

# DESERT EAGLE

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Airlift plays vital role  
in AOR

# DESERT EAGLE

Volume 10, Issue 3

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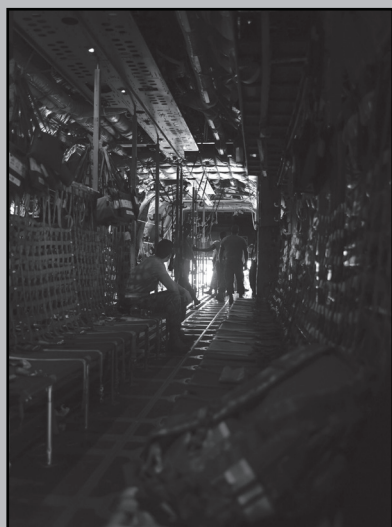
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All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.

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.



Airmen from the 746th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron prepare a C-130J Hercules for a medical evacuation mission at a non-disclosed Southwest Asia location Jan. 9. The C-130J can be rapidly reconfigured to accomplish various other missions.

## A good idea can change the world

By Maj. Ryan Baber  
71st Expeditionary Air Control  
Squadron

Throughout history, good ideas have helped us progress in all facets of life. However, good ideas are not always readily apparent.

In 1955, after seven years of research, Dr. Jonas Salk announced to the world that he had invented a vaccine preventing the spread of polio.

Polio was rampant throughout the world; President Franklin Roosevelt contracted the virus at age 39 and was confined to a wheelchair for the rest of his life. Many were not so lucky. The virus killed approximately 28 percent of those infected; amongst the survivors, many were horribly disabled or paralyzed.

Dr. Salk invented a formaldehyde-based "killed virus" vaccine with the potential to eliminate the worldwide polio epidemic.

While he had the drive and education to effectively combat the virus, he did not have support from the medical research community. Dr. Salk had previous successes in isolating flu viruses and developing vaccines, however, three separate virology institutions rejected him to lead vaccine research. Even after securing a position at the University of Pittsburgh, his innovative polio vaccine was met with disbelief.

Knowing the vaccine worked, Dr. Salk injected himself and several other volunteers with the experimental vaccine, proving it would prevent the horrible disease. After a successful 6-month trial period, he presented his

proven vaccine to the U.S. government for distribution. After an additional 2.5 years of administrative testing, the vaccine was distributed; ending the spread of polio in the U.S. Dr. Salk refused to patent the vaccine or profit from its sale, and he insisted the credit belonged to everyone who provided support for his research.

The best ideas are often the least obvious. They take time to cultivate, research, and implement. However, almost every person assigned to Southwest Asia has an idea, or the beginnings of an idea, that may make equipment last longer, improve combat capability or the quality of life here in the deployed environment.

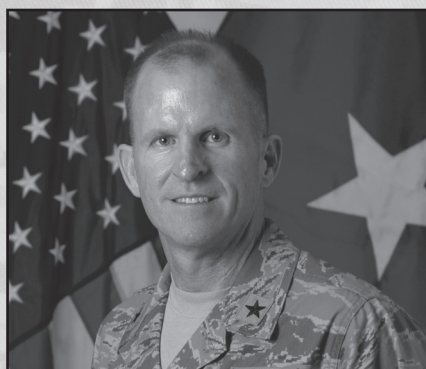
The 379th Air Expeditionary Wing leadership has always been receptive to good ideas and has ensured potential "roadblocks" are eliminated or minimized in the pursuit of leaner, faster operational capability. Good ideas enable operations, and we, as leaders and followers, must encourage each other to improve their processes.

Airmen should feel free to approach their chain of command with an idea to improve their workspace.

While their idea may not fit into daily operations, suggesting improvements shows they want to make their squadron or work-center a better place. Leaders must encourage ingenuity, and support new and different ideas.

Don't fall into the trap of, "we've always done it this way." Sometimes you will find that there may be no added benefit from continuing operations as normal.

**SEE IDEA ON PAGE 3**



## 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](mailto:379aewactionline@auab.afcent.af.mil).

# Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day: Remember! Celebrate! Act! A day on, not a day off!

By Master Sgt. Grayland Hilt  
379th Air Expeditionary Wing Equal  
Opportunity Office

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was born Jan. 15, 1929. He was a civil rights leader, minister and recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize. Every year we pause on the third Monday in January to honor his life, his accomplishments and his legacy.

The celebration of MLK Day is not merely a black holiday. It is a people's holiday because every race, religion and color is part of the great dream he had for America.

Even though he himself was a victim of violence, Dr. King continued to eloquently preach the values of equality, non-violence and interracial cooperation throughout his life. As a visionary, he dreamt of a vibrant, multi-racial nation united in justice, peace and reconciliation. His dream inspired leaders everywhere to strive to make this a reality.

Today, thanks to his work, discrimination has been outlawed. More women and people of color are visible in politics, the media and in corporate boardrooms across the nation than ever before. Their inclusion in such areas was minimal before Dr. King's influence.

Dr. King once said we all have to decide whether we will "walk in the light of creative altruism or the darkness of destructive selfishness." He believed life's most persistent question to be, "what are you doing for others?"

In his final sermon, he prophetically said that upon his death he would like somebody to mention that, "Martin Luther King, Jr., tried to give his life serving others. I want you to say on that day, that I did try in my life...to love and serve humanity."

As we reflect on Dr. King's words this Jan. 18, and all that he



**Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was born Jan. 15, 1929. He was a civil rights leader, minister and recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize. Every year we pause on the third Monday in January to honor his life, his accomplishments and his legacy.**

accomplished, let us remember his sacrifices, his courage, his love for humanity and his leadership. Let us all ask ourselves that persistent question, "What am I doing for others?" Then, let us take action.

In this manner, his effect on America will continue through future generations.

Below is the citation of the posthumous award of the Presidential Medal of Freedom to Dr. King, July 4, 1977:

*"Martin Luther King, Jr., was the conscience of his generation. A southerner, a black man, he gazed on the great wall of segregation and saw that the power of love could bring it down.*

*From the pain and exhaustion of his fight to free all people from the bondage of separation and injustice, he wrung his eloquent statement of his dream of what America could be.*

*He helped us overcome our ignorance of one another. He spoke out against a war he felt was unjust, as he had spoken out against laws that were unfair.*

*He made our nation stronger because he made it better. Honored by kings, he continued to his last days to strive for a world where the poorest and humblest amongst us could enjoy the fulfillment of the promises of our founding fathers.*

*His life informed us, his dreams sustain us yet."*

## IDEA

### FROM PAGE 2

Good ideas can be sped into implementation if they are carefully tempered with an eye to regulations, directives, command guidance

and safety. But don't hold up innovation because of concerns about implementing changes; brief changes, evaluate their execution, and adjust the concept or idea as needed.

Resistance to change may have devastating consequences, both in the short and long term.

Certainly, many individuals were saved from the ravages of polio by the

Salk vaccine. However, many still contracted the disease while awaiting the vaccine's final approval.

A good idea can change the world, but only if it's given a chance.



**Staff Sgt. Garrett Hamilton, 746th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron loadmaster, unloads palletized equipment from a C-130 Hercules aircraft at a non-disclosed Southwest Asia location Jan. 9. The C-130 can be reconfigured for the various types of cargo such as palletized equipment, floor-loaded material, air-drop platforms, container delivery system bundles, vehicles and personnel or aeromedical evacuation.**

## 746th EAS soars into record books

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

With more than 1,300 sorties flown, around 13.2 million pounds of cargo delivered, more than 500 medical evacuees escorted and roughly 23,000 passengers transported across the AOR, the 746th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron executed more than 2,700 flight hours and has set a new benchmark for future airlift squadrons stationed in Southwest Asia.

Lt. Col. Don Buckley, squadron commander, said that during the unit's time with the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing, it has maintained a 99.7 percent mission success rate.

"A lot of factors went into our success here," said Colonel Buckley, a C-130J Hercules pilot. "The superior Airmanship, professionalism and sense of duty of our squadron members was paramount to our success."

At home station, the Reserve unit is known as the 815th Airlift Squadron "Flying Jennies." The unit travelled, as a team, from the 403rd Wing at their

home-station, Keesler Air Force Base, Miss.

The "Flying Jennies" have supported operations since World War II, when their mission was transporting redeploying servicemembers in B-17 Flying Fortresses.

"It's incredibly difficult to achieve a 99.7 percent success rate with air-drops," said Capt. Elissa Granderson, a 746th EAS pilot. "So many things can go wrong during an airdrop, including weather, the drop zone being under fire or even losing cargo during transfer."

The group of reservist maintainers, pilots, planners and loadmasters also achieved another milestone. According to the Combined Air and Space Operation Center's Air Mobility Division records, the unit, along with the 816th EAS, set an AOR record by distributing more than 800 Container Delivery System bundles across Afghanistan during a one-week period.

"The CDS bundles we dropped contained everything from water and food to help sustain our fighting forces on the ground, to munitions and fuel to keep the mission moving," said Captain

Granderson. "We take a lot of pride in providing ground troops these types of force-enabling bundles. Sometimes they may be cut off from supply routes, or unable to get water by conventional means, and our resupply efforts are what is fueling their survival."

By airdropping supplies to ground forces, the unit also keeps vehicle convoys off the road, said Col. David Been, 379th Expeditionary Operations Group commander. "Through resupply airdrops, we avoid the single greatest risk in the AOR—Improvised Explosive Devices, and through that, save lives."

The 746th Airlift Squadron also conducts mercy missions, through the pick-up and transfer of medical patients to larger medical facilities throughout the AOR.

The C-130 crews worked in conjunction with the 379th Expeditionary Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron's medical teams to provide safe transport for servicemembers injured while supporting Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom, or efforts in the Horn of Africa.

“They provided MEDEVAC for everything from routine medical patients to serious battle injuries,” said Colonel Been. “With the C-130s flying medical evacuation, we quickly transport patients from small field hospitals to larger theater hospitals in the AOR.”

The squadron also supports the dignified transfer of Fallen Warriors. A job not relished, although equally important to any mission they’ve supported, said Captain Granderson.

“Supporting our Fallen Warriors is an incredibly important job,” she added. “However difficult it may be, we provide our heroes the proper respect, as they’re sent home.”

Throughout all of the missions the “Flying Jennies” have supported during their time in Southwest Asia, they have performed superbly, said Colonel Been.

“They’re a testament to Air Force successes that come from a total force of active-duty, Guard and Reserve,” he added. “Their reliability, experience and professionalism are phenomenal. I was given the opportunity to go out on a few missions with the ‘Jennies,’ and I was thoroughly impressed by their commitment and expertise.”



**Airmen from the 746th EAS prepare and equip a C-130J Hercules for a medical evacuation mission at a non-disclosed Southwest Asia location Jan. 9.**



**Staff Sgt. Garrett Hamilton, 746th EAS loadmaster, unloads palletized equipment from a C-130 Hercules aircraft at a non-disclosed Southwest Asia location Jan. 9. The squadron completed 99.7 percent of their airdrops successfully while supporting Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom, as well as missions to the Horn of Africa.**

# The business of 'buzz'

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

They're a "working party," so to speak, in that this four-person team labors round the clock to offer stress-busting, good times to everyone assigned to, or transiting through, the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing.

A writer, art director, graphic designer and photographer – all of whom take upon themselves one another's role to meet the dynamic demands of their mission – form the squad in charge of marketing every program the 379th Expeditionary Force Support Squadron and its facility managers can dream up.

"We're the mouthpiece for EFSS," said Bill Scherer, 379th EFSS marketing manager and retired Air Force broadcaster, "but our mission is more than just putting information out there; we have to make people understand the 'what's in it for me?' aspect of every activity we put information out about."

To demonstrate the



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

**Pahnnie Tremblay, 379th Expeditionary Force Support Squadron marketing editor and art director, posts "The Weekly" to inform servicemembers on upcoming events at a non-disclosed Southwest Asia location Thursday. The marketing office is responsible for events, "In The Know" and "The Weekly" publications.**

"WIIFM" to the masses here, each member of the team plays a vital role— with guidance from the facility manager initiating the activity and their chain of approval liaison, Master Sgt. Jessica Epps, 379th EFSS marketing military manager.

"A lot goes into doing the job right, and we use the monthly *In the Know*

as our day-to-day guide to getting each individual activity fully marketed at the right time," said Pahnnie Tremblay, 379th EFSS Marketing staff art director and publication editor.

Mr. Scherer gets to work writing blurbs and editorials on things happening in the coming month. Parker Patterson, 379th EFSS Marketing staff designer, does graphic design for anything and everything – from announcements to major events, and Patrick Lucero, 379th EFSS marketing staff photographer, captures imagery during events as they take place.

"Every upcoming activity, we put information together that touches all sorts of media outlets around the base," Ms. Tremblay said.

Their distribution venues include base television Channel 1, their Knowledge Wall Internet site, their weekly and monthly print publications, leaflets placed in high-traffic areas around the base and daily write-ups included in the Daily Dispatch. They also talk about the week's activities

at Right Start briefings, so things are fresh in people's minds from the time they arrive here, she said.

"It's a lot to keep track of, especially when something changes – and then changes again, and maybe again. We need to be sure every change is accurately reflected on every product," Mr. Scherer added.

The craziest times the staff members go through occur when they get, what Ms. Tremblay refers to as, a "blast."

A blast happens when a major event is going to happen that needs full marketing within a day or two, she said. "It's an all-encompassing communication plan that we need to create a 'buzz' about – to get everyone talking about it and spreading the word."

And just because an event is over, doesn't mean the marketing team isn't still working to take care of all of those they promoted it to.

"I get calls daily from folks wanting copies of the images I took of their event,

**SEE BUZZ ON PAGE 11**



**William Scherer (far left), 379th Expeditionary Force Support Squadron marketing director/writer, shoots a video during the New Year Eve's Bash at a non-disclosed Southwest Asia location.**

## Senior Airman Brenton Almeida

379th Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron

Current Operations Flight wing scheduler

**Home station:** Eglin Air Force Base, Fla.

**Arrived in AOR:** September

**Deployment goals:** To read some history books, get in shape, save money and complete my 7-level career development course

**Best part of the deployment:** The best part of my deployment is being able to see inside many of the different aircraft we have on base during the flightline fest.

**Hobbies:** I enjoy going to the beach, watching movies, learning about history and playing cards.

**Best Air Force memory:** The day that most sticks out to me is when my team and I graduated from honor guard training at Eglin. The training was challenging, and being able to graduate with my team members was a great, rewarding experience.

*Nominated by Lt. Col. Greg Haebele: "We nominated Airman Almeida because he has been selected twice as squadron Airman of the month and is an active member of the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing Honor Guard. He works in the Current Operations Flight and is one of our unsung heroes working nights."*



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

## Staff Sgt. Ronald Jones

379th Expeditionary Mission Support Group

Knowledge Operation manager

**Home station:** Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

**Arrived in AOR:** November

**Assignment goals:** I would like to finish my Community College of the Air Force Associate's Degree and lose 20 pounds.

**Best part of the deployment:** Taking time to improve myself.

**Hobbies:** I enjoy football and softball.

**Best memory:** Being able to reenlist again and make technical sergeant while my father is still with me. He's my best friend and has been a living testimony to the warrior ethos. He has outlived all his doctor's prognosis of only having six months to live by almost three years. He's a true warrior and I look up to him for motivation and inspiration.

*Nominated by Capt. Carrie Wentzel: "Sergeant Jones is a hard-charging, high-energy non-commissioned officer and hit the ground running when he arrived here. He takes his responsibilities seriously and truly cares about doing the job right. He has made huge strides in improving procedures and processes in the 379th EMSG front office, greatly enhancing the productivity of the group."*



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

## Airman 1st Class Cassandra Kelley

8th Expeditionary Air Mobility Squadron

cargo processing specialist

**Home station:** Aviano Air Base, Italy.

**Arrived in AOR:** July

**Deployment goals:** I would like to improve my job skills to better myself for the rest of my career. I would also like to continue my education.

**Best part of the deployment:** The best part of the deployment was being able to see a new culture and experience it first-hand. Also, I have made some life-long friends on this deployment

**Hobbies:** I enjoy to read in my spare time, travel, play bingo, watch movies, draw and paint.

**Best Air Force memory:** When I got my orders to Italy and stepped off the plane for the first time in a new, beautiful country I thought I would never get a chance to see.

*Nominated by Tech. Sgt. Charles Thomson: "Since arriving here, Airman Kelley has proven to be one of the hardest working Airmen within cargo processing. She single-handedly in-checked, palletized and processed a missile guidance system and sent it to a forward operating base in Afghanistan. Her actions and attention to detail are crucial to the flow of cargo operation and airlift mission success"*



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



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

**ABOVE:** Airman 1st Class Jody Harding and Staff Sgt. Don Frazier, 379 Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron/Aircraft Generation Equipment maintenance technician, replace a air condition- ar coolant temperature sensor at a non-dis- closed Southwest Asia location Jan. 7.

**RIGHT:** Senior Airmen Dante Lewis and Shawn Andrews, 379th Expeditionary Communications Squadron telephone systems journeymen, install NIPR/SIPR drops at the alternate Wing Operations Center at a non-disclosed Southwest Asia location Monday.



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



**1st Lt. Melody McTaggart, 379th Expeditionary Communications Squadron, rides a jet-ski during a host nation cultural event. Jet-skiing is a popular activity for all servicemembers to enjoy at the event sponsored by the 379th Expeditionary Communications Squadron.**



Michelle Larche



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

**LEFT:** Tech. Sgt. Joseph Haughton (far right), U.S. Air Forces Central band guitarist/vocalist, belts out a tune during a performance at a non-disclosed Southwest Asia location Jan. 7. The AFCENT band, *Celtic Aire*, is scheduled to perform at various locations in the AFCENT area of responsibility during its two-month tour here.

**BELOW:** Senior Airman Stephen Murphy, 379th Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron fuel systems journeyman, disconnects the center wing cavity drain line on a KC-135 refueling airplane at a non-disclosed Southwest Asia location, Jan. 11.



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

onary Medical Group clinical nurse, exchange event Monday, at a non-skis were one of many activities for nsored by the host nation.



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

# ARC provides only TAPS workshop in AOR

## Program helps servicemembers transition to civilian life

By Christen N. McCluney  
Defense Media Activity

WASHINGTON (AFNS) -- The Department of Defense's Transition Assistance Program is working to prepare servicemembers and their families for a successful transition to civilian life.

"We are trying to ensure (servicemembers') transition from active duty back to the civilian community is a smooth and seamless one," Ron Horne, deputy director for the Transition Assistance Program at the Office of Wounded Warrior Care and Transition Policy, told listeners during a "Dot Mil Docs" interview Dec. 31.

The idea of the program is to make them aware of support systems available to them, he said. DOD has a partnership with the departments of Labor and Veterans Affairs to help servicemembers with their transition. The program also works with the Department of Homeland Security for Coast Guard members as well.

Mr. Horne said the program has five major components: pre-separation counseling, Department of Labor employment workshops, VA benefits briefings, the Disabled Transition Assistance Program and one-on-one counseling, all of which take place at local military installations and bases.

The pre-separation counseling component consists of an overview of 16 topics that counseling and coaching addresses with servicemembers, Mr. Horne said. It gives a review of transition services, benefits and resources available for the transition process.

The employment workshop is "a baseline to start looking and preparing for employment," he said. In the workshop, servicemembers go over skills including resume writing, creating cover letters, dressing for success and job search techniques.

The VA benefits briefing serves as a session to inform servicemembers of benefits they may be entitled to, including the Montgomery GI Bill, healthcare, VA counseling and the home loan program.

Servicemembers who have a service-related disability also must attend the DTAP briefing.

"In this session they learn about the benefits they may be entitled to based on their ratings from VA," Mr. Horne said.

Once servicemembers have completed the first four core components of TAP, they are eligible for one-on-one counseling at their installation transition office. Transition counselors assist the servicemembers in a variety of ways including helping them complete their resume, sharing information on medical benefits and providing technology access.

***"We are trying to ensure (servicemembers') transition from active duty back to the civilian community is a smooth and seamless one,"***

-Ron Horne,

Office of Wounded Warrior Care and Transition Policy TAP deputy director

For Army installations, services are provided by specialists at Army Career and Alumni Program Centers. On Navy installations, the transition assistance office is usually located at the Fleet and Family Support Center, at Marine Corps bases the services are provided through the Marine Corps Community Services and Air Force services are provided through the Airmen and Family Readiness Flight Centers. Members of the Coast Guard can receive services through Work-Life offices.

Mr. Horne also said many separating servicemembers are not looking for employment, but are returning to school.

"We encourage them to use their education benefits because they've earned them and that is one way to ensure that they are prepared to compete with their contemporaries who were getting an education while they were on active duty," he said.

He encourages servicemembers to start their transition process 12 months before voluntarily leaving the service and 24 months before retiring.

"Anyone who reaches the 18-year mark should start the transition process," he said. "It is overwhelming when you wait until the last minute."

TAP also has a Web site, [www.turbotap.org](http://www.turbotap.org),

which offers a timeline on the transition process and other resources to help with the entire process.

"We are trying to get (servicemembers) started early enough so that they can plan to do things step by step," Mr. Horne said.

He also said the TAP office is "rethinking and reshaping the program," so transitioning isn't an event, but a process from when servicemembers join the military to their departure or retirement, or as long as they need assistance once they become a veteran. The program hopes to guide servicemembers in setting career goals and starting financial planning early. They are also finding ways to leverage technology to reach their younger audiences through Facebook, Twitter, and texting.

Currently, the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing's Airman Readiness Center, the only one in the AOR, hosts an abbreviated version of the TAP workshop.

"As with other TAP workshops, our focus is to prepare separating and retiring servicemembers for their transition out of the military," said Vonda Ware, 379th ARC team lead. "However, because of limited resources, we focus on the readiness aspect of transition, which includes change management, financially preparing for separation and retirement, preparing a resume and interviewing tips."

The abbreviated workshop is scheduled monthly. Servicemembers are eligible to participate in the TAP workshop as early as one year prior to an anticipated separation or two years prior to an anticipated retirement.

"We feel that TAP needs to be designed and developed in a way that when a member needs it, it will be there for them, whether it's a facility at a base or online, for someone at a remote location," Mr. Horne said. "We think the future of TAP is bright. We have a way to go, but we have done some wonderful things."

For more information on the workshop, contact the ARC at 318-437-6267.

(Courtesy of American Forces Press Service.)

## BUZZ

## FROM PAGE 6

for their unit's scrapbook or for their own Facebook page," said Mr. Lucero. "It's only a little thing for me to do, but it is a great morale booster for those who want to show photos to their friends and family back home – that they are safe, having some fun and that there is a sense of community so far from home."

Mr. Scherer echoed the sentiment.

"We always do our best to help people out in whatever way we're able to," he added. "We want people to get as much as they can out of the things they do with us, as well as get as many

of them participating as we possibly can.

"With people working 12-hour days and being away from their families, they probably feel like all they do is work, work out and sleep," Mr. Scherer said. "What we in EFSS try to do, is give them that missing piece – something else to do, and a variety of it."

One of their top priorities, from the time they arrived here, was to develop a robust marketing department that would reach out to all area personnel through multiple media outlets, said Lt. Col. Paul Kopecki, 379th EFSS com-

mander.

"More than that, we wanted a program that delivers high-quality advertising for EFSS, Armed Forces Entertainment and USO events," he said. "And, as we elevated the number of programs, tours, shows and events here, our marketing department has also matured ... and (our products) are all utilized to the fullest. The proof is in the numbers attending our events and the positive feedback we receive from customers."

"Our New Year's Eve celebration, for example, was a clear indication people enjoy our programs and products. Their partici-

pation is what truly makes an event a success."

When all is said and done, the 379th EFSS marketing team doesn't consider having everything on their daily checklists marked off as a reflection of how well they've done their job, or even knowing their efforts have successfully attracted crowds. There's something far more important by which the team members said they measure their success.

"We want our people to be able to forget they're here, even though they are. If they don't do that, we've failed our mission," Ms. Tremblay said.

## This Week's Caption Contest

Photo No. 158

### The winner is...

**"One Mississippi, two Mississippi... ready or not, here I come!"**

-Tech. Sgt. Monte Caldarelli,  
379th Expeditionary Aircraft  
Maintenance Squadron

### Honorable mention:

**"I forgot my reflective belt, now what am I supposed to do?"**

-Master Sgt. Frank Sills  
379th Air Expeditionary Wing  
Command Post



Photo No. 159 (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.

# Play entertains servicemembers, commen

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

Servicemembers deployed to a non-disclosed Southwest Asia location recently performed a play commemorating the first anniversary of the 44th U.S. Presidential Inauguration.

The play, titled 'Inauguration Ball 2010,' brought characters who've affected African Americans throughout history together for President Barack Obama's inauguration. The stage was graced by the likenesses of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X, Gen. David "Chappie" James Jr. and Harriet Tubman.

Through their characters, actors were able to teach history, while entertaining servicemembers.

"I wanted to put together a play that could teach youth about history," said Staff Sgt. Jessica Green, who wrote the play for her local church in Mississippi. "I say history, because it's not just meant for African Americans, it's meant for everyone, all of our histories in America are melded together as one."

Sergeant Green, 71st Expeditionary Air Control Squadron, is a Guardsman deployed from Gulfport, Miss., where she is a member of the 255th Air Control Squadron. The 255th ACS is a tenant unit located at the Gulfport Combat Readiness Training Center.

While participating in the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing Victory Chapel gospel choir, Sergeant Green and Master Sgt. Eric Jackson Sr., 1st Expeditionary Red Horse Group chaplain assistant, decided it would be worthwhile to produce the play she had written for her church at home, for the base populace.

"When Sergeant Green told me about her play, we decided to put our brains together and put on a production for the base," said Sergeant Jackson. "We began finding different people on base who exuded those people from the past and present, we wanted to bring to life on stage."

Tech. Sgt. Aaron Wilson, who portrayed President Barack Obama, began preparing for his role about four weeks ago.

"It was refreshing to be part of a play here," said Sergeant Wilson.

"Anything that promotes healthy morale is good, especially in a deployed environment. Theater gives us the creative license to bring audiences into the world that the director creates, which tends to be a relief from whatever may be going on outside of the play."

Although deployed responsibilities came first, the group of thespians, directors and extras worked diligently to put on a production they could feel proud of.

"A lot of research went into accurately portraying each historical figure," Sergeant Green said. "Another difficulty we ran into, was finding the time to get everyone together to practice. Sometimes it felt as if we weren't ever going to be ready. However, we pulled together and were able to produce something special the whole base could enjoy."

"We've gained so much from putting this play together," she added. "And this play's not just for African Americans. This play was for everyone, to learn and just sit back and relax as they enjoyed some live theater."



**Cast members of the play "A Walk Through History: The Inauguration of Barack Obama" performed at a closed Southwest Asia location Jan. 9. The play, written by Staff Sgt. Jessica Green, depicts how history affects the present.**

# Commemorates 44th Presidential Inaugural Ball



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



**LEFT:** (Left to right) Master Sgt. Crystal Smith, 379th Air Expeditionary Wing, and Capt. Nicole Simpson, 379th Expeditionary Force Support Squadron, act out a scene in the play "A Walk Through History: The Inauguration of Barack Obama" at a non-disclosed Southwest Asia location Jan. 9. Sergeant Smith played Harriet Tubman, and Captain Simpson portrayed Lesha Jones.

**TOP RIGHT:** Army Capt. Keith Stampley, 31st Air Defense Artillery Brigade, portrays Frederick Douglass in the play "A Walk Through History: The Inauguration of Barack Obama" at a non-disclosed Southwest Asia location Jan. 9, 2010. The play is design to teach servicemembers how history effects the present.



"A Walk Through History: The Inauguration of Barack Obama" take a bow at a non-disclosed Southwest Asia location Jan. 9, 2010. The play is designed to teach service-



**BOTTOM RIGHT:** (Left to right) Master Sgt. Crystal Smith, 379th Air Expeditionary Wing, Capt. John Toman, 379th AEW and Capt. Keith Stampley, 31st Air Defense Artillery Brigade, perform in the play "A Walk Through History: The Inauguration of Barack Obama" at a non-disclosed Southwest Asia location Jan. 9, 2010. Sergeant Smith portrayed Harriet Tubman, Captain Toman as Levi Coffman, Captain Stampley as Frederick Douglass.



## 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.

## We send them home with honor

By Chaplain (Maj.) H. Bill Coker  
379th Air Expeditionary Wing Chapel

Early in the morning, beneath a blanket of darkness, and amidst the continuous rumbling of generators, the incandescent light peeping through the gloom, the air incensed with engine fumes, the C-17 majestically enters the scene. Her engines belch out a continuous roar, as she taxis gallantly down the ramp and comes to a stop.

Inside the cargo bay lay rows of Fallen Warriors, caskets properly draped with the Stars and Stripes. They've earned this honor. They paid the ultimate sacrifice so America may always be free.

Yes, we've come to pay tribute to our brothers and our sisters. We've come to honor them. We've come from many places to render our last salute because they made the ultimate sacrifice. So we send them home with honor.

An email message and a radio call announce the formation on the tarmac. Vehicles with their flashing lights caravan down the driveway and park a safe distance from the aircraft. The chaplain leads the procession in silence to the aft-gate of the aircraft. There, we stand in formation. We've come to pay tribute to our brothers and sisters.

The chaplain takes his place and offers a prayer. Amidst the engine roar, the commander executes the order, "Tench Hut!" We stand to honor our brothers and our sisters. A detail retrieves the remains of the Fallen Warriors and makes them ready for their journey home.

As they march past the formation, the commander gives the orders, "Present Arms!" In unison, we raise a slow salute. The solemn ambiance marks the moment, with tears streaming down the faces of disciplined men and women—aching hearts, roused emotions - one's adrift, lost in the gloom of grief. The commander gives the command, "Order Arms!" We slowly return to attention. One-by-one until the last, we send them home with honor.

What makes them so significant? Why do we render such recognition? They are warriors for freedom. They

are defenders of the flag. They are gate keepers to the city. Their lives inscribe sacrifice upon the sandy desert plains; they spilled their blood in the vast oceans, in the jungles. Yes, they are heroes. We call them warriors. So we send them home with honor.

We send them home with honor because they were custodians of integrity.

We send them home with honor because they were custodians of service.

We send them home with honor because they were custodians of excellence.

We send them home with honor because they were custodians of loyalty, duty, respect, honor, personal courage, commitment and faith.

We send them home with honor because they were warriors for freedom.

Warriors for freedom! They made the ultimate sacrifice. They gave their lives for a noble cause—"Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends," (Jn 15:13.)

We accept our charge, to defend our freedoms. The price we pay today, keeps freedom's hope alive for tomorrow, and the tears we've shed have watered the seeds for tomorrow's freedom harvest. We stand in unfeigned faith with an unbiased confidence, for the victory we must achieve is our mission. Warriors before us have marked the bloody trails that will one day lead us to freedom.

So in gratitude, we salute with disciplined spirits, shielding our pain-filled hearts; dedicated warriors, from whom we must now part. Their legacy of sacrifice we must always defend - for they fought for liberty for a grateful nation, for strangers in the night and good friends alike.

And now in transition they take their rest; for faith, diligence, honor, valor and duty informed their devotion and creed.

In honor we send them home today, not as fallen soldiers but as heroes, warriors who've paved freedom's way.

So rest dear brother; rest well dear sister; warrior, take your rest for your work is done. Sheath your sword and hang up your shield. Sleep comfortably in the twilight until your spirit is awakened by heaven's everlasting dawn.

**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. 19, 22, 26 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 U.S. Air Force's 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.

### **Client Systems Technician**

Effective March 1, the 379th Expeditionary Communications Squadron will operationalize the Client Systems Technician function in support of the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing and its tenant units. The new shop will combine the Communications Focal Point, Small Computer Repair, Automated Data Processing Equipment, Telephone Maintenance and Personal Wireless Communication Systems work centers. By combining the sections, the 379th ECS will provide experienced technical support teams responding to customer voice, data and video trouble tickets if CST phone operators are unable to accomplish repairs via remote access. Contact the 379th ECS at 437-3666 for all communication issues.

### **Off-Base Travel Reminder**

In accordance with AUABI 10-6008, personnel may wear the duty uniform off of 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.

Staff Sgt. Nathaniel Hawley, 64th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, clears a building during a response exercise in support of Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom. Sergeant Hawley is deployed from the 148th Security Forces Squadron, Minnesota Air National Guard. (U.S Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Kyle Ray)

