

ROCK SLATE

The title "ROCK SLATE" is rendered in large, three-dimensional, weathered wooden letters. In the center, between the words "ROCK" and "SLATE", is the crest of the 386th Air Expeditionary Wing. The crest is a shield divided into four quadrants, each containing a different symbol: a bird, a globe, a star, and a winged figure. Above the shield is a banner with the text "386TH AIR EXPEDITIONARY WING".

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"I'm just a Tech. Sergeant" is NOT a good excuse

Col. Eric Fox
386 EMXG Commander

Disappointing words from an important Air Force leader...a mid-level leader and frontline supervisor. This statement was made in response to my questioning what he wore on his sleeve after I corrected one of his Airmen he allowed to be out of standards. I was dismayed with his reply but in his defense, he probably did not mean it the way it came across, but timing is everything. He happened to say just the wrong thing at just the right time to wind up as the lead-in to this article. My intent however in relating this encounter is to underscore something of which many of us are probably guilty...failing to fully meet our responsibility as an Air Force member and failing to be a good Wingman. Too often otherwise fantastic Airmen accept the status quo, overlook infractions and dismiss responsibilities with the assessment of "that's just the way it is" or "that is someone else's job." Some pass by a problem because they are too busy, or pass it off as unimportant, insignificant or assume someone else will take care of it. In doing so, we fail to meet the expectations of our leadership. We all have been charged with the responsibility of up-holding standards, period. And, we are expected to take care of each other and to make this Wing better; it's all part of being a good Wingman. If something's not right, fix it or identify it to the proper authority for correction.

Each of us raised our hand swearing or affirming an oath...binding ourselves by our word to follow the orders of leaders and commanders. Do we strive to follow orders, to do the right thing even when no one is watching, even when we are busy, or in a hurry? If we live up to our oath we will; it's called having integrity and shows a measure of our character. Additionally, Air Force members are directed to enforce standards and help keep fellow Airmen inside the bounds of

good behavior; being too busy, disinterested or reluctant to "be the bad guy" are not acceptable excuses. Failing to meet this basic expectation simply shifts more burdens to others when, if we all pitched in, the work would be light. We must have the courage to make corrections and re-vector those who are straying, even if it is a friend or close coworkers. We don't do our fellow Airmen or our Air Force any favors by accepting or ignoring sub-standard performance or poor discipline; even in small things. As Gen George S. Patton, Jr. is quoted to have said, "You cannot be disciplined in great things and undisciplined in small things." He also says "there is only one kind of discipline, perfect discipline."

Some worry that strict or perfect discipline will hurt morale. I would argue to the contrary. Taking care of Airmen demands we deal with those few who fail to meet our standards. What does it say to those working to serve with honor if we fail to enforce discipline? Many of us have seen that those units with a tough mission, who work long and hard often have the best morale. The more we know about our Wing's mission and how we affect it and the harder we work to perfect that mission, the better morale will be--a disciplined environment enables that goal.

It takes courage to stand-up as a leader within the ranks. It can be tough to embrace high standards and become an advocate for improvement and a source of energy to make things better, but excellence starts with each of us taking pride in what we do--each of us endorsing and meeting standards and living up to the oaths we've taken and the creeds we've promised to uphold. It is up to each of us individually. If we commit ourselves to perfect discipline we can focus all our energies on perfecting our mission and continuing to make life on the Rock better and better; there will be nothing limiting our horizon.



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Air Force releases new mission statement

Master Sgt. Mitch Gettle

Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON (AFP) -- The realities of the world have changed dramatically since the creation of the Air Force in 1947 and continue to change almost daily.

With these changes in mind, Air Force leaders released a new mission statement Dec. 7 that defines the current and future direction of the Air Force.

"Today, our world is fast paced, constantly shifting and filled with a wide range of challenges," Secretary of the Air Force Michael W. Wynne and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley wrote in a joint Letter to Airmen. "Our mission is our guiding compass, and now more than ever we need it to be clear and precise."

The mission statement defines the "where and what" the Air Force accomplishes on a daily basis:

The mission of the United States Air Force is to deliver sovereign options for the defense of the United States of America and its global interests -- to fly and fight in Air, Space, and Cyberspace.



Air Force/Master Sgt. Ken Wright

The statement includes two new concepts, "sovereign options" and "cyberspace," which the secretary and chief defined.

They said having sovereign options is the essence of being a superpower.

"Our task is to provide the president, the combatant commanders, and our nation with an array of options ... options that are not limited by the tyranny of distance, the urgency of time, or the strength of our enemy's defenses," they said. "With one hand the Air Force can deliver humanitarian assistance to the farthest reaches of the globe, while with

the other hand we can destroy a target anywhere in the world."

The term cyberspace includes network security, data transmission and the sharing of information.

"We have quite a few of our Airmen dedicated to cyberspace ... from security awareness, making sure the networks can't be penetrated, as well as figuring out countermeasures," Secretary Wynne said. "The Air Force is a natural leader in the cyber world and we thought it would be best to recognize that talent."

Adversaries of the United States will use any method or venue necessary to contest America, and it is an Airman's calling to dominate air, space and cyberspace, the leaders said.

"If we can decisively and consistently control these commons, then we will deter countless conflicts," they said. "If our enemies underestimate our resolve, then we will fly, fight, and destroy them."

Using past air power pioneers as examples of understanding the mission, they said, "The Air Force's mission statement has evolved over time, but it does not change the nature of who we are or what we do."

Passing the flag ...



Air Force/Staff Sgt. Ian Carrier

Officiating Officer Col. Ronald Brooks, 586th Expeditionary Mission Support Group Commander, hands over the 586th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron flag to Major John Grimm, incoming 586 ESFS Commander. Major Grimm is replacing outgoing commander Lt. Col. Donald Wingate.

Four more years ...



Air Force/Staff Sgt. Ian Carrier

SMSgt. David McClain re-enlists during a ceremony at the Rock, Saturday, Dec. 2nd. SMSgt. McClain has been in the Air Force for 18 and 1/2 years, and re-upped for another 4 years, 2 months. The Ceremony was presided over by Capt. Brian Matchik, Tops In Blue Tour Director. Tops In Blue Performed at the Rock on 1-2 Dec. during their tour of Southwest Asia.

EMERGENCY?

For Fire, Security and Medical Emergencies Dial

911

**Be sure to leave your name, location, the incident
and a good call-back number before hanging up.**

SECAF visits Rock, addresses Airmen

Capt. Jeff Clark
386 AEW Public Affairs

Secretary of the Air Force Michael Wynne toured the Rock Dec. 7 and spoke to base members Dec. 8 about issues affecting today's Air Force. Secretary Wynne and his wife Barbara were taken throughout the base and shown many of the outstanding workcenters, accomplishments and Airmen that make the 386th Air Expeditionary Wing so special.

The tour started with a mission brief and was highlighted with visits to the fitness center, some major civil engineering construction locations, flight-line operations and maintenance facilities and of course the Desert Winds dining facility where the tour culminated with a Texas-style bar-be-que dinner.

Secretary Wynne continually commented on how impressed he was with the wing's facilities and the importance of the wing here.

"When you talk about global mobility, its opening places like this," he said. "You're cooperating with our colleagues and coalition

partners moving in and moving so many goods and passengers through yet you make it look easy.

In his briefing Dec. 8, Secretary Wynne focused on the joint aspect of the battlefield, the future of training for and fighting in cyberspace and the Air Force continuing to support in lieu of taskings for the Army.

"We don't have enough people to fill the Army with in lieu taskings," he said. Secretary Wynne went on to say we need to maintain our focus and our heritage, but some of the missions we do so well we may take on to some degree. "And right now we are not going to pull away or refuse to commit our forces."

A video was also shown that in Secretary Wynne's words "shows the interdependency we (the Air Force) share with the Army, Navy, Coast Guard and Marines." While it did focus on the joint operations and the capability of the Air Force "to deliver sovereign options for the defense of the United States of America and its global interests -- to fly and fight in Air, Space, and Cyberspace" there was one piece



Air Force/Staff Sgt. Ian Carrier

Secretary of the Air Force, Michael Wynne is briefed during his visit here by C-130 loadmasters, Airman 1st Class Heather Jarke and Master Sgt. Scott Mello. Both are assigned to the 737th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron from the 2nd Airlift Squadron at Pope AFB, N.C.

from our mission here the video didn't show that Secretary Wynne stressed. He spoke about Contingency Aerial Staging Facilities (we have one of only two in theater) and medivac as being key to the survivability of the force.

"The miracle of this engagement and this time is medivac,"

he said. "The survival rate as you all know is in the high 90's. If you can make it to the CASF here, I believe it's above 96 percent. This is unheard of in warfare.

"Bless everyone who does that mission and all of you who are additional volunteers when things get rough."

Safety first ...



Do This!



Not This!

The 386th Air Expeditionary Wing Safety office reminds everyone that riding in the back of pickup trucks is to be avoided when possible. Personnel may only ride in back if all the seats in the cab are occupied. They must sit flat in the bed with their backs against the cab or the sides not sitting on the wheel wells, side edges or against the tailgate.

Tops in Blue entertain, 'inspire' audience

Capt. Jeff Clark

386 AEW Public Affairs

"Tops in Blue," the Air Force's premier entertainment group, performed here Friday, Dec. 1 and Saturday, Dec. 2 to standing-room only crowds.

The show, themed "What's Love," featured hit songs by Huey Lewis and Barry White, country tunes by Trisha Yearwood and Alan Jackson and ballads by Rod Stewart and Kelly Clarkson.

"I was so impressed with the performances," said 1st Lt. Shannon Vinson, 386th Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron tactician. "I've seen them before but this was by far the best I've seen."

The group, which celebrates its 50th anniversary this year, is an all-active duty Air Force special unit made up of performers selected for their entertainment abilities. Each year, base talent contests are held and the most talented move on to higher levels of competition.

Each year's tour begins with a month and a half of training at Lackland AFB, Texas. The team learns the instrumental and vocal parts of the show as well as the choreography and technical aspects.

The team not only performs but must also set up more than 36,000 pounds of lighting, staging, audio and special effects equipment.

"Tops in Blue" travels throughout the world to entertain Airmen and their families, with priority given to those stationed at remote and deployed locations. They are continuing their morale tour throughout the area of responsibility right now.

While here they certainly lifted the morale of audience members like Tech. Sgt. Marc Howard, 386th Air Expeditionary Wing information manager. "It was an inspiring show - good to have something different," Sergeant Howard said. "I liked the music, and the finale was really great when everybody stood up and started clapping."

The finale, where the Lee Greenwood song "Proud to be an American" was performed, seemed to be the big hit of the event and if the show really meant to discover "What's Love" some like Lieutenant Vinson might say its when "people stop worrying about looking cool and just do what their heart tells them to." She went on to say that almost everyone stood up and put their arms around each other to express the shared sense of patriotism and the love we all feel for our country and for freedom.



Did you know Tops in Blue?

Has performed at six World Fairs!

Has performed for more than 100 State Fairs and Festivals!

Has produced five movies and two albums!

Has performed before a single audience of 420,000!

Had their TV debut in 1954 on Ed Sullivan's "Toast of the Town!"

Has performed in six Bob Hope Specials!

Has performed before a live and broadcast audience of 110 million at Super Bowl XIX!

Has performed before a live audience of more than 250,000 people at the 2002 Daytona 500!

Unloads and sets up over 36,000 pounds of equipment per performance!

Features special effects lighting equivalent to 556 lights!

Uses a stage and truss which are built to fit on six pallets or one truck trailer!

Uses more than two miles of cable during each performance!

Has featured more than 1,700 airmen in their shows during the past 50 years!

Has performed more than 7,000 shows!

Courtesy www.topsinblue.com



All photos by Air Force/Tech. Sgt. Andy Bellamy



386th Air Expeditionary Wing Rock Solid Warriors



**Senior Airman
CHRISTOPHER A.
DEAL**

386th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
2A553B, Instrument and Flight Control Specialist

Home unit/base: 755 AMXS / Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz.

How do you support the mission here? I maintain the mighty EC-130H Compass Call aircraft. My job is to ensure the guidance and control systems on the aircraft are perfect for our flight crews to meet every combat tasking. These systems include the digital autopilot, all engine indications, navigational systems, hydraulic system transmitters, gyroscopes, oil pressure/quantity... and the list goes on.

How many times have you deployed and what makes this one unique? This is my first deployment. This is also my first time outside of the United States. Being in a different country is unique and unsettling at the same time. Being so far from home is always in the back of my mind. But at the same time, I am very proud to be apart of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

How does your job differ in a deployed environment vs. home base? The biggest difference would be the terms 'co-worker' and 'team'. When I am back home, the people at work are more like co-workers. Here, on the other hand, everyone works together as a team. The time away goes by quickly when I'm helping other people and turning wrenches.



**Airman 1st Class
JULIUS M. Advincula**

586th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron/
Movement Control Team, Det 1
2T031, Traffic Management Apprentice, Liaison Officer, Rear Operations Center

Home unit/base: 30th Logistics Readiness Squadron, Vandenberg AFB, Calif.

How do you support the mission here? I support the mission here by linking convoys with host nation escorts. I make sure all coalition forces and their equipment get to and from their deployed locations safely.

How many times have you deployed and what makes this one unique? This is my first deployment. This deployment is unique for me because I work at the central local Police Station and deal directly with the local Police and Military.

How does your job differ in a deployed environment vs. home base? My job here is very different from what I do back home, because I don't do any Traffic Management Flight related work here. As a Movement Control Team member my responsibility is to make sure local Ministry of Defense/Interior escorts successfully link up to coalition convoys and they are escorted safely to their destinations. Also, we are a joint sourcing solution so our operational leadership is an Army Transportation Battalion.