

407th Air Expeditionary Group, Ali Base, Iraq

December 22, 2006

T able of contents

'Tis the season for service before self

During holiday season Air Force core value has special meaning.

Page 2

Our military mission is the gift of freedom

CENTAF Commander says freedom is the best gift.

Page 3

There are ways to minimize holiday blues

Services Commander gives tips to keep busy during holiday season.

Page 4

Ali's Got Talent Show

Participants show off talents at Big Top.

Page 5

EOSS clobbers ECS in championship game

Both squads duke it out in Intramural championship game.

Page 6

Movies and more...

Event schedules and standings.

Pages 7-10









Vol. 4, Issue 47 Dec 22, 2006

Col James C. Moulton Commander, 407 AEG

Lt Col Roy-Alan C. Agustin

Deputy Commander,

407 AEG

Capt James Kelley Executive Officer, 407 AEG

CMSgt John Laforgia Superintendent, 407 AEG

TSgt Ryan Mattox Editor/Chief, Public Affairs

This funded newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services overseas. Contents of the *Ali Times* are not necessarily the views of, or endorsed by the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or the Department of the Air Force.

The content is edited, prepared and provided by the public affairs office of the 407th Air Expeditionary Group. All photographs are U.S. Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.

The Ali Times accepts stories, photographs and commentaries, which may be submitted to the public affairs staff — located in the group headquarters building — or can be sent directly to the newspaper at Ali.Times@tlab.centaf.af.mil Deadline for publication is 7 p.m.

Monday before the week of publication. For more information, call 445-2318, or e-mail the editor.

Cover Photo

SrA Mitch Nairn, 407th Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron goes in for a layup during Dec 19 Intramural Championship Game. 407 EOSS beat 407th Expeditionary Communications Squadron 47-16. See Page 6. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech Sgt Ryan Mattox)



Col James Moulton, 407th Air Expeditionary Group Commander, visits with Santa Claus during his visit at Ali Base. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech Sgt Ryan Mattox)

'Tis the season for service before self

By Col James Moulton

407th Air Expeditionary Group Commander

This week I wanted to come right out and thank everyone for their service and sacrifice during this holiday season. One of the Air Force's core values is service before self, and there is no time of the year when this hits home (or "away from home" might be more accurate).

While separations from family and friends are always hard, the Christmas season can be even harder, since this is the time of year when so many of us make plans for visiting — or being visited by — loved ones. But I'd ask that you keep this in mind: the reason most Americans back home are able to enjoy this holiday season is because of the

sacrifices you, and others in uniform just like you, are making on their behalf.

Throughout our nation's history, most Americans have been free to enjoy and celebrate Christmas freely and peacefully because a select few were willing to temporarily set aside their own individual celebrations to serve the nation. This weekend, you are part of that selfless tradition. Be proud of your sacrifices, and take heart in knowing that your service matters. And I'd also ask you to remember our brothers and sisters in-arms who are, and will be, standing in harm's way throughout this holiday season.

Take care, God bless, and Merry Christmas.

For the latest Air Force News — go online at www.af.mil



Our military mission — Gift of Freedom

By Lt Gen Gary North

9th Air Force/USCENTAF Commander

As the holiday season approaches, we look forward to spending time with family and friends throughout the world and enjoying the festivities of the season. Whether we celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah or Kwanzaa, this season is traditionally a time for togetherness and sharing with each other.

Due to our military mission, many of us are away from our families this year as we contribute to the greatest gift that military members continue to "give" to our nation – the military support to our highest calling to our American people, that of supporting and defending the Constitution of the United States...said another way, preserving the gift of freedom. Those military members who are deployed can take heart in knowing that our loved ones at home understand our sacrifices, and are proud and respectful of the calling that has you deployed during this period of time.

Additionally, your military is providing gifts to others throughout the world as we continue the fight against terrorism. United States military members are in the forefront in helping the people of Iraq and Afghanistan as they grow as sovereign nations. As we enjoy our holiday times, whether deployed or at home, we will continue to stand side-by-side with our Coalition partners in training Iraqi and Afghan forces to support, defend, and protect themselves and their families.

To all the families of those at home and abroad, I especially thank you for the sacrifices you continue to make each and every day. As we go about our busy schedules, please remember to



Lt Gen Gary North

take time in your celebrations this joyous season and reflect on all the gifts we share as people in a free country. It is this very reason that many of our service men and women are deployed around the world today, to support, protect, defend, and to provide those same very promises for freedom that formed our nation so many years ago.

Best wishes for a happy holiday season and a prosperous New Year.

Christmas Eve and Day Worship Schedule Dec 24-25

Christmas Eve

Roman Catholic services

4th Sunday of Advent 8 a.m. at Ali Chapel 4th Sunday of Advent 10:30 a.m. at Cedar II Christmas Eve 8 p.m. at The Big Top Midnight Christmas Mass 12 a.m. at Adder Chapel

Protestant services

Traditional Worship 9:30 a.m. at Ali Chapel Church of Christ 11 a.m.at Ali Chapel Christmas Eve 7 p.m. at Adder Chapel Ecumenical Carol Sing 7 p.m. at The Big Top Christmas Eve 8 p.m. at Ali Chapel

Christmas Day

Roman Catholic services

Christmas Eve Mass midnight at Adder Chapel Christmas Mass 8 a.m. at Ali Chapel Christmas Service 10:30 a.m. at Cedar II Chapel Singing 4 p.m. at Adder Chapel Christmas Mass 5 p.m. at Adder Chapel

Protestant services

Joint Protestant Christmas Service 9 a.m. at Adder Chapel

Christmas Service 10 a.m. at Ali Chapel For more information, call the 407th Chapel Office at 445-2006.



There are ways to minimize the holiday blues

By Capt Gordon Swain

407th Expeditionary Services Squadron Commander

The holiday season is fast approaching, and for many of us here at Ali Base it is a time when we most sharply feel the pain of being away from loved ones. As many do this time of year, I cannot help but reflect upon Christmases past, and I recall that this will be my third time deployed overseas during the holidays. It has never been easy, but I have found that there are ways to minimize the "holiday blues."

One thing that has always sustained me is the support that I have received from home. Each and every one of you should realize that everyone at home is proud of you and the sacrifices that you have made. No doubt many of you have already received many e-mails, letters, cards, and care packages from friends and family eagerly awaiting your return. It is their warm wishes, as well as the support from patriotic Americans everywhere, that enable us to endure another holiday season away from home.

Another thing that I have come to realize is that while nothing can replace the role of friends and family during the holidays, I can appreciate the impact of Air Force Services and USO sponsored events. As a young Airman in the first Gulf War, I was lucky enough to see numerous USO special events while deployed. I was able to see venerable wartime comedian Bob Hope, baseball hall-of-famer Johnny Bench, and country music superstar Aaron Tippin. Of course more recently I was able to see the 2006 CMA Female Vocalist of the Year, Carrie Underwood, right here at Ali. Events like those go a long way to improve morale, especially at this time of the year. As Commander of the 407th Expeditionary Services Squadron, I



Capt Gordon Swain

hope that you can see us as your family away from home as we try to make this time apart from your loved ones as easy as possible. Fortunately, we have plenty of events scheduled over the next few weeks to celebrate the season.

Here is a quick preview of what the Services Squadron has in store for everyone this holiday season. To start off, there will be an Ecumenical service on Dec 24 from 7 to 8 p.m. at the Big Top. This service will include singing Christmas carols and candle-lighting. On Christmas Day, the Australian Army will be playing host as they provide a Top 40 band for musical entertainment at the Big Top. Then to bring in the New Year, Dec 31, we are having an Ali Rockin' Eve Party from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Music will be provided by one of Ali's own DJs, M2. There will be party favors and door prizes given out every half hour. I sincerely hope you are all able to come out and join in on the fun we have planned for you.



Santa arrives

Col James Moulton, 407th Air Expeditionary Group Commander, discusses Santa Claus' flight plan for Christmas, as Santa's helper does a preflight check of the sleigh. Santa was visiting Ali to do a site survey and to get a vehicle pass for Bedrock for a possible landing on Christmas. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech Sgt Ryan Mattox)



Ali's Got Talent Show rocks the Big Top



Ali's own Tae Kwon Do class demonstrate their techniques to the crowd Dec 16 at the Big Top. Performances ranged in variety from a drum solo by 3rd place winner SrA Max Wallin, 407th Expeditionary Communications Squadron to break dancing by Staff Sgt Robert Isarraraz, 407th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron. First place went to Master Sgt Daniel Riley, 407th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron, playing an acoustical version on *Nothing Else Matters* by Metallica, and 2nd place went to Staff Sgt Nikki Purvis, 732d Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron Redistribution Property Assistance Team, singing an a cappella version of the song *My Help*. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech Sgt Al Petrie)



Staff Sgt Rebecca Church dances to the beat of Ali's musical performers. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech Sgt Ryan Mattox)



Ali Talent show judges add up their score sheets to decide the winner of the show. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech Sgt Al Petrie)



Captain Dale Malleck, 134th BSB, sings and plays his guitar at the talent show. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech Sgt Ryan Mattox)

OSS clobbers Comm 47-16 in championship game



Staff Sgt Terry Williams, 407th Expeditionary Communications Squadron attempts a layup in this year's Ali Intramural Basketball Championship game. The 407th Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron dominated the 407th Expeditionary Communications Squadron during the Game, beating them 47-16. The 407 EOSS squad finished the season with a perfect record of 10-0 and 407 ECS finished with a 6-4 record. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech Sgt Ryan Mattox)



Maj James Hoskins, 407 ECS, attempts a shot during the Dec 19 championship game. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech Sgt Al Petrie)



Capt Barry Roche, 407 ECS, takes an outside shot during the championship game. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech Sgt Ryan Mattox)



Military housing rates boosted 3.5 percent overall

By Gerry J. Gilmore

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — Servicemembers will receive an average 3.5 percent boost in their basic allowance for housing compensation benefit in 2007, a Defense Department officials said Dec. 18.

The planned BAH increase starting Jan. 1 works out to about \$300 million more than what was paid in 2006, officials said.

"The continued improvement in housing allowances represents our commitment to the preservation of a compensation and benefit structure which will provide members with a suitable and secure standard of living that will sustain a trained, experienced and ready force in the future," said Cynthia Smith, a DOD spokesperson.

Officials said military housing allowances are computed according to three key criteria: median current market rent; average utilities to include electricity, heat and water/sewer costs; and average renter's insurance.

BAH rates also are based on dwelling type and number of bedrooms in a given area and then calculated for each pay grade, both with and without family members.

For servicemembers with family members, average increases in the BAH are approximately \$44 per month. For example, a typical E-4 will receive about \$34 more in BAH than in 2006, while an E-8 will receive about \$42 more than this year.

The BAH rate system has built-in protections to ensure that an individual servicemember in a given location won't see his or her BAH rate decrease.

Some areas' housing costs have remained relatively stable, while others continue to rise. Most of the costliest housing in the United States with the highest BAH rates are clustered on or near the East and West coasts, and the state of Hawaii.

For more information about military pay and housing allowances, visit http://www.dod.mil/militarypay/.

407 AEG Warrior of the Week



Staff Sgt Rebecca Church

Deployed unit: 407th Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron

Job title at Ali: Weather flight

Home unit and base: 60th Operations Support Squadron/Travis Air Force Base. Calif.

Why other Airmen think she's a warrior: Sergeant Church is an extremely motivated NCO who enjoys challenging and demanding situations. She provides outstanding daily weather forecasting support to more than 220 combat and airlift aircraft operating over 50,000 square miles of Iraqi airspace. She is the epitome of unwavering commitment to duty as she has worked 98 consecutive days since her arrival. Being a well-rounded person of many interests she still finds the time to volunteer her service to assist at the post office, organize squadron morale boosting activities, complete the NCO Professional Development Seminar, volunteer for multiple base details, take Tae-kwon-do classes, earn six credits towards her Bachelor's degree and practice her bass guitar. Rebecca's devotion to duty and support of our organization is infectious and has been an inspiration for her entire unit. Why did you join the Air Force? I joined the Air Force

Why did you join the Air Force? I joined the Air Force for the experience and many opportunities, such as learning a marketable skill, traveling to foreign countries, and experiencing different cultures.

What inspires you? I'm deeply inspired by the relationship with my family, especially my mom.

What is your most memorable Air Force experience? Being assigned to Korea

Hobbies: Guitar, reading and Tae-kwon-do.

Family: Married



Ali Sports Standings

Intramural Volleyball

		J
Teams	Wins	Loses
EOSS	11	0
FIRE 1	9	3
ECES 1	8	2
FIRE 3	8	3
FIRE 2	8	3
ECS	7	4
ESFS	7	4
ELRS 1	6	5
ECES 2	5	5
PISTONS	5	5
ESVS	3	9
HOT STICKS	2	9
STAFF 1	2	10
ELRS 2	1	10
ECES 3	1	11



In the 1915 game: **ECES 1 (8-2)** won in two straight games, beating **ESFS (7-4)** 25-23 and 25-11.

In the 2015 game: **Pistons (5-5)** won by forfeit over **ELRS 2 (1-10)**.

In the 2115 game: **Staff 1 (2-10)** won in two straight games, beating **ECES 3 (1-11)** 25-21 and 25-16.

In the 2215 game: **Fire 2 (8-3)** won in two straight games, beating **Fire 3 (8-3)** 25-20 and 25-12.

The top eight teams make the playoffs.

Current as of Dec 21



Fantasy Football League

Name)	Week 15	5 Total
1	SSgt Simmons	117	1351
2	Amn Centeno	131	1296
3	TSgt Pihlgren	117	1251
4	SSgt Weppel	68	1245
5	TSgt Goldammer	123	1240
6	MSgt Nilo	123	1231
7	MSgt Skeldon	72	1220
8	TSgt Holdredge	119	1175
9	SSgt Isarraraz	95	1156
10	SrA Hudson	75	1148
11	A1C Terrill	64	1120
12	TSgt Gab	103	1097
13	A1C Cabrera	84	1081
14	Capt Swain	79	1076
15	Amn Ko	125	1075
16	SSgt Estrada	98	1075
17	SSgt Orola	75	1008
18	SSgt Sharp	104	967
19	SSgt Britten	63	924
20	2d Lt Hodgson	76	923
21	SrA Falch	55	903
22	A1C Valdez	81	885
23	TSgt Borden	73	856
24	A1C Sprinz	33	854
25	A1C Oraha	58	821
26	MSgt Weymouth	40	804
27	SrA Rose	71	778
28	SSgt Lardino	108	725



Screnity in the sand faith-based services schedule

orship is at the 407th Air Expeditionary Group Oasis of Peace chapel, and at the Army Post Chapel. The Oasis is open 24 hours a day for prayer and reflection. The Buddhist Prayer Alcove is open 24 hours a day.

For details on worship opportunities, or directions to worship locations, please call 445-2006.

Oasis = Air Force Chapel/Bedrock

OA = Oasis Annex

ARAC = Army Religious Activity Center

APC = Army Post Chapel

TCN = Third Country Nationals living area by DFAC

FRIDAY

7 a.m., Roman Catholic Mass: Oasis 1 p.m., Muslim prayer/ service: (TCN)

6:30 p.m., Jewish Service: ARAC

7:30 p.m., Gospel Choir Rehearsal: APC

SATURDAY

8 p.m., Roman Catholic Vigil Mass: Oasis

SUNDAY MONDAY

See page 3 for Christmas worship schedule.

TUESDAY

7 a.m., Roman Catholic Mass: Oasis

7:30 p.m., Word of Faith Bible Study: APC

WEDNESDAY

7 a.m., Roman Catholic

Mass: Oasis

7 p.m., Iraq in the Bible

Study: OA

7 p.m., Spanish Bible Study: ARAC

7 p.m., Women's Bible Study: Army Hospital 7:30 p.m., Protestant Worship Service/Bible Study: APC 7:30 p.m., Iraq in the Bible study: Oasis

THURSDAY

7 a.m., Roman Catholic Mass: Oasis

6:30 p.m., Ladies Bible Study: AWRAC 7:30 p.m., Men's Bible

Study: APC

CRICKET MOYIE THEATER

Today's times and movie descriptions for the week

24 Season 2: Disc 1-2 (2001), 1 a.m., Keifer Sutherland, Carlos Bernard, action, drama; The Recruit (2003), 9 a.m., Al Pacino, Colin Farrell, action, adventure; The Boogeyman (2005), 11 a.m., Barry Watson, Emily Deschanel, suspense, horror; The Others (2001), 1 p.m., Nicole Kidman, Fionnula Flanagan, suspense, horror; Super Troopers (2002), 3 p.m., Jay Chandrasekhar, Kevin Heffernan, comedy; Saw (2004), 5 p.m., Leigh Whannell, Cary Elwes, suspense, horror; Jarhead (2005), 7 p.m., Jake Gyllenhaal, Jamie Foxx, drama, war; The Sum of All Fear (2002), 9 p.m., Ben Affleck, Morgan Freeman, action, thriller; Big Momma's House (2000), 11 p.m., Martin Lawrence, Nia Long, comedy, action; American Outlaws (2001), 5 a.m., Colin Farrell, Scott Caan, action, adventure; Face of Terror (2005), 7 a.m., Rick Schroder, Paulina Galvez, thriller, crime; Taking Lives (2004), 9 a.m., Angelina Jolie, Ethan Hawke, thriller, crime;

Christmas with the Cranks....9 p.m.

Polar Express	11 p.m.
Tuesday	
24 Season 2: Disc 5	1 a.m.
Monday Night Football (Live)	
(Live)	4:30 a.m.
Monday Night Football	
(Live)	5 a.m.
The Recruit	7 a.m.
Boogeyman	9 a.m.
The Others	
Super Troopers	1 p.m.
Saw	
Jarhead	
The Sum of All Fears	7 p.m.
Big Momma's House	
American Outlaws	
Wednesday	
24 Season 2: Disc 6	1 a m
Face of Terror	
Taking Lives	
Saw	
Jarhead	
The Sum of All Fears	9 a.III.
Big Momma's House	
American Outlaws	
The Recruit	
Boogeyman	/ p.m.
The Others	
Super Troopers	11 p.m.
Thursday	
The Recruit	
Boogeyman	
The Others	
Super Troopers	
Saw	
Jarhead	
The Sum of All Fears	
Big Momma's House	3 p.m.
Anerican Outlaws	5 p.m.
Face of Terror	
Taking Lives	9 n m



Bedrock and beyond...

Saturday

11 a.m. Hapkido: Muscle Beach

6:30 p.m. Spinning: HOP

7 p.m. Abs Class: Muscle Beach

7:30 p.m. **Hip Hop**: ACC 7:30 p.m. **Karaoke**: Big Top

7:30 p.m. Basketball Intramurals: Muscle

Beach

Sunday

10 a.m. **Spinning**: HOP

11 a.m. Hapkido: Muscle Beach

2 p.m. Chess: Hot Spot Spinning: HOP Darts: ACC

7:30 p.m. Basketball Intramurals: Muscle

Beach

8 p.m. Spinning: Muscle Beach (I)

Monday

6:20 a.m. **Spinning**: Muscle Beach (I)4:30 p.m. **Doubles Horseshoes:** Hot Spot

7 p.m. **Hapkido**: Muscle Beach

7 p.m. **Toning**: HOP **Ping Pong**: ACC

7:30 p.m. **Tug of War**: Muscle Beach 8 p.m. **Spinning**: Muscle Beach (I)

Tuesday

6:20 a.m. Spinning: Muscle Beach (I)

6 p.m. Yoga: Muscle Beach 7 p.m. Abs Class: Muscle Beach

5 p.m. **Pull-up Competition**: Muscle Beach

7:30 p.m. Tae Kwon Do: HOP

8 p.m. **Tae Kwon Do**: Muscle Beach (I)

8 p.m. **Texas Hold'em:** Big Top

8:30 p.m. **Salsa**: ACC

Wednesday

7 p.m. Hapkido: Muscle Beach

7 p.m. **Toning**: HOP **Spades**: ACC

7:30 p.m. Volleyball intramurals: Muscle Beach

8 p.m. **Step Aerobics**: HOP

8 p.m. Spinning: Muscle Beach (I)8 p.m. 8-Ball Doubles: Hot Spot

Thursday

7:30 a.m. 1.5 Mile Fun Run: Muscle Beach

7 p.m. **8/9-Ball**: ACC

7 p.m. Abs Class: Muscle Beach

7:30 p.m. **Tae Kwon Do**: HOP 8 p.m. **Texas Hold'em:** Big Top

8 p.m. **Tae Kwon Do**: Muscle Beach (I)

8:30 p.m. **Salsa**: HOP

Friday

7 p.m. **Toning:** HOP

7:30 p.m. Volleyball Intramurals: Muscle Beach

8 p.m. Spinning: Muscle Beach (I)

8 p.m. **Step Aerobics**: HOP

8 p.m. **Bingo**: Big Top



(I)—Instructor (DVD)—DVD

TNY—Tournament

HOP-House of Pain, Army Fitness Center

ACC—Army Community Center

Call the 407th Expeditionary Services Squadron with ideas for activities at 445-2696; for information about the House of Pain, Army fitness center call 833-1709. For information about Army morale, welfare and recreation activities call 833-1745.