Airmen risk their lives to make mission happen*

**Staff Sgt. Ryan Hansen**  
386th AEW/PA

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait – The mission they have is challenging, critical, grueling and worst of all, treacherous. Yet for more than two years now Airmen have been driving convoys for the Army on some of the most dangerous roads in the world.

From this sprawling Army camp to the border of Southern Iraq, all the way to the most Northern reaches of a country roughly the size of California, members of the 586th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron put their lives on the line every day for the mission.

These 300 plus hard-charging, combat Airmen of the 586th ELRS are assigned to one of two medium truck detachments – the 70th MTD or the 424th MTD. They provide the life blood to our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines at forward operating bases down range by delivering the band-aids, beans and bullets they need daily. Since January 2005 these transporters have driven more than 5.8 million miles in Iraq.

“I have an incredible amount of respect for what our troops do,” said Lt. Col. Jeanne Hardrath, 586th ELRS commander. “They’re highly motivated and take great pride in what they do everyday and it just blows me away. They are absolutely incredible.”

These Airmen arrived here for their six-month rotation immediately after attending a five-and-a-half week training course at Camp Bullis, Texas, which included live-fire training at Fort Hood, Texas, and another week-and-a-half validation course at Fort Sill, Okla. The two months of training, although long and physically demanding, was much needed. There they learned the skills they would need to accomplish the mission under the leadership and watchful eye of the Army.

“The training was very intense and very hard,” said Tech. Sgt. Greg Ryan, a convoy commander with the 424th MTD. “To go through something that, which



Air Force/Maj. Tom Crosson

**A vehicle operator with the 586th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron's 424th Medium Truck Detachment, moves a vehicle in the detachment's staging yard during a pre-mission maintenance check.**

was like basic training all over again, was an eye opener. But it was very important.”

The courses not only gave these Airmen invaluable training, it also helped them build a bond with each other. By the time they hit the AOR, they were a tightly knit unit. This is key because at some point they will have to rely on one another in a combat situation.

“Our lives depend on each other out here,” said Amn. Kyle Young, a vehicle operator with the 70th MTD. “We’re like a big family. When you’re out on the road for weeks with each other, we’ll have little feuds and stuff, but it’s just tough love. We’d do anything for each other.”

Convoy missions are not like your typical family road trips. They take days to plan, hours to load and weeks to complete. A short mission can last anywhere from one-to-two weeks while a long mission can take three weeks.

The person ultimately responsible for getting the supplies to their destination is the convoy commander, which is typically a master or technical sergeant. Not only is he or she charged with getting cargo down range, but they’re also responsible for the lives of more than 50 people.

“When you think about a convoy commander ... they have an awesome amount of responsibility,” said Chief

Master Sgt. Tony Killion, detachment chief for the 70th MTD. "They're responsible for the lives of about 15 crew members, another 30 civilian truck drivers and the gun trucks crews. It's incredible."

A typical set-up for a convoy is what Airmen here call a "five and two." This includes seven up-armored, heavy-duty, long-haul trucks spread out among thirty or so "whites," as the civilian tractor-trailers are known because of their white trucks.

Five of the trucks are loaded with supplies and mixed in with the rest of the convoy while two of the vehicles travel without trailers, known as "bobtails."

One "bobtail" acts as the lead vehicle in the convoy. This truck is the tip of the spear and needs to be more maneuverable as its leading the convoy through Iraq. The second "bobtail" follows at the rear of the pack.

"I make sure the convoy stays intact and that everything is going smoothly," said Tech. Sgt. Rob Wilson, an assistant convoy commander with the 424th MTD.

Airmen push their convoys anywhere from 12-to-20 hours a day to complete their mission. Keeping these trucks running smoothly after all the damage the pot-holed filled roads put on them is another challenge the squadron faces daily. The two dets both have dedicated maintenance troops to provide upkeep on the vehicles and every convoy that goes outside the wire includes one dedicated maintainer.

"Keeping these vehicles in working order can be pretty tough," said Staff Sgt. Thomas Kessler, a vehicle maintenance troop with the 424th MTD. "We don't typically work on these types of trucks back home because they're Army vehicles, so we got some hands-on training when we first get here. We run them pretty hard, but we do the best we can."

Both detachments drive their convoys at night to offset the brutal desert heat and to minimize the number of



(Above) Senior Airman Rachael Cover, a vehicle operator with the 424th MTD, connects a trailer to a truck during a pre-mission maintenance check. (Below) MSgt. Joel Senical, a vehicle mechanic with the 424th MTD, works on a vehicle engine during a pre-mission maintenance check.

unfriendly on the road. At any point during their trip they may encounter something as inconvenient as civilians throwing rocks at their vehicles to the constant threat of small arms fire and the very real possibility that an improvised explosive device seemingly around every corner.

"An attack is always in the back of my mind," said

Tech. Sgt. Eric Lyke, a convoy commander with the 70th MTD. "But my guys would rather be out there on the road doing the mission instead of here waiting for one."

Besides the obvious challenges of keeping thirty plus vehicles together and safe on a 500 plus mile convoy, is getting quality sleep. At most FOBs Airmen have to stay in old, outdated tents that can't be cooled. So after a long night on the road, they are forced to sleep in 100 plus degree heat before they hit asphalt once again.



"The tents at the FOBs are old and incredibly hot during the day," said Chief Master Sgt. Matthew Malenic, detachment chief for 424th MTD.

"After a long night on the road you just want to catch some sleep, but the heat is almost unbearable."

Recently, the Army and Air Force

#### 586th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron

- 70th Medium Truck Detachment  
"The Scorpions"  
161 Personnel, 70 Trucks
- 424th Medium Truck Detachment  
"The Centurions"  
162 Personnel, 70 Trucks



## CONVOY –

Continued from Page 9

started a joint project to improve the worst of these FOBs for the convoys. They're currently sourcing and relocating new tents, air conditioning units and mattresses.

Mixed in with each convoy are two-to-three Army gun trucks. They typically lead the convoy through the pre-planned route, maneuvering it through intersections while providing an armed enforcer.

"It's just the same as working with the Army for us, really business as usual" said Army Staff Sgt. Kenneth Green, a gun truck security commander with the Charlie 1/12. "The Air Force will push a little harder though. They're more willing to drive longer and keep going to get the mission done."

When the Air Force first started performing convoy missions for the Army there was an adjustment period for both services. But now after two years of proving themselves on daily basis, they are more than welcome by their sister service.

"They're proud to do the mission and they should be because they do a great job," said Army Lt. Col. Bill Thewes, Joint Logistics Task Force 57 commander, who has tactical control of the 586th ELRS. "Our overall objective is to make them feel like they're part of our team and to make sure they have everything they need to do the job."

"We're really one team, one fight here," said Army Command Sgt. Maj. Tabitha Hodge, JLTF 57 command sergeant major. "We don't worry about what uniform they're wearing, we're very glad to have them."

Most of these Airmen enjoy their job here even though danger potentially lurks around every twist and turn. They feel as though they are playing a key role in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"I don't mind it," said Senior Airman Rachael Cover, a vehicle operator with the 424th MTD. "It makes me feel like an important part of the mission."

"When we get back from a trip there's a real sense of accomplishment," Sergeant Ryan said. "We look at our brethren across the Air Force and we're doing something here that they'll never



**Airmen of the 424th MTD plan a mission through Iraq with Soldiers from gun truck security command Charlie 1/12.**

have the chance to do."

"They're very proud to do what they're doing," Chief Killion said. "But it's a dangerous business for sure."

A constant reminder of just how dangerous their job is can be found on the walls of their briefing facility. As the crews meet about 24 hours before departure, pictures of fallen Airmen and Soldiers that went out on a convoy mission but did not make it back are there with them. Although this rotation has not yet had to say goodbye to one of their teammates, they have witnessed to two Purple Heart ceremonies.

"Our goal is always to get everyone back here safely," Chief Malenic said. "The days are long and the job is tough but we really look out for each other."

No one is sure how long the Air Force will continue to help the Army with convoy missions, but regardless these two detachments will continue to perform their mission, and perform it well.

"If we don't do our jobs, the mission suffers, and nobody does it better than us," Colonel Hardrath said. "Our combat convoy Airmen make sacrifices to



**Senior Airman Darren Percy, a vehicle operator with the 424th MTD, cleans the windows of his truck before rolling out on a mission.**

make the mission happen, they have great teamwork and I couldn't be prouder of them."

# Your deployed "IDEA" can really pay off

**Maj. Dianne Ferrarini**  
386th EMSG/MO

You're walking through the sweltering heat, heading down the hill to work on the flightline. Just another day in the deployed life at the Rock.

As the sweat drips down your brow and you plod along through the dust, you think about all the different people you have met and all the different ways they approach things.

Just yesterday, you heard a new troop say, "I wonder why we don't..." — you fill in the blank. In fact, this morning you thought, "Wouldn't it be better if..." This is usually how great ideas begin.

The old adage work smarter not harder is alive and thriving in today's Air Force. In a deployed environment, it is critical that we do things the smartest way possible. Out here, expeditionary is synonymous with enterprising. You must have ingenuity, initiative, inspiration and be inventive. What a great place to come up with ideas.

No matter where you are or where you work, the Air Force needs your ideas. The Innovative Development through Employee Awareness, a.k.a. the "IDEA" program, captures ideas to save resources, increase efficiency, or improve processes, products or equipment. Even better, the IDEA program recognizes innovative, creative suggestions with appropriate cash or awards for approved ideas.

Most ideas submitted are simple improvements to current processes, and they often pay off in a big way. Master Sgt. Michael Caudill of Langley Air Force Base, Va., recognized that a loose O-ring caused nozzle leaks in the PMU-29/E oil cart. Instead of

replacing the entire nozzle on the service cart every time it leaked, he suggested only replacing the O-ring inside the nozzle. O-rings are \$.19 each, while a whole nozzle costs \$154.24. A simple thought? You bet, and this simple yet brilliant idea earned Sergeant Caudill a cash award of \$4,922 and saved the Air Force \$32,813 in the first year.

Maintainers have the opportunity to submit their ideas to technical order changes on AFTO Form 22. Staff Sgt. Brandon Broadway at the 5th Maintenance Group at Minot Air Force Base, N.D., was awarded \$200 for each of his three approved IDEA submissions. His IDEAs were based on approved AFTO Forms 22.

While painting the jersey barrier to promote the IDEA program here, Tech. Sgt. Andrew Shaffer, 386th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron AMMO commented.

"The IDEA program is cool. I didn't realize the program was here in a deployed

location. In the past I submitted four AFTO 22's. I had two approved and received \$400."

Since he has been here, Sergeant Shaffer has completed 10 AFTO Forms 22 and submitted them to the QA section in the 386 EMXS. He added, "after finding out the IDEA Program was available in the AOR, I've been spreading the word to my co-workers and airmen, and now they are in the T.O.'s looking for ways to improve; it's a good deal."

Some of you may remember the old Suggestion Program and the requisite AF Form 1000 that had to be filled out and processed by your local manpower office. Today's program is lean and mean, with 24/7 web-based access facilitating your submission utilizing the IDEA Program Data System: [www.ipds.mont.disa.mil](http://www.ipds.mont.disa.mil).

However, the manpower office is still here to help you and can be reached at 442-3178.

## IDEA Program • What's In It For You?

<u>Submitter</u>	<u>Tangible Savings</u>	<u>Intangible Savings</u>
Individual (Outside job responsibility)	15% of first year savings Total award will be no less than \$200 and no more than \$10,000.	\$200
Group/Team (Outside job responsibility)	15% of first year savings. Total award will be no less than \$200 and no more than \$10,000. *Co-submitters will share equally and receive no less than \$25 each.	\$200 shared equally by co-submitters
Individual or Group/Team (Within job responsibility)	3% of first-year savings. Minimum \$600, maximum \$10,000. *IDEA must save a minimum of \$20,000. Award will be based on entire savings	Non-monetary award. Certificate and/or promo item valued at \$25 or less

## A Healthy Fear of Commitment!

• Unless you are a warranted Contracting Officer, federal law prohibits entering into contracts or making modifications to existing contracts on behalf of the government. An "unauthorized commitment" represents an agreement that is not binding solely because the government representative who made it lacked the authority to enter into a contract on behalf of the government.

• Endstate: Unless you are a Contracting Officer, do not buy anything for the Government, do not indicate to a vendor that an order will be forthcoming, and do not make adjustments to existing contracts. You may find you have caused an "unauthorized commitment," which is punishable by disciplinary action and/or forfeiture of pay!

If you have any questions, contact Tech. Sgt. Laura Sherman at 442-2085.

**Got a Story to Tell?**  
**Tell Us!!**

Your Public Affairs Office is always on the lookout for a great story to include in the

**ROCK SLATE**

**Call 442-2312 to share your story!**

# 386th Air Expeditionary Wing Rock Solid Warriors



**Staff Sgt.  
Jeannie Carlo**

**386th Expeditionary Mission Support Group**  
Commander's Support Staff

**Home unit, base:** 52nd Communications Squadron,  
Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany

**How do you support the mission here?** I coordinate and quality check all correspondence, co-manage the group commander's schedule, support six squadron commanders and two team chiefs. The group is the largest in the wing and I strive to positively impact every one of them. Furthermore, I spearhead 3A0X1 issues by facilitating meetings with the base 3A functional manager and disseminating unified policy to ensure timely and accurate information flow. Finally, I've worked with every squadron within mission support, the other groups and the wing staff to educate and assist in their migrations to the Air Force's mandated Electronic Records Management.

**How many times have you deployed and what makes this one unique?** Twice; my first deployment was at Riyadh Air Base, Saudi Arabia, during the first Gulf War. I tremendously enjoy it here because working at the group level allows for me to be engaged in and with all of the squadrons and all levels across the camp.

**How does your job differ in a deployed environment versus home base?** This capacity is an exceptionally different and unique position with time sensitive and protocol requirements. Being at the group level has given me a unique overview of the broader mission and has again exposed me to higher level of leadership which in turn has helped me improve and hone in on my capabilities.



**Tech. Sgt.  
Cyndi Vice**

**386th Expeditionary Contracting Squadron**  
Operations & Support Flight Chief

**Home unit, base:** Air Intelligence Agency, Lackland  
Air Force Base, Texas

**How do you support the mission here?** I support the 386th Air Expeditionary Wing mission by procuring mission critical equipment, items for various squadrons and groups on base. I primarily support the security forces and communications squadrons, but I have visibility over all requisitions here. I have completed 60 contract actions valued at \$105 thousand to date.

**How many times have you deployed and what makes this one unique?** This is my second deployment, but my first in this career field. This one is unique because I have the ability to interact with many people on base. I see how the items I procure can have an instant impact on my customer's mission.

**How does your job differ in a deployed environment versus home base?** In this environment, I have the opportunity to be a flight chief, which is usually only reserved for master sergeants and above. I also have had the opportunity to work directly with customers on a daily basis in order to best serve their mission's needs.