

DESERT EAGLE

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PERSCO Welcomes
Servicemembers

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All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.

Commentaries and warriors of the week are scheduled according to a squadron rotation. Unit commanders and first sergeants are the points of contact for submissions.

For more information, call 436-0107.



Servicemembers arrive at a deployed location in Southwest Asia. Members are deployed in various roles supporting Operations Iraqi and Enduring freedom. More than 600 servicemembers are processed through Persco a day.

Military ties hold strength

By Col. Charles Armentrout
379th Expeditionary Mission Support
Group commander

In those rare quieter moments, when I have time to reflect back on my Air Force career, I'm often humbled by how lucky I have been. I've been assigned to some truly great bases and been part of some amazing and diverse missions. I've lived and worked in spectacular backdrops—from the pristine wilderness of Alaska, to the deserts of Southwest Asia. I've been cold and dirty at bare-bases, and worked alongside heads of state at the White House. But as great as those memories are, they lose just a little of their shine with time.

What really sticks with me more are the memories of people and friendships. People I've fought beside, laughed with, and sometimes even cried with. These remain undiminished—and I expect, will continue so. You see, there is a special bond that those of us in uniform share that my friends in corporate America often have a hard time relating to—and I struggle to explain. There is a special love of country; a common heritage and culture; and a commitment to service and sacrifice. But I believe there's more to it than that, something more basal and personal.

My thought is illustrated in something Gen. William Sherman wrote to Gen. Ulysses S. Grant during the Civil War. Early in their careers, the two generals had a quarrelsome relationship; but over time a bond of trust and friendship grew between



them. General Grant had written, giving General Sherman a great deal of credit for his recent promotion to Lieutenant General. General Sherman closed his response letter with "I knew wherever I was that you thought of me, and if I got in a tight place you would come—if alive." I knew if I needed you, and you were alive, you would come.

That's my thought. There's a personal commitment and bond between us who wear the uniform that sometimes exceeds my limited ability to articulate—but I believe it to be real. Although we may occasionally quarrel and quibble, when the chips are down and the situation is its darkest, we will do anything—anything—for those to our left and right. This doesn't show up in retention briefs, or on my annual statement of compensation. Nonetheless, this is probably the primary reason I've worn the uniform 23 years—19 more than I originally expected.

I'd offer another illustration—a guy named Sam. He enlisted at the age of

SEE MILITARY ON PAGE 2



Commander's Action Line

- The Action Line is your direct link to Brig. Gen. Stephen Wilson, 379th Air Expeditionary Wing commander.
- Use it if you have questions or comments about the base that cannot be resolved by your chain of command or base agencies.
- Each question will be reviewed, answered and may be published on a case-by-case basis. E-mail 379aewactionline@auab.afcent.af.mil.

USAFCENT Command Chief visits Bagram Airfield

By Richard Williams
455th Air Expeditionary
Wing Public Affairs

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan -- The 455th Air Expeditionary Wing welcomed the newest U.S. Air Force Central Command Chief for his immersion tour of Afghanistan operations Dec. 28-30.

Command Chief Master Sgt. Mark Villella, who replaced Chief Master Sgt. Scott Dearduff Dec. 9, came to Bagram to gain perspective on the mission and understand how USAFCENT can improve in-theatre operations.

The job of a command chief master sergeant is one of observation, evaluation and understanding the enlisted force and what it takes to accomplish the mission in the most seamless manner possible and ensure the tools are in place to make this happen, said Chief Villella.

Chief Villella said his first impression of the Airmen assigned to USAFCENT is one of amazement.

"The Airmen are awesome with a capital 'A.' It is both officer and enlisted; I have seen great motivation and great work being done by all."

Upon arriving at Bagram, Chief Villella said it was like landing on an ant hill because of the constant movement of personnel and cargo moving in and out of

the area.

"Bagram is a hub for everything that comes in and out of Afghanistan," he said. We are breaking cargo movement records monthly and moving troops in and out seamlessly, and that is a direct reflection of the hard work and dedication of our people."

Communication also plays a vital role in mission success said Chief Villella. "We must have communication to make sure everything moves the way it is supposed to."

Chief Villella's view is that we need to listen from the top of the chain as well as the bottom. "It is important to listen to your Airmen. If the most junior ranking has an idea to streamline or improve a process, we should listen."

The key is not only to listen to Airmen on mission-related issues, but also to get to know the Airmen.

Chief Villella challenged first-level supervisors to lead, follow, inspire and care for Airmen assigned to them.

"It is critical for first-line supervisors to get to know the people who work for them because they are responsible for those individuals on and off duty," he said. "We are in a hostile environment with a loaded weapon, and here is the last place that we need to have issues."

Chief Villella said one of most important things is



U.S. Air Forces Central Command Chief Master Sgt. Mark Villella looks through a spotting scope. Chief Villella toured the work areas of Airmen during his trip to Bagram Airfield, Dec. 30.

for first-line supervisors to allow their Airmen to grow, not just as Airmen but as servicemembers.

"There are a variety of opportunities here to help Airmen learn about their sister services, grow as individuals and to share the Air Force mission with others," he said. "You may volunteer at the hospital to help a comrade-in-arms who needs assistance, and understand what we all go through whether you are inside or outside the wire."

One team, one fight is a concept Chief Villella said he believes in and thinks is imperative to the ongoing mission.

"The bottom line is that I want our Airmen to give a 110 percent effort to the mission and understand that we are all vital links in the chain that gets that mission accomplished," he said. "There are many Airmen that do not get the credit they deserve; the dining facility Airman who feeds the pilot, who flies the mission to protect the Soldiers on the ground, who are comfortable because the civil engineer built them a tent. We all make a difference."

Chief Villella gives one vital piece of advice that was shared with him, "Don't count the days, make the days count!"

MILITARY

FROM PAGE 2

17. He seemed an unlikely warrior—standing 5'9" and weighing 130 pounds. But Sam, a B-17 bomber radio operator and gunner during World War II, defied death four times and kept coming back for more. His crew was assigned a "milk run" for its 25th and final mission—a bombing run over the coast of France—but luck was not with them. As flames closed in around him, Sam ensured all his teammates were clear before he made his way to

the door. By then, centrifugal force trapped him—and he was only thrown free when the plane exploded. Not willing to quit, Sam continued the fight alongside the French for three months until his capture—then repeatedly tried to escape and rejoin his comrades in the fight. I knew if I needed you, and you were alive, you would come.

As we enter a new year here in the Arabian Gulf, I would ask you to reflect on folks like Sam—the folks all around you. These are the best and

brightest America has to offer—there is nothing matching their character, dedication, and loyalty. Don't take them for granted—and don't waste the opportunity. Commit to being there when they need you. Then, as you return to your billet tonight and look down at the Blatchford-Preston Complex, throw a salute Sam's way. Master Sgt. Samuel N. Blatchford—Lakota Sioux warrior and the most decorated Native American in history—will appreciate it.

Perfect people processing: PERSCO welcomes

By Staff Sgt. Kelly White
379th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

Warriors worldwide, to the tune of 600-700 on average each day – from U.S. bases around the globe, Coalition partners, and contractors and civilians who serve alongside them – are, for the most part, completely disinterested in what these folks have to say and down-right annoyed to have to put up with them.

Welcome to the world of a PERSCO troop who works at an undisclosed Southwest Asia location, in the largest of 19 PERSCO units in the AOR.

“People come through here from all around the world, for all kinds of reasons,” said Senior Airman Robert Harms, 379th Expeditionary Personnel Support for Contingency Operations reception control center staff member, deployed from Hanscom Air Force Base, Mass. Most of them are traveling to or from the States, deploying to

or re-deploying from Iraq or Afghanistan, but they also take care of people traveling around the AOR for other reasons, such as emergency leave or R&R, he said.

“Usually, they’ve been traveling for 20 hours or more. They’re tired and grouchy, and the last thing they want to do is process paperwork or listen to briefings,” Airman Harms, a Freemont, Neb., native added. “But before they can do anything else, we must first, and most importantly, make sure we have everyone accounted for, then immigrated into the country and briefed on base policies and host nation laws.”

Yet, being responsible for 100-percent accountability of everybody who comes in and goes out of the AOR, via this part of Southwest Asia, is a job neither he, nor any of his teammates, were taught in technical school or at their home stations.

“To do our jobs here, specialized training is required,” said Senior

Airman Kaitlin Humphrey, PERSCO night shift manning operator, a Newark, Ohio, native deployed from Columbus AFB, Miss. “At home, I make IDs. Here, I do a lot more than that, basically processing requests coming from home stations – mostly different kinds of waivers. It’s more complex, because I have to deal with a lot of information I don’t deal with at my home station.”

Airman Harms said his people-processing job here is also unlike what he does at his home station.

“There, I work in an office setting, doing career development, outbound assignments, and retirements and separations,” he said. “Here, my job gets me outside, talking with a lot of different people.”

Beside processing passengers, there’s a lot of behind-the-scenes work going on.

“As PERSCO, our primary functions are personnel accountability and casualty notification, but our duties are so diverse it would be impossible to list them all,” said Senior Master Sgt. Lisa Casteel, 379th EFSS PERSCO chief. “Some things we take care of, people rarely see, like emergency leaves, AOR travel requests, reenlistments, early return, delayed reporting and replacement requests – we make certain commanders have the people they need to complete their mission.

“As personnel, being one of few career fields with a deployed mission that’s totally different than at home, we don’t often have the opportunity to perform our wartime mission,” she said. “So, we’re breaking new ground every day. It’s an exciting time for all of us.”

For one technical sergeant in the squadron, his most ground-breaking and exciting day in PERSCO is one he said he’ll never forget.

“Among that day’s passengers were 10 emergency leaves, 80 people going on R&R and nine Fallen Warriors,” said Tech. Sgt. Thomas Harden, 379th EFSS PERSCO day shift NCOIC, deployed from Randolph AFB, Texas. “It turned out one of the emergency leave members we were processing was the spouse of one of the Fallen Warriors going home.”

Emergency leave members always take priority, said the sergeant, “but that day, I cared about nothing else but



Staff Sgt. Lindsay Matthews (right), 379th Expeditionary Force Support Squadron reception control center nightshift NCO in-charge, stamps an Airman's order here in Southwest Asia Jan. 4. Sergeant Matthews is deployed from Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska.

omes more than 600 servicemembers daily



U.S. Air Force photos/Senior Airman Kasey Zickmund

Senior Airman Max Martinez, 379th Expeditionary Force Support Squadron personnel support contingency operations customer service technician, gathers out-processing checklists for review. Airman Martinez ensures Airmen meet out-processing requirements so they can return home. Airman Martinez is deployed from Altus Air Force Base, Okla.

getting them out of here and on their way.”

Airman Humphrey said she also does whatever she can to assist in emergencies, and she finds it difficult when she’s in a position where her hands are tied.

One man who was here on emergency leave had missed his shuttle to the aircraft and wanted transportation help getting off base, the Airman said. “I felt helpless, like when you have a sick child and can’t do anything. But, we just couldn’t do what he wanted.”

While not every shift is as intense and demanding on the troops as these, with today’s operations tempo, their breaks are fewer and farther between than ever.

“When we arrived here, the movement of U.S. troops from Iraq to Afghanistan had already begun, so our team had to hit the ground running,” said Sergeant Casteel. “The surge has required this young PERSCO team to assume far greater responsibility than previous teams. I think they’ve proven they’re up to any challenge.”



Senior Airman Jonathan Terpstra, 379th Expeditionary Force Support Squadron reception control center technician, briefs incoming personnel on how to fill out the transient worksheet here at a Southwest Asia location Monday.

3.4 % raise for servicemembers in 2010

BASIC PAY—EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2010

Pay Grade	2 or less	Over 2	Over 3	Over 4	Over 6	Over 8	Over 10	Over 12	Over 14	Over 16	Over 18
O-10 ²											
O-9											
O-8	9399.00	9706.80	9911.10	9968.40	10223.40	10649.10	10748.40	11152.80	11268.60	11617.20	12121.20
O-7	7809.90	8172.90	8340.60	8474.10	8715.60	8954.40	9230.40	9505.50	9781.80	10649.10	11381.40
O-6	5788.50	6359.40	6776.70	6776.70	6802.50	7094.10	7132.50	7132.50	7537.80	8254.80	8675.40
O-5	4825.50	5436.00	5812.50	5883.30	6117.90	6258.60	6567.60	6794.10	7086.90	7535.10	7748.10
O-4	4163.70	4819.80	5141.40	5213.10	5511.60	5831.70	6230.10	6540.60	6756.60	6880.20	6951.90
O-3	3660.60	4149.90	4479.30	4883.40	5117.10	5373.90	5540.10	5813.40	5955.60	5955.60	5955.60
O-2	3162.90	3602.40	4149.00	4289.10	4377.30	4377.30	4377.30	4377.30	4377.30	4377.30	4377.30
O-1	2745.60	2857.50	3454.20	3454.20	3454.20	3454.20	3454.20	3454.20	3454.20	3454.20	3454.20
O-3 ³				4883.40	5117.10	5373.90	5540.10	5813.40	6043.50	6175.80	6355.80
O-2 ³				4289.10	4377.30	4516.80	4752.00	4933.80	5069.10	5069.10	5069.10
O-1 ³				3454.20	3688.80	3825.00	3964.80	4101.60	4289.10	4289.10	4289.10
W-5											
W-4	3783.00	4069.50	4186.50	4301.10	4499.10	4695.00	4893.00	5191.80	5453.40	5702.10	5905.50
W-3	3454.50	3598.50	3746.10	3794.70	3949.50	4254.00	4571.10	4720.20	4892.70	5070.90	5390.40
W-2	3057.00	3346.20	3435.30	3496.50	3694.80	4002.90	4155.30	4305.90	4489.50	4633.20	4763.40
W-1	2683.50	2971.80	3049.80	3213.90	3408.30	3694.20	3827.70	4014.30	4197.90	4342.20	4475.40
E-9 ⁴							4570.80	4674.30	4804.80	4958.40	5112.90
E-8						3741.60	3907.20	4009.50	4132.50	4265.40	4505.40
E-7	2601.00	2838.90	2947.50	3091.80	3204.00	3396.90	3505.50	3699.00	3859.50	3969.00	4085.70
E-6	2249.70	2475.30	2584.50	2690.70	2801.40	3051.00	3148.20	3336.00	3393.60	3435.60	3484.50
E-5	2061.30	2199.30	2305.50	2414.40	2583.90	2761.80	2906.70	2924.70	2924.70	2924.70	2924.70
E-4	1889.70	1986.30	2094.00	2199.90	2293.80	2293.80	2293.80	2293.80	2293.80	2293.80	2293.80
E-3	1705.80	1813.20	1923.00	1923.00	1923.00	1923.00	1923.00	1923.00	1923.00	1923.00	1923.00
E-2	1622.10	1622.10	1622.10	1622.10	1622.10	1622.10	1622.10	1622.10	1622.10	1622.10	1622.10
E-1 ⁵	1447.20										
Pay Grade	Over 20	Over 22	Over 24	Over 26	Over 28	Over 30	Over 32	Over 34	Over 46	Over 38	Over 40
O-10 ¹	15188.10	15262.20	15579.60	16132.50	16132.50	16939.20	16939.20	17785.80	17785.80	18675.30	18675.30
O-9	13283.70	13475.10	13751.40	14233.80	14233.80	14946.00	14946.00	15693.30	15693.30	16477.80	16477.80
O-8	12586.20	12896.70	12896.70	12896.70	12896.70	13219.20	13219.20	13549.80	13549.80	13549.80	13549.80
O-7	11381.40	11381.40	11381.40	11439.30	11439.30	11668.20	11668.20	11668.20	11668.20	11668.20	11668.20
O-6	9095.70	9334.80	9577.20	10047.00	10047.00	10247.70	10247.70	10247.70	10247.70	10247.70	10247.70
O-5	7959.00	8198.40	8198.40	8198.40	8198.40	8198.40	8198.40	8198.40	8198.40	8198.40	8198.40
O-4	6951.90	6951.90	6951.90	6951.90	6951.90	6951.90	6951.90	6951.90	6951.90	6951.90	6951.90
O-3	5955.60	5955.60	5955.60	5955.60	5955.60	5955.60	5955.60	5955.60	5955.60	5955.60	5955.60
O-2	4377.30	4377.30	4377.30	4377.30	4377.30	4377.30	4377.30	4377.30	4377.30	4377.30	4377.30
O-1	3454.20	3454.20	3454.20	3454.20	3454.20	3454.20	3454.20	3454.20	3454.20	3454.20	3454.20
O-3 ³	6355.80	6355.80	6355.80	6355.80	6355.80	6355.80	6355.80	6355.80	6355.80	6355.80	6355.80
O-2 ³	5069.10	5069.10	5069.10	5069.10	5069.10	5069.10	5069.10	5069.10	5069.10	5069.10	5069.10
O-1 ³	4289.10	4289.10	4289.10	4289.10	4289.10	4289.10	4289.10	4289.10	4289.10	4289.10	4289.10
W-5	6726.60	7068.00	7322.10	7603.50	7603.50	7983.90	7983.90	8383.20	8383.20	8802.60	8802.60
W-4	6104.10	6396.00	6635.40	6909.00	6909.00	7047.00	7047.00	7047.00	7047.00	7047.00	7047.00
W-3	5806.70	5736.00	5873.40	6060.00	6060.00	6060.00	6060.00	6060.00	6060.00	6060.00	6060.00
W-2	4918.80	5021.40	5102.70	5102.70	5102.70	5102.70	5102.70	5102.70	5102.70	5102.70	5102.70
W-1	4636.80	4636.80	4636.80	4636.80	4636.80	4636.80	4636.80	4636.80	4636.80	4636.80	4636.80
E-9 ⁴	5361.60	5571.30	5792.40	6129.90	6129.90	6436.20	6436.20	6758.40	6758.40	7096.50	7096.50
E-8	4626.90	4833.90	4948.50	5231.40	5231.40	5336.40	5336.40	5336.40	5336.40	5336.40	5336.40
E-7	4131.30	4282.80	4364.40	4674.60	4674.60	4674.60	4674.60	4674.60	4674.60	4674.60	4674.60
E-6	3484.50	3484.50	3484.50	3484.50	3484.50	3484.50	3484.50	3484.50	3484.50	3484.50	3484.50
E-5	2924.70	2924.70	2924.70	2924.70	2924.70	2924.70	2924.70	2924.70	2924.70	2924.70	2924.70
E-4	2293.80	2293.80	2293.80	2293.80	2293.80	2293.80	2293.80	2293.80	2293.80	2293.80	2293.80
E-3	1923.00	1923.00	1923.00	1923.00	1923.00	1923.00	1923.00	1923.00	1923.00	1923.00	1923.00
E-2	1622.10	1622.10	1622.10	1622.10	1622.10	1622.10	1622.10	1622.10	1622.10	1622.10	1622.10

Notes:

- Basic pay for an O-7 to O-10 is limited by Level II of the Executive Schedule which is \$14,975.10. Basic pay for O-6 and below is limited by Level V of the Executive Schedule which is \$12,141.60.
- While serving as Chairman, Joint Chief of Staff/Vice Chairman, Joint Chief of Staff, Chief of Navy Operations, Commandant of the Marine Corps, Army/Air Force Chief of Staff, Commander of a unified or specified combatant command, basic pay is \$19,983.60. (See note 1 above).
- Applicable to O-1 to O-3 with at least 4 years and 1 day of active duty or more than 1460 points as a warrant and/or enlisted member. See Department of Defense Financial Management Regulations for more detailed explanation on who is eligible for this special basic pay rate.
- For the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy, Chief Master Sergeant of the AF, Sergeant Major of the Army or Marine Corps or Senior Enlisted Advisor of the JCS, basic pay is \$7,386.30. Combat Zone Tax Exclusion for O-1 and above is based on this basic pay rate plus Hostile Fire Pay/Imminent Danger Pay which is \$225.00.
- Applicable to E-1 with 4 months or more of active duty. Basic pay for an E-1 with less than 4 months of active duty is \$1,338.60.
- Basic pay rate for Academy Cadets/Midshipmen and ROTC members/applicants is \$960.90.

Staff Sgt. Jessica Thomas

340th Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron

Commander's Support Staff/Client Support Administrator

Home station: Hill Air Force Base, Utah

Arrived in AOR: October

Deployment goals: To complete the last six credits of my Community College of the Air Force Associate's Degree.

Best part of the deployment: Having the opportunity to fly on a combat air refueling mission directly supporting our troops on the ground.

Hobbies: Hiking, traveling, camping, riding quads, photography, snowboarding, mountain biking and yoga.

Best Air Force memory: Deploying to Afghanistan for seven months last year and working with my sister services at the U.S. Embassy.

Nominated by Lt. Col. Michael B. Frymire: "Sergeant Thomas has proven to be an outstanding non-commissioned officer in her short time as a staff sergeant. She flawlessly manages more than 150 communication systems in addition to personnel issues for more than 200 assigned members. Off-duty she has taken on key leadership roles in the Rising Six."



U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Michelle Larche

Tech. Sgt. Brad Snyder

379th Air Expeditionary Wing

Force Protection Intelligence

Home station: 379th Air Expeditionary Wing, Southwest Asia

Arrived in AOR: April

Assignment goals: Complete my tour successfully, while at the same time, continue to work on my bachelor's degree in Strategic Leadership.

Best part of the deployment: Making new friends and working a different aspect of my career field.

Hobbies: Studying and personal development.

Best memory: During Operation Allied Force, I received critical intel minutes before the jets were to take off on a mission. I halted them while in prep and ran out to provide timely intelligence updates for their mission.

Nominated by Master Sgt. Chenoa Abbott: "Sergeant Snyder is a vital yet silent artery to the 379th AEW mission. He is the Wing's Operation's Security Program monitor, as well as, the Wing's force protection intelligence NCO in-charge. This one-man force is key to keeping all Department of Defense personnel in Southwest Asia safe and well protected from any threat."



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Kasey Zickmand

Staff Sgt. Wayne Fuhrmann

64th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron

Patrolman

Home station: Channel Islands, Calif.

Arrived in AOR: November

Deployment goals: I would like to learn a new language and achieve a 94 on my upcoming Physical Training test.

Best part of the deployment: Training junior security forces members and providing them mentorship in any way I can.

Hobbies: Fishing, surfing, working out and basically anything I can do outdoors.

Best Air Force memory: Being stationed with other security forces members who have civilian law enforcement experience.

Nominated by Master Sgt. Robert Waters: "Sergeant Fuhrmann has demonstrated a superior work ethic and esprit de corps while in Southwest Asia. While performing duties as a police unit, he displays superior devotion with his continuous effort in providing service to Eskan Village personnel. His 'upbeat' and 'can do' attitude demonstrates superb leadership skills, which are recognized and duplicated by all security forces members. He continuously strives to share his vast knowledge of the Security Forces career field and the local regulations with the junior SF members."



U.S. Air Force photo/Courtesy photo



U.S. Air Force photo

Above: A C-17 Globemaster flight crew arrives ready to board their aircraft here at a Southwest Asia location Tuesday. The C-17 is capable of rapid strategic delivery of troops and all types of cargo to main operating bases or directly to forward bases in the deployment area. The 379th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron transports flight crews to their aircraft.

Right: Senior Airman Lauren Johnson, 379th Expeditionary Communications Squadron network control center technician, maintains the base computer server for more than 10,000 users in Southwest Asia Monday. Airman Johnson is deployed from Randolph Air Force Base, Texas.



U.S. Air Force photo



Photo/Senior Airman Kasey Zickmund



Photo/Senior Airman Kasey Zickmund



Airman First Class Justin Morgan, 8th Expeditionary Air Mobility Squadron, air transportation specialist, positions baggage to be palletized for a rotater flight returning stateside, at an undisclosed location Southwest Asia, Jan 3.

U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Michelle Larche



U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Michelle Larche

Maj. Ernest Mata, 379 Expeditionary Force Support Squadron deputy commander, conducts a town hall meeting to discuss doubling up E-5's and E6's in the Blatchford Preston Complex dormitories beginning Tuesday, at an undisclosed location in Southwest Asia, Monday. The project is in response to the growing number of servicemembers deployed and permanently stationed at the Southwest Asia location.

Officials encourage Guard, Reserve honor employers

By Master Sgt. Mike Smith
National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Va. (AFNS) -- Providing pay and benefits during deployments, sending care packages to deployed employees, allowing time off, and celebrating military service with send-off and homecoming ceremonies are just a few commitments the Guard and Reserve's top employers are honored for each year.

Officials here are asking Guard and Reserve servicemembers to speak out and honor their patriotic employers.

With ongoing global operations, support from employers for Guard and Reserve service is more critical now than ever, said Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve officials.

The ESGR's mission is to gain and maintain employer support for Guard and Reserve service by recognizing outstanding support. It also increases awareness of the laws



Guardsmen and Reservists: Nominate your employer for the 2010 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award. The 2010 nomination season has commenced and will close Jan. 18.

governing Guard and Reserve service and resolves potential employer-servicemember conflicts through mediation.

Guard and Reserve leaders continually stress how critical the support of families, communities and employers are to the defense of the nation.

"If you added up all of your family members and all the employers you touch, we

have over a million people that directly know what we do with the National Guard of the United States," said Gen. Craig R. McKinley, the chief of the National Guard Bureau.

Guard and Reserve servicemembers can nominate their employers for the Patriot Award at <http://www.esgr.org> and the Secretary of

Defense Employer Support Freedom Award at <http://www.freedomaward.mil>.

The Patriot Award recognizes all employers with a certificate and an accompanying lapel pin. Nominees are considered for other awards and recognition based on their level of support.

The Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award is the highest in a series of employer recognition awards given by the Defense Department. The deadline for nominations is Jan. 18.

Officials said the award was created to publicly recognize employers that provide exceptional support to their National Guard and Reserve employees.

More than 3,200 nominations for awards were submitted to ESGR this year.

Members of the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing may contact the Air Reserve Component advisor at 318-436-4009 for more information on the ESGR.

BPC, 379th EFSS prepare for influx of sergeants

By Senior Airman Spencer Gallien
379th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

The plan to move E-5s and E-6s out of Coalition Compound and into Blatchford-Preston Complex was shared with affected dorm members Monday, during the 379th Expeditionary Force Support Squadron's first of seven town hall meetings in BPC dormitory A-8.

The upcoming project is in response to the growing number of servicemembers deployed and permanently stationed at this Southwest Asia location. Dormitory A-8 will be the first dorm slotted for E-5s and E-6s to begin doubling up in rooms. Selected rooms in each dorm are best suited to house multiple personnel and will only house E-5s and E-6s.

Eventually, all but two of the dorms will have designated areas for E-5s and E-6s to move into. The process will begin here in A-8, as it has the largest number of E-5s and E-6s in residence. The Process will be evaluated afterwards to

ensure the move is as smooth a transition as possible, said Maj. Ernie Mata, 379th EFSS deputy commander, as he addressed the crowd of dorm-residents.

Currently, there are about 525 people on the waiting list to move into BPC, and this fix should help those on the list move out of CC quicker.

The 379th EFSS has 60 rooms designated for mid-level, non-commissioned officers in each dorm affected. The remaining rooms will be housed with E-7s and above.

The move will take place in four phases. Phase one involves moving the first wave of E-5s and E-6s into already occupied rooms. The second phase includes relocating any senior NCOs or officers from rooms to be converted into double rooms. The third phase will involve moving remaining E-5s and E-6s into the newly converted rooms. The final phase will move those E-5s and E-6s on the waiting list from CC into BPC.

The first phase will take place Monday and Tuesday, however, the 379th EFSS began renovations in the selected areas Jan. 5.



U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Michelle Larche

Airmen currently on the BPC waiting list may opt to stay in their CC dorm by contacting the lodging office.

"I ask that everyone remain patient during this transition," said Major Mata. "This is the right thing to do to improve the quality of life for our Airmen, and more importantly, to meet the growing mission in Southwest Asia, within our existing footprint. We thank you for your cooperation."

For more information about dormitory changes, call the BPC lodging manager at 437-0025.

December's non-judicial punishments

Editors Note: This list does not include actions from the month still under investigation or those disposed of through LORs, UIFs, etc.

- An active-duty captain from the 7th Expeditionary Air Command and Control Squadron received an Article 15 for breaking a no-contact order, visiting the sleeping quarters of a member of the opposite gender, and fraternization. This NJP action resulted in restriction for 60 days, forfeiture of \$2,879 pay per month for two months and a reprimand.
- A reservist captain from 609th Air Operations Center received an Article 15 for possessing alcohol in an unauthorized location-his quarters, and allowing a member of the opposite gender to visit his sleeping quarters.

This NJP action resulted in forfeiture of \$973 pay per month for two months and a reprimand.

- An active-duty senior airman from 609 AOC received an Article 15 for making a false official statement to a security forces investigator. This NJP action resulted in a suspended reduction to the grade of airman 1st class, suspended forfeiture of \$250 pay per month for two months and a reprimand.
- A Guardsman senior master sergeant from 746 Expeditionary Airlift Squadron received an Article 15 for having an unprofessional relationship with his subordinate's wife. This NJP action resulted in restriction for 60 days, forfeiture of \$2,178 pay per month for two months and a reprimand.

- An active-duty senior airman from 379 Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron received an Article 15 for entering the sleeping quarters of a member of the opposite gender. This NJP action resulted in suspended reduction to the grade of airman 1st class, forfeiture of \$600 pay per month for two months and a reprimand.

- A reservist captain from 379th Expeditionary Maintenance Operations Squadron received an Article 15 for having an unprofessional relationship with an enlisted member and signing a false official statement when she led investigators to believe otherwise. This NJP action resulted in restriction for 60 days, forfeiture of \$2,361 pay per month for two months and a reprimand.

This Week's Caption Contest

Photo No. 157

The winner is...

"Mom was right, they do get stuck like this."

- anonymous submission



Photo No. 158 (next week's photo)

Do you have what it takes to make the base chuckle? Submit your made-up caption for the photo below to **379AEW.PA@auab.afcent.af.mil** by Wednesday. If your caption is the best (or second best), it will appear in the following week's paper.

Can't come up with a caption but have a funnier photo than we've been using? Submit it to **379AEW.PA@auab.afcent.af.mil** and we may use it.



Chaplain (Capt.) Kenneth Moore offers a prayer during a communion service at an undisclosed location in Southwest Asia, Jan. 3. Chaplain Moore and the Transit Ministry Team are responsible for providing guidance and assistance to units located at the passenger terminal and personnel support for contingency operations unit, as well as anyone traveling throughout Southwest Asia.

Chaplains to the rescue

**By Senior Airman Spencer Gallien
379th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs**

On average, the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing, along with its counterparts at the 8th Expeditionary Air Mobility Command, help about 1,000 servicemembers in Southwest Asia a day.

For Chaplain (Capt.) Kenneth “Chappie” Moore, 379th AEW Transit Ministry chaplain, those 1,000 people a day, making their way around the area of responsibility, bring unique issues and challenges the Transit Ministry team face daily.

The 379th AEW Transit Ministry team provides intentional ministry of presence, crisis intervention, counseling, hospitality, guidance and assistance to units located within the passenger terminal, as well as anyone travelling through the area.

Serving on the team requires great flexibility and strong counseling skills, said Chaplain Moore. Chaplain (Maj.) Herbert Coker, the senior chaplain, has extensive training and certification in traumatic brain injury and family

counseling. Both Chaplains have completed residences in Clinical Pastoral Education, which places the chaplain in a hospital setting as an intern under the direction of certified chaplain in this specialized ministry.

The chaplain is one part of a team of health care, social, psychological and spiritual providers who join together and meet the needs of the patient holistically, mind, body and spirit.

“Our ministry is three-fold; we have a continuous ministry presence, minister to the wounded spirit and provide comfort to the weary,” said Chaplain Moore. “Being embedded here allows us to better accomplish that mantra.”

Although every day here is fulfilling for the team, they’ve faced some harrowing experiences throughout their time at the ministry, he added. Among some of the most difficult are Fallen Warrior ceremonies and emergency leave situations.

“However difficult it may be to attend, I also take the most pride in the Fallen Warrior ceremonies,” Chaplain

Moore explained. “It’s important for us to render those, who have made the ultimate sacrifice, the utmost respect and provide our fallen the proper send-off.”

Many nights, he said, he has found himself in tears thinking about the things servicemembers encounter. However, not every day is filled with those difficult, draining events.

“Being embedded with all these folks here, we are given a unique opportunity to really get to know people,” Chaplain Moore said.

The team is given the opportunity to meet with Airmen on a daily basis, an interaction many chaplains aren’t afforded.

Through interaction, the team is able to gain insight into the, “pulse of the people working at PERSCO, the Expeditionary Theater Distribution Center and other areas located at the terminal, through visitation,” said Master Sgt. Robert Hill Jr., 379th AEW Transit Ministry chaplain assistant.

Airmen 1st Class Seth Hamilton and Roger Ruiz, and Staff Sgt. Wil-

liam Butler, 8th EAMC aerial transporters, all echoed the same sentiment on the Transit Ministry.

The team is a huge morale booster, said Airman Ruiz. “‘Chappie’ brings a lot to the shop—he always finds a way to make us smile, even on the rough days.

“Just today, they came in and gave us a pep talk about moving on from the difficult tasks,” he added. “They told us ‘today is today, yesterday was yesterday and tomorrow will be tomorrow.’ It’s those small things that really make the difference.”

Although Chaplain Moore does a lot for the Transit Ministry, he is not alone, he is one part of a dynamic trio; made whole with Major Coker and Sergeant Hill completing the team.

“We are a team out here,” said Chaplain Moore. “We want everyone to know that chaplains and chaplain assistants are not people to be feared, but an entity you can go to, to get your thoughts out and not be judged. We want to know you—not a front you’d like us to see.

“Our whole team has a deep passion for the ministry and for the folks who come through this terminal,” he added. “It’s about relationships, availability and humility.”



Chaplain (Maj.) Herbert E. Coker, Transit Ministry chaplain, visits with Army Staff Sgt. Claudel Goby and 1st Lt. Selina Green at an undisclosed Southwest Asia location Thursday, before they depart on their final flight to their destination of Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. The 379th Air Expeditionary Wing Transit Ministry Team provides intentional ministry of presence, crisis intervention, counseling, hospitality, guidance and assistance to units located within the passenger terminal, as well as anyone travelling through the area.



Chaplain (Maj.) Herbert E. Coker, Transit Ministry chaplain, discusses the days agenda with Staff Sgt. Sara Eldridge and Master Sgt. Rober H. Hill, chaplain assistants, at an undisclosed Southwest Asia location, Thursday. The Transit Ministry Team meets with Airmen at the passenger terminal on a daily basis.

In the Chapel

VICTORY CHAPEL

Open seven days a week,
24 hours a day,
'And overtime on Sundays'

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Protestant

Saturday

7:30 p.m., Contemporary, Chapel

Sunday

9:45 a.m., General Protestant,
CAOC 1st Floor conference room

9:45 a.m., Contemporary, Chapel

11:30 a.m., Traditional Service,
Chapel

Noon, Church of Christ,
BPC Fellowship

1:30 p.m., LDS Service, Chapel

4 p.m., Liturgical, Chapel

7 p.m., Church of Christ,
Multi-purpose room

7:30 p.m., Gospel, Chapel

Roman Catholic Mass

6 p.m., Monday-Friday

Blessed Sacrament Chapel

Saturday Mass

6 p.m., Mass, BPC Mall area

Sunday Masses

8 a.m., Mass, Victory Chapel

11 a.m., Mass, CAOC 1st floor
conference room

6 p.m., Mass, Victory Chapel

Earth Religions

Wednesday

2 p.m., CC Ministry Center

Jewish

Friday

9 p.m., Multi-purpose room

Muslim

Buddhist

Orthodox

See Chapel staff or call 437-8811 for
more information.

Endings and new beginnings

By Chaplain (Capt.) Heather Bodwell
379th Air Expeditionary Wing Chapel

Webster's Dictionary defines the word "transition" as a passage from one state, place, stage or subject to another.

January is a time of transition. Many of us are preparing to return home from our deployments, many are arriving on station, and we have begun a new year.

During this time of transition, especially for those of us deploying or redeploying, we need some useful tools to help us move from one place to another.

The initial tools applied in a transition should be patience, flexibility and forgiveness. These tools are often in short supply at times of transition, but we need to find within ourselves the ability to practice them for our own health and well-being and the well-being of others. We often get caught up in the moment and lose sight of the mission and the important things in life.

Transition is also an opportunity for reflection on things we have accomplished and things not yet accomplished. We need to be our own, and each other's, biggest fans and celebrate the moments when we have done a good job. We usually jump into "what is wrong and how do we fix it" mode and forget to pause for a moment to rejoice when things go right.

The next step is a struggle, because in our society, we are trained from an early age that mistakes are bad or wrong. We do not want to admit to them but rather blame anyone else or deny any involvement.

I once had someone remind me that mistakes give us the opportunity to grow and learn, and I do have to admit, some mistakes are more painful and bitter to process and accept than others. The ability to learn from our mistakes, rather than dwell upon the "should've,

would've and could've" helps us from getting stuck in mistakes. We cannot change the past, but we can learn from it.

The base leadership has spoken, when we arrive and depart, about leaving our Southwest Asia location a better place than when we arrived. Their statement is simple, and yet the message has great impact, not just for us as individuals, but for our brothers and sisters in the armed forces who follow in our footsteps.

The statement challenges us to "be and do" better than we think or imagine we can. It's during times when things seem most difficult, and we believe

there is no way we could achieve something, that with persistence, we find we can.

I recall Officer Training School, where much was asked of us, yet I found out nothing was truly impossible. Training creates in us the ability to center ourselves in life's storms, finding control in chaos.

Another important

piece of life's puzzle is that

God asks us to leave the world a better place than when we arrived. God has challenged us to "be and do" better than we think or imagine possible. These are not easy challenges to face, but we are reminded that we are not alone; we have God and one another to help us in the responsibilities placed before us.

I have a sign in my office illustrating this point, it reads, "Faith makes all things possible, not easy."

A new day or year's challenge, for those returning home, is how you can inspire loved ones and others to leave the world a better place than when they found it. For the men and women arriving in Southwest Asia, the challenge is for you to do the same from thousands of miles away. It is not impossible. With effort, energy and love on our part, we can change the world.



Follow the happenings of the 'Grand Slam' Wing at <http://379aew.dodlive.mil>, on Facebook at '379th Air Expeditionary Wing' and on Twitter @379AEW

CAOC Shuttle Bus

Attention users of the Red and Blue Line Shuttle Buses: effective immediately, the shuttle bus pick-up and drop-off location for the CAOC will be at the bus stop in the CAOC parking area. Please exercise caution when traversing the area. For more information, e-mail Shuttle Bus Feedback.

Right Start, Right Finish - Plan Early

Any servicemember scheduled to depart in the next two months must plan early in order to avoid missing the mandatory Right Start and Right Finish briefings. Due to upcoming rotations, supplemental Right Start and Right Finish briefings have been added to the schedule for Tuesday, Saturday, Jan. 12, 15, 19, 22, 26, and 29 at the CC Theater. Right Start begins promptly at 6:45 a.m. and Right Finish begins at 5 p.m.

379 ELRS Arming Requirements

The following items must be presented to the 379th Expeditionary Logistics and Readiness Squadron Armory to be issued a firearm and ammunition: A current AF Form 522 Weapon Qualification Card, DD Form 2760 Qualification to possess firearm or ammo, a copy of CED orders and an authorization letter to bear firearms signed by an authorizing official. For more information, contact the Armory at 437-5125 or 437-6082.

U.S. Currency in AOR reduced

The Air Force Central Command commander recently signed a memo reducing U.S. currency in the AFCENT area of responsibility. To ensure compliance, check cashing limits with the 379th Expeditionary Comptroller Squadron are reduced to \$100 per month. In addition, Airmen may receive up to \$100 in U.S. currency per month as a debit from their EagleCash card. These actions reduce fraud and risk to servicemembers. If you have any questions, contact Finance at 437-7086.

Alcoholics Anonymous

Alcoholics Anonymous meets Mondays at 6:30 p.m., Bldg. 10006, in Coalition Compound. For more information, contact the Victory Chapel at 437-8811.

Fire Extinguisher Tags

The 379 ECES Fire Prevention Office has received a new shipment of fire extinguisher tags and has them available for issue. Stop by the Fire Prevention Office

at Fire Station 3 Bldg. 10130 in the BPC next to the hospital, or call 437-8771 or 437-5505 for any questions. As a reminder, please ensure fire extinguishers are being inspected monthly as required by AUABI 32-2001, AFOSH Standard 91-501, and NFPA 10.

Uniform Disposal

The proper disposal of military uniforms is a force protection issue. The 379th ELRS transit shipping point has established an unserviceable uniform disposal program. Four locations are available to drop off uniform outer garments; however, boots, PT gear or civilian clothing is not permitted. Uniforms can be taken directly to the TSP, Building 3718, near the wash rack. They can also be dropped off at collection boxes located by Jack's Place, the Coffee Beanery in CC complex and outside of the BPC BX. For questions, contact TSP at 437-2352.

Off-Base Travel Reminder

In accordance with AUABI 10-6008, personnel may wear the duty uniform off-base when conducting official business. However, when traveling in uniform, uniform blouses must be removed upon departure from installation, and replaced upon arrival at destination; flight suits should be unzipped and folded at the waist upon departure and zipped upon arrival at destination; only the T-shirt should be visible. For more information, contact 379th Air Expeditionary Wing Force Protection at 436-0198.

Professional Development Courses

Professional Development courses are held every Wednesday and Friday at 8 a.m. and 7 p.m. at the Airmen Readiness Center. These classes are taught by senior enlisted leaders in an effort to provide personal and professional growth opportunities for deployed members. Pay grades of E-1 through O-3 are welcome to attend. For more information, to suggest a topic, or to volunteer to teach, call Master Sgt. Mandy Midgett at 436-4184.

FreeThought Association

The Southwest Asia FreeThought Association is a private organization comprised of atheists, agnostics, secular humanists, freethinkers and other non-religious individuals. Meetings are held weekly. For times, locations or more information, e-mail Tech Sgt. Richard Hamelin or call 437-5111.

Running Rules

Running on Enduring Freedom Road in Coalition Compound is prohibited. Runners and walkers should use the sidewalk along the trailers. Also, headphones or earbuds are not authorized while running or walking on base roads. Always run against traffic, in single file. Runners must yield to vehicles at all times.

Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Marcus Smith, center, pushes forward to the hoop while Air Force Staff. Sgt. Jammieon Collins, point guard, and Staff. Sgt. Adam Leonard, power forward, attempt to block the shot during a 5-on-5 intramural basketball game at an undisclosed Southwest Asia location, Thursday. The 379th Expeditionary Force Support Squadron-sponsored tournament took place Wednesday to Saturday. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Michelle Larche)

