

# ROCK SLATE

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386th Air Expeditionary Wing

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Outside the wire

Pages 6-7

# Producing Airmen to be 'diamonds in the rough'

Lt. Col. Gary Wiley Jr  
386 Expeditionary Maintenance Group Commander

A while back, I read an article in a management journal that compared the process of producing quality diamonds to producing a good manager. In the diamond mining business, it takes more than 250 tons of rock to produce a one-carat diamond. This process mirrors in many ways how we develop new leaders, and it reminded me of the challenges we encounter as we develop our people and organizations.

In the diamond business, there are tasks that need to occur before the mining of diamonds. One such task is shoveling. Shoveling of rock is an arduous task that can require mining as deep as 75 miles in the earth's crust. And, this is just the beginning of the process! Similarly, the hard work and effort of initial military training is the beginning process of building the foundation of a disciplined, dedicated Airman who is ready to serve our United States Air Force.

The value of a diamond is characterized by the four C's—clarity, cut, carat, and color. The value of a leader is exemplified the same way. The clarity of a diamond is an indication of a diamond's purity. The value of a leader depends on the clarity of vision. A vision is a desired future state. After all, as the saying goes, "How can you begin a journey without knowing where you are going?" Additionally, a leader's vision provides direction and purpose to followers.

The cut of a diamond is the craftsmanship applied in cutting the facets of the stone. The lead-

er's cut is the ability to shape all facets of the team. A strong leader values the differences people bring to the organization. The leader leverages diverse backgrounds and experiences that bring out the best in people.

The number of carats constitutes a diamond's size and is measured in carat weight. The leader's carat weight is the amount of influence he leverages to direct followers to accomplish the mission. The more carat weight leaders possess the more credibility and respect a leader earns from followers.

The color of a diamond is the natural body color visible in a diamond. The closer the diamond is to being colorless the more valuable, beautiful, and shiny it is. A leader must be visible but must develop and nurture the natural talents of team members. A valuable leader allows followers to shine and gives credit where credit is due. Perhaps General George C. Marshall said it best, "There is no limit to the good you can do if you don't care who gets the credit."

Any process that produces an exceptional product takes a commitment to excellence. A flawless diamond is unique and special but something that holds tremendous value. Developing leaders is no different. Supervisors need to make a singular commitment to this task and approach it with energy and enthusiasm. It is incumbent to today's leaders to inculcate pertinent lessons and values in order to cultivate today's Airmen into tomorrow's exceptional leaders. Tomorrow's Air Force will benefit!



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# Purple Heart presented in unique setting

Story and photo by Capt. Jeff Clark  
386th Expeditionary Public Affairs

Award ceremonies, especially those for medals like the Purple Heart, are usually elaborate affairs with Honor Guards, National Anthems and cake, but the ceremony that took place here Thursday, Oct. 19 was unusual.

Instead of a pavilion, parade ground or auditorium, the ceremony took place in the cargo hold of a C-17 GlobemasterII at about 4:30 a.m. Instead of friends and family, the medal recipient, Airman 1st Class Brandon Byers, was surrounded by medical and aircrew personnel.

Airman Byers, a mounted gunner with the 586th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron at Camp Bucca, Iraq was on patrol with two other Airmen in a Humvee when an improvised explosive device ripped through the back seat of the vehicle.

Being the gunner, Airman Byers took the brunt of the blast and had to be flown to the U.S. for medical care... but not before he was honored with a unique award ceremony.



Col. Paul Curlett, 386th Air Expeditionary Wing Commander, presents Airman 1st Class Brandon Byers, 586th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron gunner, with a Purple Heart for injuries he received when an IED exploded during a mounted patrol.

## Mirror image ...



Air Force/Staff Sgt. Ian Carrier

Staff Sgt. Alex Ugalde, 386th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron uses a mirror to find an "explosive" strapped underneath a vehicle during a training exercise. Security Forces and Force Protection personnel receive training once a month to maintain their skills and provide the Rock with outstanding security. "Training keeps you aware and alert," said Sergeant Ugalde.



"Ask the Commander" is a direct line of communication with the wing commander. It is not intended to circumvent the command. Please give your chain of command opportunity to address your concerns using this forum. Items of general interest will be printed. To submit a question, click on the Ask the Commander link under Public Affairs on the Intranet home page.

### Disconnected from home

**Question:** I was deployed here from Dec. 04 to April 05 and the Oasis communications center allowed access to the Air Force Instant Messenger. At the time, there was a big push throughout the Air Force for deployed personnel to use this in order to keep in contact with friends and family and to help keep morale at a level that allowed for a safe work environment. I got back into the AOR in the end of Sep and every computer that I have tried to access the AFIM, I get a message that Java is not installed on these computers. My question is this, is anything going to be done about getting the computers working properly to allow for members to use the AFIM again?

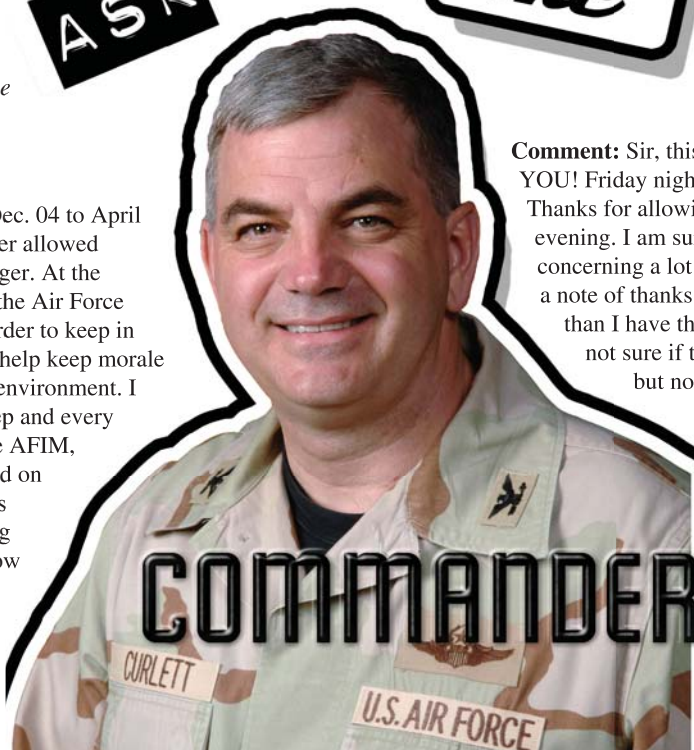
**Answer:** AFIM is a great tool enabling Air Force Portal users (and guests) to communicate in real-time. Services works extremely hard to positively affect our morale and quality of life so they re-

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sponded quickly. A trouble ticket was submitted and both the Services and Communications squadrons got issue resolved. Everyone at the Rock should now be able to keep in touch with your friends and family through AFIM at the Oasis.

### Oktoberfest and civvies a hit


**Comment:** Sir, this is not a question, but a THANK YOU! Friday night at Oktoberfest was a great time.

Thanks for allowing us to wear civilian clothes for the evening. I am sure that you get questions all the time concerning a lot of trivial things, I just wanted to send a note of thanks. I actually slept better Friday night, than I have the entire time I have been here. I am not sure if the clothes had anything to do with it, but none the less, it was refreshing to have a change of pace. Thanks again Sir!

**Answer:** Thanks for the nice comments. Based on the huge success of the event and everyone using an appropriate level of discretion on civilian clothing wear, I will look for additional opportunities to allow civilian clothes during your AEF tour at specified events. It will be on a case by case basis and restricted only to the Rock but I appreciate your feedback on the positive impact to morale.


# HALLOWEEN & PARTY & 5K RUN


Tuesday Oct. 31



Festivities start at 6:30 p.m. with a fun run at Independence Circle and continues at 7 p.m. with a party at the Flex. Prizes will be given for different costume categories.



For more information contact the Flex staff at 442-2005.





# 586 EMSG Det 1

## Excellence in Competition

### M9

# ARMED SERVICES

# SHOOTING MATCH

ALL BRANCHES OF THE SERVICE ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE

Location: Kuwait Naval Base, USA Danges

**Reservation and Information POC's:**




**MSgt Charles Yates, 722-6391**  
charles.yates@kuwait.swa.army.mil

**Capt James Arthur, 720-6127**  
james.arthur@swa.army.mil

**SSgt Keenon Anderson, 839-1074**  
keenon.anderson@swa.army.mil

**SrA Brandon Stryker, 839-1084**  
brandon.stryker@kuwait.swa.army.mil

Match Dates: 17-19 & 23-25 November

## Prevention, immunization key to avoiding Flu

Maj. Kevin Seeley  
386th Expeditionary Medical Group

Are you ready to be vaccinated? If you answered no, you'll likely change your mind after reading this.

Each year Flu affects millions of people around the world. The Flu is caused by the Influenza virus and is usually seen in two forms, type A or B. Over the past two decades the predominant virus has been the type A strain. Each year scientists must determine if flu virus strains have mutated (have you seen X-Men?) If so, they have to reformulate the vaccines we receive. This means you will have the greatest chance of successfully beating the flu this year, but only if you get the shot.

A simple fact is that the flu is easily spread between people as a contagious respiratory illness.

The virus passes through the air in tiny droplets generated by coughing and sneezing. This is why you always hear, "Cover your mouth when you cough," and "wash your hands!" Once contracted, the illness can vary from mild to life threatening in rare occasions. Symptoms usually develop about two days after you've been exposed and may include, but are not limited to: fever; muscle aches; headache; malaise (feeling sick); dry cough; sore throat; and runny nose. Any combination of these can shut you down and keep you from accomplishing your daily duties.

Immunizing against the flu is the best way to reduce influenza illness and its negative impact on

our mission. Two forms of the influenza vaccine are distributed in the United States. An inactive virus vaccine given by injection and a live attenuated (weakened) vaccine sprayed into the nose. Sorry folks, but here at the Rock, the Medical Group will only be providing the injectable vaccine, but you'll be happy to know that the shot is more effective than the spray at combating the flu.

When immunized with the injected vaccine the risk of catching the flu is reduced by 70 - 90%. Immunity develops within 10 to 14 days following immunization. The vaccine is not given to people with severe allergic reactions to eggs and those who experienced an allergic or neurologic reaction (Guillain-Barre') after a previous dose of this vaccine. This vaccine

has been used safely for over 60 years and has very few side effects, the most common being pain, swelling, soreness, and redness at the injection site. Less common generalized complaints include fever and muscle/body aches that usually last for 1 to 2 days. Anaphylaxis (a severe allergic reaction) may occur after any vaccination.

Our goal is to immunize 100% of the active duty population attached to the "The Rock" before Thanksgiving. We anticipate this process will start late Oct. or early Nov. If you have any questions about Influenza or the vaccine please contact Public Health, 442-3000.

Your squadron commanders have been informed of the upcoming flu season and will schedule mass vaccination (shot line) times and dates for your unit. Stay tuned to your leadership for more information com-





# *Battlefield Airmen*





Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Ian Carrier  
386th Public Affairs

Gator 1 rolls out of the front gate of Camp Bucca, Iraq, four Humvees strong. The patrol consists of members of the 586th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron. The purpose of the presence patrol is to maintain surveillance in sectors 1-6, searching for any signs of hostile intent. All eyes are on a constant lookout for anyone with a weapon, new debris on the side of the road, possible improvised explosive devices or vehicle borne IED's.

The Airmen patrol the through the village of Umm Quasar. The "Mogadishu run", as it is dubbed, takes the personnel through a neighborhood marked with signs of past violence. Burned out cars sit outside of buildings pocked marked with bullet holes. Children line the streets to wave and beg for candy and water.

"We like it when there are children around," says Staff Sgt. Mark Bentoski, 586th ESFS Vehicle Commander.

Sgt. Bentoski goes on to explain that all attacks that have happened in the past occurred when there were no children around. Thankfully the insurgents seem unwilling to harm youngsters.

Any vehicles that block or slow down the progress of the patrol are met with a blast from the lead vehicles horn. This is enough to keep the Humvees rolling.

"You never want to stop," says Sergeant Bentoski.

The area being patrolled is under British control. The Airmen pass a long line of trucks waiting to get into Northport, an area which houses a British base. Rows of ships starkly contrast the desert environment of eastern Iraq.



The next order of business is Operation Weekend. The purpose of this operation is to provide security for Iraqi Corrections Officers entering and leaving Camp Bucca. Twice a week a vehicle control point is set up in the morning to check vehicles entering, then again at night to check vehicles leaving. The driver for Gator 1-1, Staff Sgt. Ramin Amely, 386th ESFS, doubles duty as a translator. Sergeant Amely is an Iranian born American soldier who grew up speaking Farsi. Sergeant Amely explains that Farsi is

similar to Arabic, but he still mixes words occasionally.

After about half an hour of checking vehicles, Gator 1 is replaced by Gator 2. Due to a vehicle problem, the elements are going to swap missions. Gator 1 is now tasked to do an IED sweep, or "berry picking", for a convoy coming in.

The sweep will be conducted on a bridge with a history of being a hot-spot for IED's near the town of Safwan. The vehicle commanders dismount and clear under the bridge as the 4 humvees cross the bridge in a diamond formation. The gunners use binoculars to scan the area as everyone else keeps an eye out for anything out of place.

All the Airmen are familiar with what is normally on the side of the road, so any new trash, dirt piles or dead animals may be suspect. All of the guard rails have been removed, and any missing concrete has been marked with spray paint. All of the IED's in this area have been found near or on this particular bridge.

After the bridge has been secured, all vehicles link up and provide security for the convoy. It takes about an hour of waiting, but the long lumbering snake of trucks finally drives through and on to its destination. It's time to head back to Camp Bucca and get something to eat. For these Airmen who are performing tasks that are non-traditional for the Air Force, there is still work to be done. It's get to the dining hall, eat fast and right back outside the wire.





# 386th Air Expeditionary Wing Rock Solid Warriors



**Senior Airman  
Jonathon D. Robb**

386th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron  
2A656 C130 Electrical/Environmental Specialist

**Home unit/base:** 43 AMXS Panther AMU / Pope AFB, N.C.

**How do you support the mission here?** Without maintainers turning wrenches on the flight line, our aircraft wouldn't be operational, and our mission would not be met. Simply put; we put boots on the ground, the "F" in FMC, and (we make) freedom happen

**How many times have you deployed and what makes this one unique?** Deploying for the first time five months before separating the Air Force, makes this deployment unique.

**How does your job differ in a deployed environment vs. home base?** Aside from the extreme heat the desert conditions here are the worst when it comes to a healthy aircraft fleet. Increased dirt requires an increase in preventative maintenance. Providing new discrepancies not commonly found at home station. Learning to work with new co-workers and leadership constantly, develops strong versatility which hopefully one day will prove to be beneficial after I separate.



**Staff Sgt.  
Brandy Domine**

586th Expeditionary Mission Support Group  
Enterprise Information Management

**Home unit/base:** 354 CS / Eielson AFB, Ala.

**How do you support the mission here?** As the only Information Manager at the Group, I am the focal point for all Enterprise Information Management (EIM) processes. My responsibilities include client EIM Support for diverse IM processes, Content/Portal Management, Functional Area Records Management, IMT Functions (included Web Page Development/Web Site Management, E-Mail policy enforcement and Client Support Administration) ADPE Custodian, and Telephone Control.

**How many times have you deployed and what makes this one unique?** This is my first deployment.

**How does your job differ in a deployed environment vs. home base?** Back home, I fill another 3A function as NCOIC, Official Mail Center. Here, I fill the more traditional roles of a 3A, which focuses more on client support..