

ROCK SLATE

The title "ROCK SLATE" is rendered in large, three-dimensional, weathered wooden letters. A small crest of the 386th Air Expeditionary Wing is centered between the words "ROCK" and "SLATE".

Volume 3, Number 42

386th Air Expeditionary Wing

Nov. 24, 2006



Service and Sacrifice
Pages 6-7

General North delivers Thanksgiving message

Lt. Gen. Gary L. North

Commander, U.S. Central Command Air Forces

When the Mayflower arrived in the "New World" in 1620, the settlers faced a harsh winter marked by starvation and disease. Despite the difficulties, none of them chose to return to England with the Mayflower.

In October 1621, their fortunes changed. The Pilgrims welcomed a successful harvest so plentiful, they had enough food to store through the winter. In recognition of their blessing, they held a meal of thanks that later grew into a national day of thanks that we simply call "Thanksgiving." It's the day we count our blessings and say thanks to those who made it possible.

Each year since then, we have gathered as a nation, as families, and for us in the military, around the world, to give thanks for all the blessings we share as people in a free, democratic, United States.

As we celebrate that day this year, I want to thank you, our incredible Airmen, who make our many successes in the U.S. Central Command Air Forces possible. To those on the front lines of combat all over Iraq; our aviators, maintainers, logisticians and space leaders who make air and space power a reality; the medical professionals and volunteers working to mend and comfort the wounded in our AOR hospitals; the

Airmen building hope as part of Provincial Reconstruction Teams in Afghanistan; our intel, security forces, OSI and services professionals, and everybody in between... thanks... you are awesome.

A special thanks as well to the operational staff leaders of all services and the Coalition and ISAF forces in the Combined Air Operations Center and all our military warriors, USAF civilians and contractors throughout the U.S. Central Command Area of Responsibility. You have all made the sacrifice of service before self supporting OIF, OEF and JTF-HOA, and you do so with an unmatched level of pride and dedication.

You know, as our families and loved ones back home understand as well, that you are an integral part of our long war on terror, and you are making a difference during your rotation in the AOR. It shows through in your outstanding performance everyday in the combat zone, at the headquarters and in reach back support.

My thanks for your courage, patriotism and selfless service, and my thanks and appreciation to your families for their support as well.

Happy Thanksgiving... as we go about our day in the AOR, pause to reflect on our humble start as a nation and those many things we hold dear to be thankful for on Thanksgiving day, and everyday.



386th Air Expeditionary Wing
Editorial Staff

Col. Paul A. Curlett
386th Air Expeditionary Wing
Commander

Capt. Jeff Clark
386th Air Expeditionary Wing
Public Affairs Chief

Staff Sgt. Ian Carrier
386th Air Expeditionary Wing
Rock Slate Editor

This funded newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services overseas. Contents of the "Rock Slate" are not necessarily the official views, nor endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force.

The 386th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs staff prepares all editorial content for the "Rock Slate." The editor will edit or re-write material for clarity, brevity or to conform with the Associated Press Style Guide, local policy and Air Force style as required by Air Force Instruction 35-101.

Unless otherwise noted, all photographs are U.S. Air Force photos. The "Rock Slate" may use news and information from the American Forces Information Service, Air Force Print News and other sources.

Contributions for the "Rock Slate" can be made directly to the 386th AEW Public Affairs Office or through e-mail to: 386AEW.pa@salem.af.mil.

The editor can be reached at 442-2312. Submit contributions by 4 p.m. Thursday, one week prior to publication.

The "Rock Slate" can be viewed electronically by clicking the "Rock Slate" link at <http://intranet.salem.af.mil>.



ROCK LEAGUE STANDINGS

DODGEBALL

Teams	Wins	Losses
ECES	8	0
ESFS/FPI	6	1
ELRS	5	2
EMDG	3	3
5 EAMS	3	4
ESVS	3	4
Fire Dawgs	2	5
ESFS/FP2	1	6
EOG	0	6
PERSCO	0	0

VOLLEYBALL

Teams	Wins	Losses
ESFS/FP	7	0
Fire Dawgs	6	1
ELRS	5	1
5 EAMS	5	2
ECES 1	4	2
EMDG	4	2
ECS	4	2
ESFS/SFO	2	4
Japan	1	4
ECES 2	1	5
EOG	1	5
ECES 3	1	6
PERSCO	0	7
ESVS	0	0

Christmas Light Policy

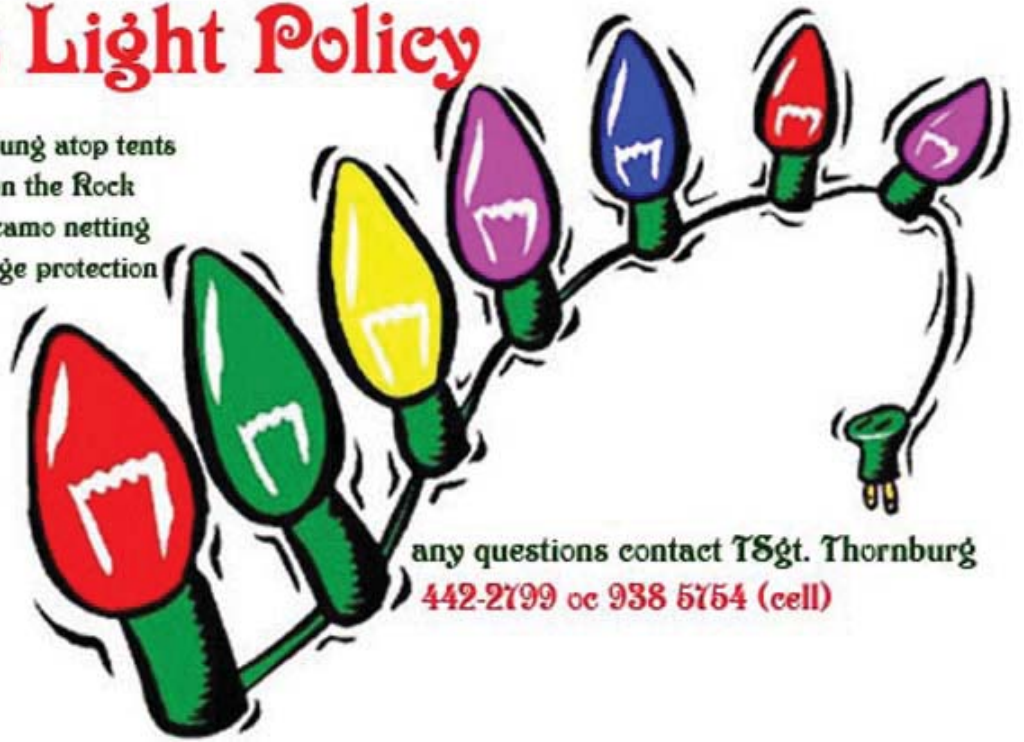
Maximum of 2 strands

Christmas lights will not be strung atop tents

Rope light are not authorized on the Rock

Christmas lights do not go on camo netting

Extension cords must have surge protection



any questions contact TSgt. Thornburg
442-2799 or 938 5754 (cell)

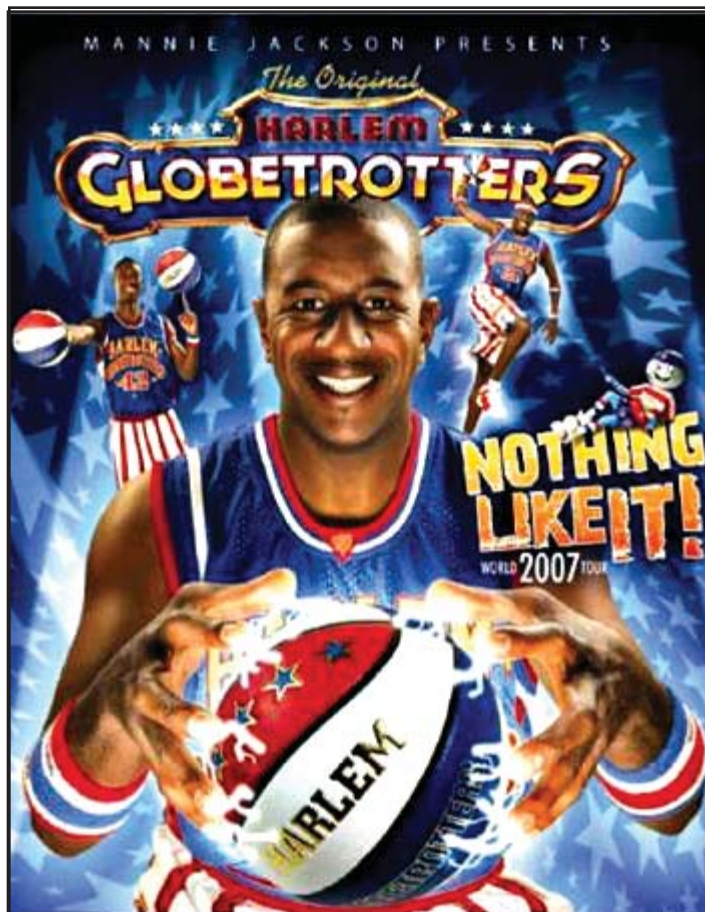


**WHEN:**

Dec. 1 at 8 p.m.
Dec. 2 at 2 p.m.

WHERE:

Rock Auditorium
Rock Auditorium

**WHEN:**

Nov. 29 at 7 p.m.

WHERE:

Rock Fitness Center

2006 Holiday Mailing Deadlines

APO to CONUS

Priority & First Class letters/cards:

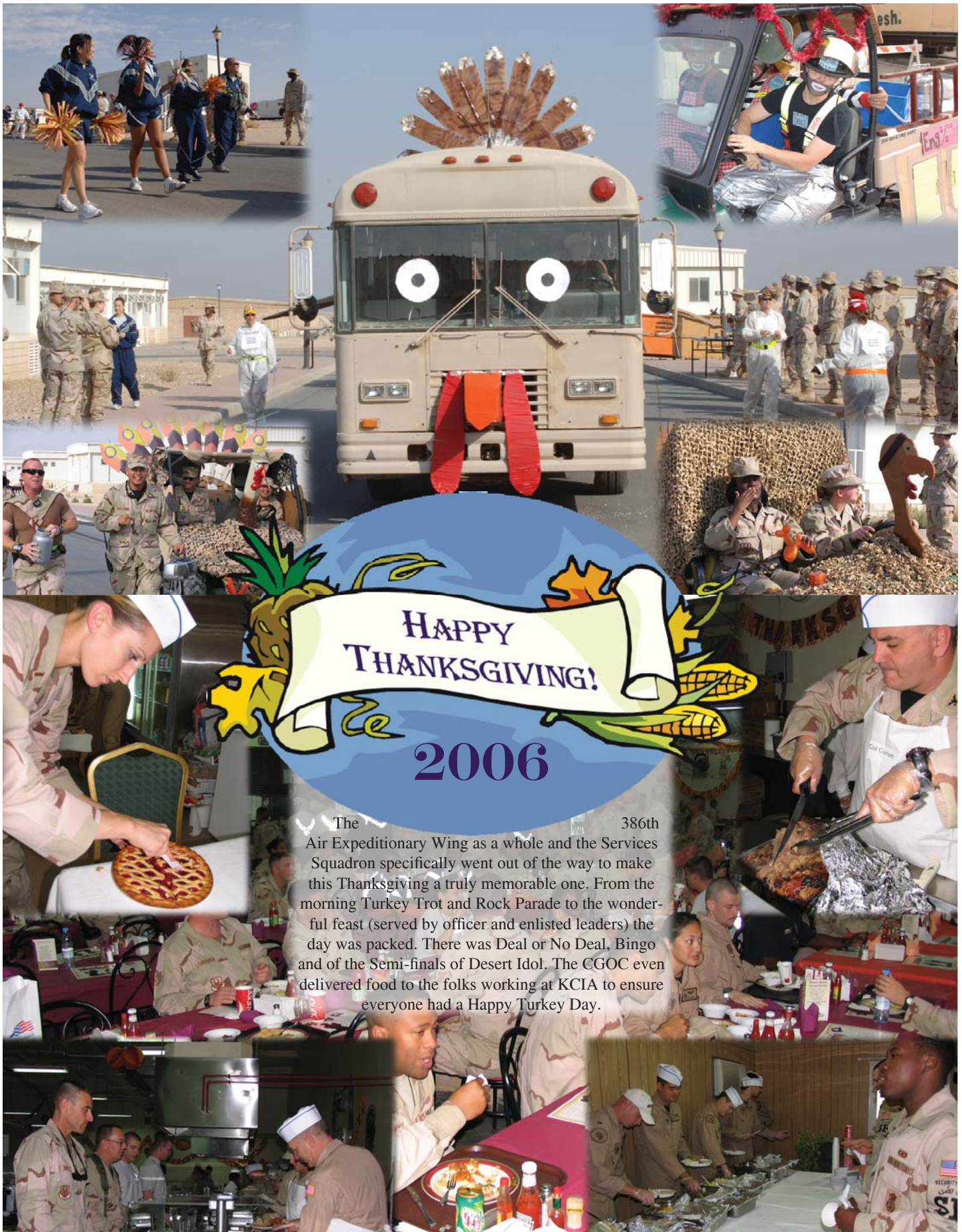
- Addressed from 093XX locations: 6 Dec 06
- Addressed from 098XX locations: 10 Dec 06

**CONUS to APO**

Priority & First Class letters/cards:

- Addressed to 093XX locations: 4 Dec 06
- Addressed to 098XX locations: 9 Dec 06

Parcel Airlift (PAL): 2 Dec 06



Service and Sacrifice

Photos and story by Capt. Jeff Clark
386 AEW Public Affairs

CAMP BUCCA, Iraq – Staff Sgt. Rory Sturm and Airman Kevin Perez Glazer were presented Purple Hearts in a ceremony here Nov. 14 for injuries sustained when an improvised explosive device ripped through their Humvee.

While receiving the medals is a memorable event, both members of the 586th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron Area Security Operations team, said the night of the explosion is the one they'll never forget.

On the evening of Oct. 16, Sergeant Sturm was the truck commander and Airman Perez Glazer was the driver on patrol near Safwan, Iraq. As their vehicle approached an overpass there was a loud bang and bright flash.

"I thought whoa, what was that," said Airman Perez Glazer, who is deployed from Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany. "I knew some of the tires popped (turns out they all had) but I also knew I had to get us out of there."

Airman Perez Glazer drove another 150 meters or so then provided security for the disabled vehicle while Sergeant Sturm performed buddy care on their gunner, Airman 1st Class Brandon Byers. Once one of the unit's Combat Life Savers, Staff Sgt. Jason Kidd took over caring for Airman Byers, Sergeant Sturm manned the M2 .50 caliber and started scanning for an attack or the triggerman, but the area was clear.

"Our team worked flawlessly," said Sergeant Sturm, who is deployed from Cheyenne Mountain Air Station, Colo. "We just happened to be the ones hit, but we're here

today because the other vehicles in our team, Sergeant Kidd and an Army medic responded so quickly."

Both Airmen agree the unknown Private First Class was "on point" and deserves recognition and credit for the role he played.

"I think he (Army medic) saved Airman Byers' life," Airman Perez Glazer said. "He was just so calm and fast. I wish I knew his name so I could thank him."

Once Airman Byers, who was deployed from Nellis Air Force Base, Las Vegas, was medivaced and the adrenaline stopped pumping through them, both Sergeant Sturm and Airman Perez Glazer realized they'd been injured as well.

"I was checked out and told to get my gear off," Airman Perez Glazer said. "They said I'd been hit with shrapnel in the back."

To ensure there weren't other injuries or any psychological damage inflicted on the Airmen, they were relieved from any patrol duties for a few days, but both say they were eager to get back "outside the wire."

At the medal ceremony, 386th Air Expeditionary Wing Commander Paul Curlett recognized their courage and sacrifice.

"They volunteered to step forward and defend their country in its hour of need," Colonel Curlett said, "Now they will join the honored company of well over half a million Purple Heart recipients alive today, who all served and who all sacrificed in the name of something higher than themselves."

"It is a profound honor for me to thank each of you, and your families, for your service, your sacrifice, your dedication, your courage and your commitment."





Unique Ceremony

SOUTHWEST ASIA – Rather than a pavilion, parade ground or auditorium, a Purple Heart presentation took place in the cargo hold of a C-17 GlobemasterII at about 4:30 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 19.

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 Area Security Operations flight at Camp Bucca, Iraq, was on patrol with Airman Kevin Perez Glazer and Staff Sgt. Rory Sturm 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 Col. Paul Curlett, 386th Air Expeditionary Wing commander, could honor him with a Purple Heart ceremony in a unique setting.



386th Air Expeditionary Wing Rock Solid Warriors



**Senior Airman
Michael Wladischkin**

386th Expeditionary Medical Group
4A051 Health Services Management Technician

Home unit/base: 325 MDSS, Tyndall AFB, Fla.

How do you support the mission here? I work in the Medical Control Center (MCC) at the 386th Expeditionary Medical Group, Contingency Aeromedical Staging Facility (CASF). I coordinate and arrange air and ground patient movement within the AOR aeromedical evacuation system for patients moving in, out, and around the theater. I also provide movement coordination for medical responses during 911 calls, in-flight emergencies or other contingency response situations.

How many times have you deployed and what makes this one unique? This is my first deployment. I feel our mission in the MCC is unique because we're not just called when we are needed. We provide constant coordination of tri-service medical assets for patient movement, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. At home-station the MCC stands up only in the event of a real-world emergency or exercise.

How does your job differ in a deployed environment vs. home base? At home I work in the TRICARE Operations Patient Administration section. That section helps patients receive appropriate entitlements and services for healthcare; this includes service members, retirees, and dependents. As part of the 386 EMDG we have provided services for Army, Navy, Marines, and Air Force, as well as Australian, Korean, Bulgarian, and other coalition partners.



**Staff Sgt.
Roosevelt Ruggs III**

386th Expeditionary Mission Support Group/DET 1 (LSA)
2A671B Quality Assurance Inspector/Engine Mechanic

Home unit/base: 99 LRS, Nellis AFB, Nev.

How do you support the mission here? My general duties include distribution, requisition, and maintenance of camp vehicles assigned to the Command Cell. Ensure that the camps water supply and ice supply are fully stocked and ordered a month in advance and also perform daily delivery of these commodities to the different units on site.

How many times have you deployed and what makes this one unique? This is actually my very first deployment so that in itself makes it unique.

How does your job differ in a deployed environment vs. home base? I have several more additional duties. Home station has there is an extreme difference in my daily duties here than on my home station at Nellis AFB. Here in this environment my job is physical and strongly relies on extensive on the job training. It requires training and certification on different material handling equipment that is generally exclusive to Civil Engineer troops. 90% of my day involves operating heavy equipment making multiple deliveries all over the camp. The other 10% involves actual networking with the Transportation Motor Pool and Installation Transportation Office's of Camp Arifjan and Camp Buehring. This includes scheduling, maintenance, and ensuring timely dispatch of vehicles in our motor pool. At Nellis, my job is 95% administrative.