

DESERT EAGLE

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Aerial Port
moves mission



DESERT EAGLE

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Multimedia

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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.



8th Expeditionary Air Mobility Squadron aerial port transporters perform an "engine running" on- and off-load of passengers and baggage from a C-130 transport plane at a non-disclosed Southwest Asia location, Monday.

A job done right begins within

By Lt. Col. Thomas "Lou" Rauls
379th Air Expeditionary Wing
Host Nation Coordination Cell

Just do it right! We've all heard the sayings about fighting the good fight or not doing a job half way. These may sound trite and easily forgotten, but they are crucial when we stop to consider the importance of our collective mission to support our combatant commander during times of war.

Whatever our individual roles—whether we maintain aircraft, defend the base, ensure communications or supply the force—we can do our jobs to the best of our ability if we have a sense of purpose, maintain a good attitude, take time to better ourselves and remain aware that we are guests in a land and culture foreign to our own.

We need to individualize our purpose for being away from home and fighting in a foreign land. Our wing or squadron mission statements are good places to start, but they must be internalized to be of use.

Read the paper and stay up on current events. Knowing the depth and breadth of events affected by AFCENT and the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing, can easily give us an individual sense of purpose, depending on what resonates with us individually. It may be free and effective elections in Iraq, safety and security in Afghanistan or establishing rule of law in Somalia.

Just knowing we are helping people less fortunate than ourselves creates a great sense of purpose.

Our individual purpose can also

be grounded closer to home. Realize we have chosen a career of service, supporting a country where we are given freedoms and liberties uncommon around the world, simply because of our national origin.

A final option for purpose is to set an example for those we love and care for back home. Find what fits for you and run with it.

Our attitudes are also hugely influential in the way we conduct our daily business. This is true both in the effectiveness in which we do our jobs, and more importantly, in the chain reaction of our individual attitudes affecting others, and so on.

Keeping our individual sense of purpose in focus is the most important aspect of a positive attitude, but to maintain it we must also take time for ourselves. Lacking the demands of family and friends at home, it is easy to use whatever free time we have to take a class, establish a regular exercise regimen, or even just get off the installation and break the daily grind.

To do our best, both now and in future endeavors, we must take time to learn and expand our horizons. If you are working in the same specialty as back home, take advantage of learning how it is done right in a different environment, with other aircraft types or supporting alternate missions. If you are working outside your core specialty, consider yourself lucky to have the opportunity to become proficient in another function. The more we know the broader Air Force, the better understanding we'll have on how our

SEE SHARP 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.

Don't become a 'Right Start' story

By 379th Air Expeditionary Wing
Legal Office staff

Everyone has attended the Right Start briefing during their first weeks on base and heard the first sergeants and legal office personnel tell stories about poor decisions people have made here in Southwest Asia. Regardless, toward the end of each rotation, there is an unfortunate spike in disciplinary issues.

As the end of their tour rolls around, people tend to lose focus, become complacent and make poor decisions. Poor decisions can take the form of drinking too much, visiting the sleeping quarters of the opposite sex or both.

When an Airman gets in trouble near the end of a rotation, they are immediately put on administrative hold, preventing them from leaving the AOR. Administrative hold remains in effect as long it takes for the investigation and any disciplinary action to be completed, usually days or weeks, but sometimes months.

SHARP

FROM PAGE 2

specialty plays a role. We have a great opportunity to learn about Arabic culture and language while immersed in it.

Finally, to achieve the best possible results, we

should always consider our interactions with our hosts. Whether we work directly with Qataris or not, our daily actions are clearly visible and can lead to affects disproportionate to our intent, both positively

Non-judicial punishment may extend a deployment a few weeks, but if the misconduct leads to a court-martial, the alleged offender may stay here months longer.

The repercussions from an Article 15 can be severe. Airmen may lose a stripe, forfeit one-half of one month's pay for two months, be restricted and assigned extra duties. In addition, most Article 15s are placed in an Unfavorable Information File. Senior NCOs and officers can have their Article 15s placed in their selection record. This action will almost always have a negative impact on their eligibility for promotion.

What's the bottom line? An Article 15 can result in hundreds or thousands of dollars in lost pay, not to mention a lasting mark on an Airman's Air Force career.

Court-martial penalties are even more severe. When misconduct leads to a court-martial conviction, it can result in a bad-conduct or dishonorable

discharge, dismissal, confinement, forfeiture of total pay and allowances, and for enlisted members, reduction to E-1. A court-martial conviction will follow you into civilian life because it's a federal criminal conviction. Worse, instead of waiting on the rotator to see your family, you will be waiting on a rotator to see the prison guards in Kuwait.

Consider the consequences of your actions before you act. A single poor choice could ruin an otherwise stellar deployment and severely damage your Air Force career. The best way to avoid becoming a military justice statistic is to remain focused up to the very last day. Take care of the mission, take care of one another, serve proudly and return home with honor.

For more information on Air Force Central Command's General Order 1B, visit the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing Legal Office Web site on the Sharepoint or call 437-2707. The Area Defense Counsel may be reached at 437-6300.

and negatively. The key is to realize how our actions, words and deeds will be viewed by our hosts through a different lens than our own, meaning the perception we leave may easily be 180 degrees out from our intent.

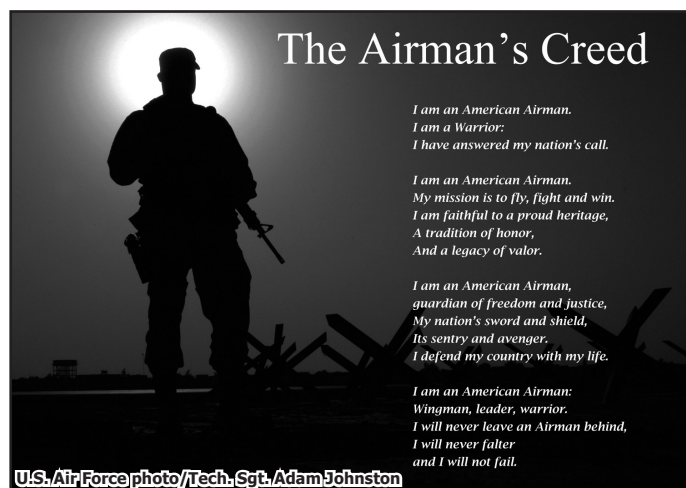
By practicing patience, keeping an open mind and a positive attitude, and internalizing our purpose in our daily activities, we will ensure we do our best, and have the most positive impact on the mission.

I am an Airman

By Senior Master Sgt. (ret.) Clayton French

SEYMOUR JOHNSON AIR FORCE BASE, N.C. -- We, the Air Force, have an identity crisis. I vividly remember my first day as a Professional Military Education instructor. On that day, everyone stood up and introduced themselves to their classmates with the typical, "Hi, my name is Bob and I'm a crew chief." Each student stated his or her first name and Air Force occupation. Then came the final student, an Army Staff Sergeant. He quickly arose and stated, "I'm Staff Sergeant Coleman. I am an American Soldier. I am a warrior and a member of a team...I will never accept defeat. I will never quit...I am disciplined...I stand ready to destroy the enemies of the United States...I am a guardian of freedom...I am an American Soldier."

After proudly stating the Army Creed, he sat down. Then a long 15 seconds of stillness passed before Technical Sergeant Jones broke the silence. He stood back up and proudly responded, "I'm Sergeant Jones and I'm an Airman." He hesitated for a few awkward seconds and then concluded, "And I guess I really don't know what that means." Then he sat down.



The Airman's Creed

*I am an American Airman.
I am a Warrior.
I have answered my nation's call.*

*I am an American Airman.
My mission is to fly, fight and win.
I am faithful to a proud heritage,
A tradition of honor,
And a legacy of valor.*

*I am an American Airman,
guardian of freedom and justice,
My nation's sword and shield,
Its sentry and avenger.
I defend my country with my life.*

*I am an American Airman:
Wingman, leader, warrior.
I will never leave an Airman behind,
I will never falter
and I will not fail.*

U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Adam Johnston

During Senior Master Sgt. (ret.) Clayton French's time as a first sergeant at Seymour Johnson AFB, N.C. he wrote a commentary entitled "I am an Airman." Eventually that article grew to become what Airmen know as "The Airman's Creed."

If you are on an Army Post and shout, "Hey Soldier" you're likely to have everyone turn around in response. The same thing will happen if you shout "Hey Marine" or "Hey Sailor"

SEE AIRMAN ON PAGE 11

Two 8th Expeditionary Air Mobility Squadron aerial port transporters prepare for an off-load of passengers and baggage from a C-130 transport plane at a non-disclosed Southwest Asia location, Monday.



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



8th EAMS aerial port transporters unload equipment from a C-17 at a non-disclosed Southwest Asia location, Monday.



8th EAMS aerial port transporters unload equipment from a C-17 at a non-disclosed Southwest Asia location, Monday.

"Port Dawgs" keep mission moving

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

A group of 150 Airmen, working around-the-clock, currently serve as the strategic airlift hub for Air Force Central Command's inter- and intra-theater airlift in support of Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom, as well as missions in the Horn of Africa.

The aerial transporters at Air Mobility Command's 8th Expeditionary Air Mobility Squadron's aerial port, more widely known as "port dawgs," have moved more than 50,000 tons of cargo, transported roughly 117,000 passengers and worked with more than 25 Coalition and commercial aircraft in the past six months, said Tech. Sgt. Sam Aubry, 8th EAMS senior Air Terminal Operations Center controller.

The 8th EAMS aerial port staff flight members fall into one of three possible sections within the unit—air freight, operations and passenger terminal.

Air freight, which is responsible

for cargo processing, ramp loading, fleet services and any special handling, moves 316 tons of cargo in an average day.

Special handling facilitates the honorable transportation of Fallen Warriors, any vaccinations transported for deployed servicemembers, munitions or vehicle movements and transportation of blood to medical facilities throughout the AOR.

On any given day, air freight porters find themselves sending anything from Mine Resistant Ambush Protective vehicles to blood for treatment of wounded warriors down-range.

Since August, Sergeant Aubry said, the transporters have sent 221 shipments—33 short tons of blood—to help sustain warfighters supporting OEF and OIF.

Another benefit deployed members enjoy because of aerial transporters' hard-work, is receiving letters and packages from home.

"We bring mail, that servicemembers receive, down-range," said Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Mount, 8th EAMS Ramp Services NCO in-charge. "Much of

what we do is behind the scenes, yet vital to almost every facet of the mission. From morale to mission, we're making it happen."

The aerial port operations section includes "port dawgs" who work in the ATOC providing command and control for the section.

"The ATOC works with various entities outside of the squadron to keep the mission moving," Sergeant Aubry said. "We work with anyone, from the Air Mobility Control Center to the Maintenance Operations Center, to help ensure we successfully transport all of our cargo and passengers to the appropriate locations."

The aerial port passenger terminal includes "port dawgs," who provide passenger service, baggage service and fleet control.

Airman 1st Class Rogelio Ruiz, 8th EAMS passenger service agent, said transporting passengers and providing any of the specialized services that aerial transporters perform, gives him a sense of pride.

"I'm extremely proud of the job we do here," said Airman Ruiz. "The workload is constant. We could be on the flightline for a whole 12-hour shift. No matter what the conditions are, we are out there accomplishing the mission."

"I love knowing that through my work, I reunite families, help supply the warfighter and send people back home safely," he added.

There are "port dawgs" located worldwide, working in every country to keep cargo, passengers and special-handling items moving to the right locations.

"We are one of the busiest ports in the world," said Capt. Steve Soliday, Aerial Port flight commander. "Our monthly average for cargo is currently 8,080 tons. In December, we moved a total of 12,796 tons of cargo throughout the AOR, which was our highest monthly total for 2009."

"We don't just serve the Air Force, we play a vital role for the whole Department of Defense," he added. "The porters touch every single passenger and piece of cargo moved through the military airlift system. They provide the lifeline between home station and the front-line warfighter."



Aerial port transporters unload equipment from a C-17 at a non-disclosed Southwest location, Monday.

Petty Officer 2nd Class Alexander Cushing

Patrol Squadron One

Avionics Work Center supervisor/Collateral Duty inspector

Home station: Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, Wash.

Arrived in AOR: December

Deployment goals: To train three more Sailors to become certified collateral duty inspectors for avionics systems, meet or exceed mission objectives, help my shop become work center of the quarter and make a decision on making the military a career.

Best part of the deployment: Seeing my junior Seamen step up and do great things, getting them recognized for their efforts.

Hobbies: I enjoy working out, playing spades and watching movies.

Best Navy memory: Being an aircraft handler in the line division in 2008 and then becoming a qualified avionics technician. The challenge at the time was seemingly insurmountable. My motto is "never plateau."

Nominated by Command Master Chief Petty Officer James Reynolds: "He has overcome odds and risen to be among the best this squadron has ever had. He is a superb avionics shop shift supervisor and continues to lead junior Sailors. He is a true professional and mentor, which is evident in the legacy of great technicians he left in his wake."



U.S. Air Force courtesy photo

Staff Sgt. Andy Mathews

379th Air Expeditionary Wing

Office of the Staff Judge Advocate

Home station: Kadena Air Base, Japan

Arrived in AOR: September

Assignment goals: To be ready to run the Okinawa and Great Wall marathons when I redeploy.

Best part of the deployment: The incredible office team I have had the opportunity to work with, shrimp wraps and Japanese coffee.

Hobbies: Spending time with my son, running, reading, listening to music and spelling-bees.

Best Air Force memory: My best Air Force memory is my temporary duty assignment to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's Air Meet in Poznan, Poland.

Nominated by Lt. Col. Robert Preston: "Sergeant Mathews has been a workhorse for our military justice program, doing extensive behind-the-scenes processing of three courts-martial, a record number of Article 15s and serving as our focal point for working with first sergeants and senior NCOs on all matters of good order and discipline. He also maintained a great sense of humor and teamwork throughout his time spent in Southwest Asia."



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

Tech. Sgt. Jaye Darden

379th Expeditionary Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron
logistician

Home station: New Castle, Del.

Arrived in AOR: September

Deployment goals: To provide efficient and effective medical logistics service to the 379th EAES and aeromedical evacuation units throughout the AOR. I also want to learn processes of medical logistics in a deployed environment. I would also like to use the tools learned here when I redeploy to mentor others at my home station.

Best part of the deployment: Being able to experience my first deployment with the great folks that came with me from home station.

Hobbies: Spending time with my family, shopping, traveling, reading and listening to music.

Best Air Force memory: Basic Military Training, it was a great experience.

Nominated by Lt. Col. Phyllis Gigliotti: "Sergeant Darden's attention to detail, ensuring all theater medical assets and medical equipment shortfalls and repair are completed in a timely manner. She continually puts the mission first, making sure all aeromedical evacuation units in the AOR are fully functional and 100 percent mission ready."



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



HAITI *Earthquake Relief*

Donations for Haiti relief efforts

Servicemembers, civilians and contractors wanting to make a donation to the American Red Cross for Haiti relief efforts may do so via the American Red Cross Web site at <http://american.redcross.org>. EagleCash cards cannot be used for donations.

For more news on the Haiti relief effort, visit <http://www.af.mil/humanitarianrelieftohaiti/index.asp>

Secretary, chief of staff: Airmen integral to overall relief efforts

WASHINGTON (AFNS) -- Since the startup of relief efforts following the earthquake in Haiti, active-duty, Air Guard and Reserve Airmen have been working around the clock to support aid missions to get people and supplies to the stricken island nation.

Both the secretary of the Air Force and the Air Force chief

of staff are closely monitoring humanitarian efforts undertaken by the men and women of the U.S. Air Force.

"Airmen are supporting U.S. Southern Command efforts in Haiti as part of the Department of Defense team, in conjunction with other U.S. government agencies and the international community, to

help provide critical aid and comfort to hundreds of thousands of Haitians at a time of great need," said Air Force Secretary Michael B. Donley.

"Whether helping to ensure planes carrying much-needed supplies and personnel get into Port-au-Prince around the clock, repatriating U.S. citizens out of Haiti, or assisting with desperately needed medical care, the contributions made by the men and women of the Air Force supporting USSOUTHCOM have been integral to overall relief efforts," he said.

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz offered encouragement to Haitians as relief efforts continue.

"We send our sincere condolences to the citizens of Haiti," General Schwartz said. "The widespread devastation and loss of so many of our neighbors is daunting, but the Haitian people are exceptionally resilient and the outpouring of support from around the globe has been nothing short of dramatic. We stand should-

er to shoulder with the president and the Department of Defense in our nation's resolve to provide assistance.

"I am extremely proud of the efforts of our Airmen, who were able to respond so quickly," he said. "Our special operators and contingency response group personnel were able to put their skills to immediate use in helping the Haitians manage airfield operations in Port-au-Prince, enabling the flow of much needed aid. Our airlifters were able to rapidly deliver personnel and supplies. And our intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance assets provided a critical first look for damage assessment. Twelfth Air Force and 1st Air Force are providing essential command and control expertise.

"The Air Force," the general concluded, "along with our joint teammates, USSOUTHCOM, and other U.S. government agencies, will continue to do everything possible to assist in this massive disaster-response effort."

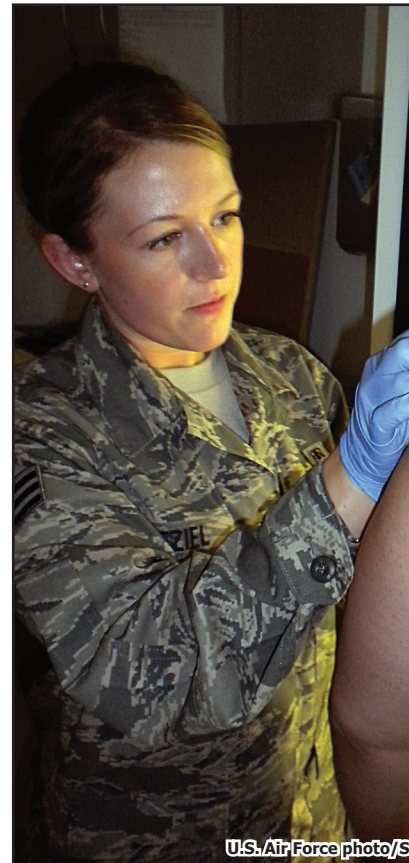


U.S. Air Force photo/Master Sgt. Russell E. Cooley IV

U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Joseph Pocreva, 1st Special Operations Wing, Air Force Special Operations Command, speaks with a young Haitian girl at the Troustaint Louverture International Airport in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Jan. 15, before she is evacuated to the United States.

LEFT: Staff Sgt. Steve Ogden, 379th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron instruments and flight controls craftsman, repairs a broken engine wire on a Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System aircraft at a non-disclosed Southwest Asia location, Jan. 14.

CENTER: Senior Airman Brittany Deziel, 379th Expeditionary Medical Group immunization technician, administers a Small Pox vaccination, Tuesday. Servicemembers who did not receive all required vaccinations prior to deployment may visit the Immunization Clinic to become current.



KC-135 crew chiefs, Airman 1st Class Jean Torres-Rivera and Staff Sgt. Lanear Brown, 379th E Maintenance Squadron, de-panel and prepare a KC-135 refueling aircraft for a post-flight inspection at a non-disclosed Southwest Asia location, Jan. 14.



Senior Master Sgt. David Byron



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



photo/Tech. Sgt. Michelle Larche

Expeditionary Airlift
Operation at a non-dis-



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

TOP RIGHT: Servicemembers look at items at a base bazaar at a non-disclosed Southwest Asia location Wednesday. The bazaar allows servicemembers a chance to examine and purchase local products.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Staff. Sgt. Michael Duane, 379th Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron Explosive Ordnance Disposal craftsman helps Tech. Sgt. Neil Gertiser, 379th ECES EOD craftsman, don a bomb suit at a non-disclosed Southwest Asia location, Jan. 14. The suit can withstand an explosion of five pounds of TNT at a distance of five feet.

VA officials reach out to students and schools to speed benefit payments



U.S. Air Force photo/2nd Lt. Andrew Gaulk

A base education adviser explains education options to an Airman at the education center at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla. The Post-9/11 GI Bill provides financial support for education and housing to individuals with at least 90 days of aggregate service on or after Sept. 11, 2001, or individuals discharged with a service-connected disability after 30 days.

Armed Forces News Service

WASHINGTON (AFNS) -- In a coordinated effort to speed up the processing of Post 9/11 GI Bill education benefits this spring, Department of Veterans Affairs officials announced Jan. 20 that they have been reaching out to student veterans, servicemembers, university officials and other partners to meet a commitment to an aggressive processing goal by Feb. 1.

Feb. 1 is the first date spring payments are due and presently VA representatives have processed more than 72,000 of the approximately 103,000 spring enrollments received. Since inception of the historic new program last year, VA officials have paid more than \$1.3 billion in benefits to more than 170,000 students.

"Only by VA and all of

our partners working together will students be better served," said Mike Walcoff, VA's acting undersecretary for benefits. "We are making a concerted effort to reach out to everyone to provide the timely benefits that those who served our nation deserve."

Mr. Walcoff said there are "shared responsibilities" between VA, universities and the students to ensure the success of processing the education benefits on time.

VA officials have sent letters to university presidents and school certifying officials and to state veterans affairs directors, and have notified veteran service organizations, congressional members and other education stakeholders highlighting their emphasis on the importance of timely submission of school enrollment

information.

VA officials also released a "hip pocket" guide and checklist, with helpful tips to assist veterans in the application process. The guide and checklist can be found on college campuses and VA's GI Bill Web site, www.gi-bill.va.gov.

VA officials are working to provide timely payments to all eligible veterans to ensure that students are spared the financial hardships which some faced during the fall 2009 term.

To help address the high volume of claims received for the new Post-9/11 GI Bill, VA officials hired 530 employees, bringing the total number of education claims processors to 1,200. Employees have been working mandatory overtime since August 2009. Additionally, the department awarded a

temporary contract to assist with education claims processing.

Veterans, servicemembers, reservists and members of the National Guard who served on active duty since Sept. 11, 2001, are potentially eligible for the new Post-9/11 GI Bill. It provides payments for tuition and fees, as well as a housing allowance and stipend for books and supplies for many participants.

Under the new GI Bill, some members of the armed forces may transfer benefits to a spouse or dependent children.

Information about the Post-9/11 GI Bill, as well as VA's other educational benefit programs, is available at VA's Web site, www.gi-bill.va.gov, or by calling 1-888-GIBILL-1 (or 1-888-442-4551).

AIRMAN

FROM PAGE 3

on a Marine Camp or Naval Station. However, on an Air Force Base, if you try the similar “Hey Airman” your only responders will likely be our youngest troops.

Why is that? Are we not all Airmen? Or is it because we “really don’t know what that means?” If you are asking yourself those questions, let me offer you a few suggestions.

I am an Airman. I act with truthfulness and honesty. As Airmen, we are entrusted with the greatest calling, protecting our country and our way of life.

Because of our unique profession, we can’t pencil-whip

training reports, or cover up tech data violations, or falsify documents. We simply can’t afford to live dishonestly. Dishonesty breeds mistrust, and mistrust erodes our ability to perform the mission. In everything we do, we must intentionally do it in truthfulness and honesty.

I am an Airman. I willingly sacrifice myself for the benefit of the team. Being part of a team requires self-sacrifice and self-sacrifice must happen at all levels. Performing as a team requires a “less of me and more of us” mindset. We have to give more than what is expected. It’s amazing how much you can accomplish when it doesn’t

matter who gets the credit. Being part of a successful team requires sacrifice.

I am an Airman. I care passionately about my fellow Airmen. No other profession calls for compassion than that of a military warrior. As warriors, we underestimate the power of a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around. We must promote a culture of reliance on each other in order to accomplish the mission. Without compassion, we will lose trust in our teammates, and the mission will fail. We must care passionately for each other.

I am an Airman. I am accountable for my actions. Individually, we are responsible for upholding the standards. We must live by the concept, “I am responsible.” Although we may not be able to prevent the worst from happening, we are responsible for our attitudes and actions. We must reject the idea that every time a standard is broken, someone else is to blame. We must live by the precept that each individual is accountable for their actions.

So I challenge you. Define who you are by your Airman-ship. The next time someone calls out, “Hey Airman,” stop, turn around and respond. We are all Airmen. Together, let’s solve this identity crisis.

This Week’s Caption Contest

Photo No. 159

The winner is...

“I wanna be a first sergeant, where do I sign up?”

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

Honorable mention:

“If I don’t move, they can’t see me”

-Senior Airman Tommie Crutcher
379th Expeditionary Force Support
Squadron services specialist



Photo No. 160 (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.

Coalition Air Control Squadron sup

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

Should an enemy missile or air threat head this way, the course to neutralize it is theirs to plot. When Coalition ground forces in Afghanistan take fire, they make the call to shorten the kill-chain.

The expertise of the 71st Expeditionary Air Control Squadron, here in Southwest Asia, is taking full advantage of air power and state-of-the-art equipment, for the benefit of troops in combat.

"It's our job to put aerial assets in the best possible position to support the guy on the ground and to ensure the air defense of the Arabian Gulf," said Lt. Col. Bryan Gates, 71 EACS commander, deployed from Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho, "and accomplishing this mission is both a joint and combined effort that includes working in conjunction with the Navy, Marines, and British and Australian forces."

The squadron of about 150 people, made up of U.S., Australian and U.K. Air Force members, leads operations as the senior tactical command and control agency for aerial operations in the region.

"Working with our British and Australian partners has been a huge benefit for the squadron," said Colonel Gates. "They bring a lot of experience and continuity to the fight. Most of my surveillance Airman have anywhere between eight and 18 months experience, and our Coalition partners bring, on average, 10 years of experience. Our Coalition partners are constantly training my younger Airman, helping everyone step up their game."

Working with the U.S. Marine Corps Air Command and Control System and U.S. Air Force Tactical Command and Control, such as the Airborne Warning and Control System and Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System – as well as the Navy's E-2 Hawkeye, the 71 EACS is tuned in to Coalition and enemy activity, on the ground and in the air, 24 hours a day, said Colonel Gates. The squadron manages all portions of the air battle to meet the ground and air commander's intent, and works in coordina-

tion with the Air Support Operations Center to ensure air power is maintained in support of ground operations.

"We do that through radars and radios piped into us from Afghanistan. We use the U.S. Air Force's newest C2 equipment, Battlespace Command and Control Center, to control aircraft, moving them from point A to point B, ensuring decisive airpower is available," the colonel explained. "Whether it's planned or if it's a troops-in-contact situation, we work in conjunction with the ASOC, the Air Operations Center, AWACS and JSTARS – all those guys – to get the best asset, with the right amount of gas and the correct weapons

director of Afghanistan operations, and day-shift crew OIC, said he enjoys most about his squadron's mission.

"As the senior director, I manage all the fuel, work with the ASOC to ensure all the air support requests get filled, ensure aircraft are notified within two minutes for troops-in-contact or special forces events, and I get all the surface-to-surface fire restricted operating zones cleared out so they can respond to what they need to respond to with artillery," said the major, also deployed from Mountain Home AFB. "I know the job I do has significant impact for our forces."

Another part of what they do managing air assets over Afghanistan serves to protect one of the country's chief means of revenue.

Civilian flights over the country provide Afghanistan's second largest source of income, said the colonel. "With the war going on, it's our job to make sure we keep the war-fighting assets away from the civilian traffic. We've developed new Tactical Air Command and Control standard operating procedures, in conjunction with air traffic control, and have put a lot of actions in place to be sure we avoid the civil traffic and still bring rapid death to the enemy.

"We're the first TAC-C2 reach-back in existence, meaning we control all the aircraft in our specific AOR within Afghanistan from more than a thousand miles away."

But defense from afar isn't the squadron's only vital role. Should an enemy launch an attack on the base, the warriors of the 71 EACS are the ones who see it coming, inform the region's populace and coordinate counter measures.

"Our purpose is also to work with the area air defense commander in the Combined Air Operations Center to ensure all air threats and theater ballistic missiles, UAVs – or cruise missiles – are identified correctly and, if need be, engaged," said Major Voigt. "Working with the air defense artillery fire control officer, the senior director and



to support that guy on the ground, shortening the kill-chain.

"It is a fast-paced dynamic environment, because the plans are only as good as first contact with the enemy," he added. "If we have a troops-in-contact situation, that sets off a set of procedures to find an asset to support the guy on the ground, that can stay overhead for as long as he needs it."

It's this part of the mission, getting immediate air support to the ground, that Maj. Ken Voigt, 71st EACS assistant

ports ground troops with air power



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

Senior Airman Jennifer Anderson (left) and Staff Sgt. Zachary Nottingham, 71st Expeditionary Air Control Squadron weapons directors, communicate with downrange aircraft from a non-disclosed Southwest Asia location Jan. 13. The weapons directors help provide troops on the ground with appropriate air support.

the air surveillance officer, we ensure we have a common operating picture for the Combined Forces Air Component commander. On a daily basis, we ID all tracks inside the Arabian Gulf. If a threat were to flare up, we would be the ones who'd direct all the aircraft and Patriots to engage the enemy."

To better guarantee success in this multi-faceted, ever-changing field, the squadron developed a de-confliction tool to help track the real-time whereabouts of every asset in their AOR.

"We've got UAV pilots in theater we're in contact with 24/7 in chat rooms. Their UAVs are flying around in this airspace and they're not always aware of who's around them," said Colonel Gates. "So, we developed an airspace spreadsheet on the Web. They can pull up the URL, and when they're establishing an airspace, they can look and see who's flying around them – making sure nobody runs into each other. That's a huge thing we've done since we got here.

"It was built from scratch and tweaked, and is now pretty automated," he said. "But we're always updating when we find something that can be done better.

"We're always moving toward getting it all done better. It goes back to that fast-paced dynamic environment. The war's going to change, and we've got to change with it. Everything we do is geared toward making sure our guys on the ground survive and the other guy is the one who dies for his cause."



The U.S., British and Australian flags fly from a 71st Expeditionary Air Control Squadron communications antenna at a non-disclosed Southwest Asia location Tuesday. The 71st EACS, a combined forces unit, conducts persistent air battle management for the air defense of the Arabian Gulf and Afghanistan missions.



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.

Why does it matter?

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

The importance of volunteering is crucial in a hurting world. "Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy," (Matthew 5:7).

In the past week and a half, we have watched people around the world respond to the tragedy in Haiti. It is in times such as these that we set aside our differences and recognize our common humanity. Volunteering is giving one's time, energy and resources to help another.

Is it easy to volunteer? No, because there are many obstacles in our way, both internal and external road blocks, that hamper our purpose in helping. Is volunteering worth it? Yes, because it allows us to connect with ourselves and others.

We can shape the world for good by fixing one broken piece at a time, and letting others know they are not alone.

Volunteering helps us to embrace moments of tranquility in life's storms. We recognize in these moments our own gifts and abilities, and the strength that comes from helping oneself and others.

I wrote a psalm about one of my own experiences volunteering for an organization, Habitat for Humanity, with a teenage youth group from my church, and it mirrors Psalm 100, a psalm of praise and thanksgiving.

The memories from that weekend were the joy in our hearts from helping build a house for a single mother and her three young children. Her deep gratitude could not be expressed in words, but rather in tears of joy, when she stopped by to visit her home while it was being constructed. Here is the

Habitat for Humanity psalm...

*Lift up your hammers to God,
All you volunteers.*

*Build a house for God's people;
The foundation of God's presence.*

*God is the Divine Carpenter.
The Carpenter constructed us from the earth.
We are God's tools and the instruments of God's skill.*

*Place shingles on the roof and wood beams on the ceiling.
We praise and thank God for this shelter.*

*The Carpenter's care endures forever;
God's foundation is eternal.*

The military encourages people to volunteer because there is a general understanding that it shapes us into better individuals and creates in us a deep sense of community.

I ask you a few simple questions. What are your God given gifts, talents and abilities? Who are the people and things you care about?

Volunteering is not about, "what do I receive," but rather, what I can give to help others.

You can start the practice of volunteering by joining one of the volunteer organizations here on base such as the Honor Guard, Rising 6, Top Three or the Company Grade Officer's councils.

Another suggestion—you can help out at the Victory Chapel, Jack's Place, our school for host-nation students or other projects around base.

I encourage you to make a difference in the world and mentor others in the joys and struggles of volunteering.



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 and construction, supplemental Right Start briefing have been scheduled for Jan. 26, 29 at the BPC Theater. A Right Finish briefing has been scheduled for Jan. 26 at the BPC theater. Right Start begins promptly at 6:45 a.m. and Right Finish begins at 5 p.m.

MPS User Responsibilities

Military Postal Service users are responsible for informing correspondents of their deployed mailing address and should report instances of inadequate mail service or other mail-related problems to the Military Post Office supervisor. The following uses of deployed addresses are prohibited: for business or commercial purposes, to act as an agent for authorized or unauthorized users, or to receive items for resale or donation to off-base charities.

Unloading EagleCash for Redeployers

Members preparing to redeploy can unload EagleCash card funds at any of the nine kiosks on base. Transactions can take three to four days to register in the checking account associated with the card, so members may see transactions against their checking account from the Federal Reserve Bank after they have returned home. Unloaded EagleCash cards should be kept in a safe place, rather than discarded, because they can be reactivated on future deployments. For more information, visit or contact the 379 ECPTS Customer Service at 379ecptscustomerserv@auab.afcent.af.mil, or call 437-8686.

Individual Protective Equipment

Beginning Jan. 22, the 379th ELRS will be issuing Airmen's Combat Helmets, Individual First Aid Kits and Individual Body Armor to all Air Force Airmen, contractors and civilian employees assigned to the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing for longer than a 30-day period. Individuals

will be responsible for maintaining any individual protective equipment issued throughout their deployment, and will be permitted to return items no earlier than three days prior to their departure. For personnel already assigned here, Unit Deployment Monitors will set an appointment for the issue of IPE at building 8404. Appointments will be scheduled Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays beginning Jan. 23. All personnel deployed here will have IPE no later than Feb. 26.

Tax Volunteers

The Legal Office seeks volunteers to prepare taxes during the upcoming tax season. Volunteers will attend a one-day training course the first week of February and should be available to assist at least 10 hours during the tax season. People interested in volunteering or wanting more information should e-mail 379aewja@auab.afcent.af.mil, or call Master Sgt. Mark Caldwell at 437-2707.

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.

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.

Senior Airman Kevin Desautels, 379 Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron aircraft generation equipment technician, changes a hydraulic gauge on a self-generating nitrogen cart at a non-disclosed Southwest Asia location Jan. 9. The nitrogen cart is used for servicing aircraft struts or tires. Airman Desautels is deployed from Ellsworth AFB, S.D. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Michelle Larche)

