

# DESERT EAGLE

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## B-1 Heroes



# DESERT EAGLE

Volume 10, Issue 3

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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.



Master Sgts. Alan Andrews (left) and Michael Wingler (right), both 37th Aircraft Maintenance Unit production supervisors, stand in front of the B-1B Lancer that they saved at a non-disclosed Southwest Asia Jan. 23.

# Coping with change

By Senior Master Sgt. Darrell Khine  
379th Expeditionary Logistics  
Readiness Squadron

If asked 20 years ago, "what would be the greatest threat facing the world in the future?" I would probably have answered "the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics."

When I enlisted in the late 80's, Russia and the prospect of nuclear annihilation was a very real and almost paralyzing threat. More than two decades later, the threat comes from an idealistic group of radicals swearing no allegiance to a single government and fighting using savage guerilla tactics.

If asked that question today, would the answer be...al-Qaeda?

This drastic shift of threats over almost a quarter century highlights how rapid change can occur for the entire world.

Back when I was an Airman, I never would have imagined I would be in a deployed environment sharing the same missions with Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Coalition partners, civilians and contractors.

I have also witnessed the evolution of my career field, merging three times, entailing more responsibilities with less manpower. This change is not unique to the logistics community, but worldwide.

In an attempt to keep up with the challenges of fewer resources to fight and win wars, we will continue to see career field changes, as well as new and innovative processes to accomplish the mission.

To help with individual acceptance, as well as the precipitation of change, I would like to present two important points for consideration. First, an individual must decide the best way to deal with the psychological effects of change. Second, one must seek to help others with the eventuality of change.

When looking to face change, the best way to deal with the psychological effect is to accept that change can be positive and is inevitable. According to the book, "Who Moved My Cheese," by Spencer Johnson, MD, "If you do not change, you can become extinct."

This is true in every aspect of life. From birth, we have all changed physically, and with every passing day, we continue to change. How about the clothing we wear or the music we listen to?

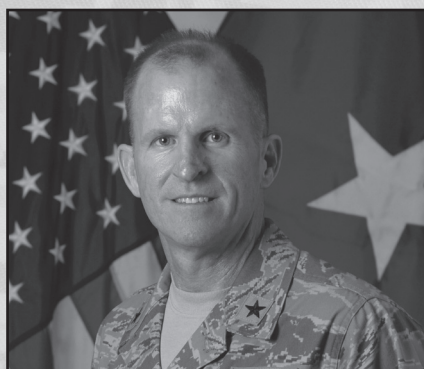
Look at the technological advances in modern aviation since the Wright brothers first flew. One of the most difficult things that can hinder change is being comfortable with the old way of doing business and not being able to let go.

Letting go of the "old" and embracing the "new" is pivotal and, in some regards, the first step in instituting change.

In order to be efficient, we must accept that we need to change with the world around us. Once we have accepted that changes are required in order to survive, we must now be flexible as the world around us continues to morph and shift.

If we learn to be flexible, anticipate

**SEE CHANGE 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).

# Brave to the BONE

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

Two 379th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron master sergeants were awarded Air Force Commendation Medals Thursday for actions that helped save U.S. Air Force aircrew lives and prevented the loss of a \$283.1 million B-1B aircraft during its emergency landing shortly after midnight Jan. 18.

Master Sgts. Alan Andrews and Michael Wingler, 379 EAMXS production supervisors, deployed from Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D., were presented with their coins during a maintenance group commander's call where, in front of a formation of about 700 fellow Airmen, they were also awarded the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing Coin of Excellence for their bravery and outstanding service.

The sergeants' courageous actions ensured the safety of four aircrew members and prevented the possible destruction of the munitions-loaded aircraft, as well as buildings and other aircraft in the surrounding area, said Maj. Rolandis Crawl, 379th EMXG executive officer, as he read their award citations, which explained to the crowd the events of Jan. 18.

"We had just launched a jet and heard (tail number) 77 call in for landing. Shortly after landing, the pilots called over UHF that they're losing Systems 2 and 3, and that alerted us," said Sergeant Andrews. "System 2 runs breaks and steering, so from our position, we started approaching the aircraft.

"As we approached, we noticed the number 3 tire caught fire, as well as the number 3 brake. Sergeant Wing-

ler immediately notified the (maintenance operations center) through our normal radio, and I called the aircrew over our UHF in the truck and notified them, 'Bone 22, super, fire, fire, fire, evacuate!'"

Upon Sergeant Andrews' warning, the pilots performed their emergency checklist and were evacuating the aircraft, as the sergeants drove in front of them, he added.

"At the parking ramp near the end of the runway, there were two fire bottles. We stopped the truck, got out and grabbed the fire bottles, and ran with them for about 50 yards or so, and started to extinguish the blaze."

When the first fire bottle was exhausted, they continued using the second one, he added.

"In a couple of minutes, it was done," said Sergeant Wingler.

However brief the encounter, Sergeant Andrews said he felt like time was standing still.

Both sergeants credited their annual fire bottle use training with enabling them to react so quickly and effectively.

"We've had the training so many times, so there was really no thinking," said Sergeant Andrews. "If we had thought too much about it, we may have run the other way," he jokingly added. "I really think anybody else in our shoes would have done the same thing."

While their swift actions may be attributed to conditioning through cyclic training, the sergeants said their real-world encounter was nothing either of them had experienced before.

"I was amped up," Sergeant Wingler said. "The adrenaline was rushing and I was just going and going, and once all was said and done, I was still

going."

They said it wasn't until they went back to their office to begin writing their after-action reports that they began to realize the true potential for disaster they had just prevented.

"She was fully loaded with bombs," said Sergeant Andrews. "Normally if there'd been one bomb, we'd have established a 4,000-foot cordon, and from that point, it would have been the entire (area of the) ramp. We would have had to evacuate or take cover. I think we would have had to take cover, because there was no time to evacuate.

"I didn't really consider the implications of non-action – until it was all over," he added. "We just knew we had crew members on board and we absolutely wanted to make sure they were safe."

379th AEW Vice Commander Col. Paul Schultz, said the sergeants' exceptional acts reminded him of a familiar quote, "An individual isn't judged on how he reacts when his life is good. It's how he reacts when things are tough.

"Their actions saved lives and aircraft," he said, "but they also allowed an asset, that flies over the skies of Afghanistan or Iraq, to save lives throughout the region. The wing commander and I, in six months time frame, have pulled more than 300 caskets off of aircraft.

"Sometimes – working out here in the heat, in the blowing wind and in the dust – it's very difficult for you to understand how what you do is so important," the colonel explained. "For everyone in maintenance, it is that important. What you do keeps us from having to pull another casket off those airplanes."

## CHANGE FROM PAGE 2

change, envision the change, and change with positive attitude, the psychological effects can be positive.

In transition, how do we help others embrace the eventuality of change? We can help others through training, mentoring and managing the change.

Another important factor in the acceptance of change is opening the line of communication for others, and being aware of emotional needs, as they go through this process.

Change is a major stressor, and people can only deal with so much change at one time. Keep an eye out for those having difficulties

coping, and help them manage it in the best manner possible.

Additionally, help those around us learn to accept that some changes will not yield positive results as fast as they would like. Change, at times, is a very timely and tedious process for all involved. It is our inherent responsibility to lead, teach

and mentor others.

I submit that if we let go of our fears, take a positive outlook on change and envision the end result, we've made the change happen already. Expect changes and be ready to change with it. If we don't, we may wake up and the world as we knew it has passed us by.



# Celtic Aire boosts morale, provides deplo



**The band Celtic Aire performed at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, Jan 14. Celtic Aire is the grass-roots folk music component of the U.S. Air Force Band located at Bolling Air Force Base, D.C. The members are Tech. Sgt. Emily Lewis, violinist/vocalist, Tech. Sgt. Julia Brundage, vocalist/drums, Master Sgt. Eric Sullivan, guitarist/vocalist and Tech. Sgt. Joseph Haughton, guitarist/vocalist.**

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

Celtic Aire, the U.S. Air Forces Central Band currently touring the AOR, is promoting troop morale and reaching out to audiences to spread good will with its own unique sound.

"People are like, 'is it Celtic – like the basketball team, or pronounced Keltic with a K?'" said Tech. Sgt. Joe Haughton, Celtic Aire guitarist and vocalist. "It's said with a K, but written with the C. It's Celtic music, and it's cool."

Four members of the Air Force Singing Sergeants, based out of Bolling Air Force Base, Md., formed Celtic Aire in 2007. The band has been featured at the White House and at diplomatic dinners in the Washington, D.C., area, performing its "earthy, grass-roots folk music."

"People know what to expect from a rock concert, but not our show," said Sergeant Haughton. "Once we play a couple notes though, people suddenly are drawn. As we spend more time on

the base, there are people coming back to every single one of our shows. People are into it, even though they don't know anything about Celtic music."

It's connecting with people that Senior Master Sgt. Deborah Volker, Celtic Aire NCOIC and violinist, said was most enjoyable about their recent 8-day tour in Iraq, where the band performed on four bases – 16 performances in all – to more than 3,200 people. "It was nice performing for U.S. and Coalition troops, civilians and foreign nationals, but what was better than having people come and listen, was having them talk to us and give us a chance to get to know them and what they're doing," she said.

Each of the band members agreed – the most important aspect of their tour was connecting with people through their music, often on an individual level.

"For me, it was playing at Joint Base Balad's Hospital Contingency Aeromedical Staging Facility, where people from any service who had been injured were waiting to be sent home," said Tech. Sgt. Emily Lewis, Celtic Aire

violinist and vocalist. "We played the Hero's Lounge, and there were messages written on the walls there – a lot of thank you's to the nurses and staff who took care of them...and some were memorials.

"Early in the morning, while they were eating breakfast, we walked in and started singing some peaceful music. They all seemed so calm and really grateful to have us there. One guy sitting on the couch, who was probably in his early 20's, sat and stared. His eyes were just lit up, watching and listening, and he smiled on occasion. It felt like he was really moved by the performance."

For Sergeant Haughton, the most memorable show was the one where he shared the spotlight with a guitarist from the audience.

"At Camp Echo, we met a gentleman who had played guitar for 30 years. We invited him to play with us," he explained. "He was so good, I was like, 'just stay up and play everything with us.'"

"When we talked afterward, he said he had his guitar with him, but didn't



# Deployed servicemembers with entertainment



U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Tabitha Kuykendall

**U.S. Air Forces Central Band Celtic Aire perform traditional Celtic tunes for Airmen and Soldiers at the Kirkuk Air Base, Iraq, dining facility Jan. 17. The AFCENT band travels to many deployed locations to offer instrumentals and ballads for U.S. forces deployed across the CENTCOM AOR.**

know how to get strings for it. So, I gave him a set of strings. He also said he hadn't played with any other musicians in more than a year, and for a musician to have that type of outlet, I could just see in his face what it meant to him."

"He was good, too," said Sergeant Lewis.

"Yeah, he totally dusted me," joked Sergeant Houghton.

Master Sgt. Eric Sullivan, Celtic Aire bassist, vocalist and drummer, said audience members weren't the only ones who were moved by their interaction with people they met during their Iraq tour.

"For me, it's been much more about the people we've met than the shows we've done," he said. "Some of the stories we heard...one guy at Camp Echo had been deployed six or seven times, all over the world, since 2002. Another guy, who was just jolly – there's no other way to describe him – was telling

us how he'd just been in a 40-minute fire fight, which is a ridiculously long fire fight.

"Despite what so many of these people have been through and seen in combat-related activities, it's amazing they have such positive and upbeat attitudes. What amazing constitutions they have, as far as their mental state and their ability to continue doing their jobs," said the sergeant.

Sergeant Sullivan, who has served his entire career as an Air Force Singing Sergeant, said deploying as part of Celtic Aire has also given him an opportunity at something he thought he might never experience.

"I've been wanting to do this for 10 years," he said. "When I came into the Air Force, I thought this was an important part of the job. But, it seemed to me that singers aren't very viable over here, so I didn't know if I'd ever have a chance to deploy.

"As hard as it is to leave home,

missing my kids and them missing me – it's really a dream come true for me, because I think what we're doing for the morale side of it, as well as going out into the community to spread good will, is very important. I'm very, very happy to be here."

Tech. Sgt. Julia Brundage, Celtic Aire founder, vocalist, drummer and penny whistler, agreed.

"About 95 percent of our performances back in the states are for the civilian public, not for the military. Coming here gives us a good chance to serve our country in a different way than we do in the U.S., and it gives us a chance to bear witness to what our servicemembers are doing here."

Next on the agenda for Celtic Aire are missions to the Manas Transit Center in Kyrgyzstan, where they said they're looking forward to performing for the troops, and also doing several off-base shows designed to strengthen relations in area communities.



## 379th EOSS provides Afghan Army Air Corps training tools

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

The 379th Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron recently began a program sending thousands of dollars worth of training equipment to Airmen and allies throughout the AOR.

The latest shipment, a pallet containing items ranging from a sink approved to wash aircrew oxygen masks to survival equipment an aircrew may need in case of emergency, will be delivered to Kabul, Afghanistan, for International Security Assistance Force aircrew flight equipment trainers to teach Afghan trainers to train their airmen.

"This is our first shipment going to Kabul. So far, we've also sent shipments to Tikrit, Iraq, and Kandahar, Afghanistan," said Master Sgt. Lorna Gomez, 379th EOSS Aircrew Flight Equipment superintendent. "We've been blessed to have extra equipment here



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

**Master Sgt. Lorna Gomez and Tech. Sgt. Danny Smith, 379th Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron aircrew flight equipment technician, discuss which training items to pack on a pallet at a non-disclosed Southwest Asia location, Monday.**

that we're able to send to our counterparts downrange."

The transfer of extra equipment to AFE members downrange was a collective idea, conceptualized as

servicemembers travelled through Southwest Asia.

"Different Airmen deploying to forward bases would stop by our shop, as they were travelling through Southwest Asia," said Sergeant Gomez. "As they would stop by the shop and say hi, they would make mention of what their needs are downrange. As we got extra equipment in, we began putting together shipments to meet their needs."

"At the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing, we've been lucky enough to readily receive the tools we need to accomplish the mission," she added. "So, as we receive a surplus of equipment, we ship it to other AFE shops that can't get equipment as readily as we can here."

The latest shipment is valued at more than \$70,000.

After the Afghanistan Army Air Corps AFE trainers have completed their ISAF lead course using the

equipment, they will turn it over to their counterparts in the Afghan Army Air Corps.

"Ultimately, this equipment will be transferred directly to the Afghanistan Army Air Corps," said Tech. Sgt. Eric Bailey, 379th EOSS AFE craftsman. "Eventually, their trainers will be able to teach new Afghan airmen on the equipment we're shipping to them now."

The AFE flight began the shipments a month ago and plans to continue sending equipment to "barren" shops throughout the AOR.

"As we receive requests from downrange for equipment, we will go through our stores and ship used and old equipment downrange to help our forward-deployed Airmen," Sergeant Gomez said.

"The whole AFE career field is united, and we are proud to serve with and help out our counterparts."



**Tech. Sgt. Danny Smith, 379th Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron aircrew flight equipment technician, packs a pallet of training equipment at a non-disclosed Southwest Asia location, Monday.**



## Senior Airman Demetrius Newell

71st Expeditionary Air Control Squadron  
Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration  
apprentice

**Home station:** Gulfport, Miss.

**Arrived in AOR:** September

**Deployment goals:** My deployment goal is to gain as much experience as possible to ensure mission success.

**Best part of the deployment:** The best part of my deployment has been working on equipment that I have not seen since my technical training school.

**Hobbies:** I enjoy working out, spending time with my children and family, and with the ones I love.

**Best Air Force memory:** My best Air Force memory so far has been walking through the terminal in Maine and seeing the warm greetings of the civilians thanking us for serving our country.

*Nominated by Master Sgt. Nicholas Fuqua: "Airman Newell constantly seeks opportunities to train. His willingness to learn his job and his drive to do the best he can do are examples for all in the work center."*



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

## Senior Airman Kasey Zickmund

379th Air Expeditionary Wing  
Public Affairs photographer

**Home station:** Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D.

**Arrived in AOR:** December

**Assignment goals:** To expand my skills as a photographer and document as much of the mission as I can. I would also like to work on my Community College of the Air Force degree.

**Best part of the deployment:** Reconnecting with and making new friends.

**Hobbies:** Spending time with my family and friends, writing poetry, playing video and card games, and listening to music.

**Best Air Force memory:** Coming into the service open general and finding out at Basic Military Training that I was going to be a photographer.

*Nominated by Capt. Patrick Cordova: "Airman Zickmund exemplifies the Air Force values of Integrity First, Service before Self and Excellence in all we do. She is always willing to step up to the plate and give it her best. Since arriving in the AOR she has been constantly on the go, getting tons of great imagery that truly captures the heart and soul of Potestas Accuratioque."*



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Spencer Gallien

## Tech. Sgt. Jamilia Greene

379th Expeditionary Maintenance Group  
Knowledge Operations NCO in-charge

**Home station:** Randolph Air Force Base, Texas

**Arrived in AOR:** November

**Deployment goals:** My deployment goals are to improve my physical conditioning and complete nine hours towards my Bachelor's Degree.

**Best part of the deployment:** The best part of my deployment has been stepping out of my comfort zone, watching B-1B take off and land from Lookout Hill and going home debt free.

**Hobbies:** I like scrapbooking, card-making, playing video games, watching football (Go Colts!), and spending time with family and friends.

**Best Air Force memory:** When I was notified of my selection to master sergeant and attending my Senior NCO Induction Ceremony.

*Nominated by Chief Master Sgt. James Tibbetts: "Sergeant Greene arrived and hit the ground running. She's a hard-charger who never quits. She quickly grasped all the staff processes and streamlined or improved just about all of them. She's a perfect example of powerful people making the mission happen."*



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



**Capt. Shannon Walker, 379th Expeditionary Force Support Squadron manpower organization chief, checks a kindergartener's paper, at a host-nation American school, for errors at a non-disclosed Southwest Asia location Wednesday. Captain Walker is a part of the Company Grade Officers Council who went to the school as a community outreach event.**



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



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

**Staff Sergeant Christopher Snyder, 34th Aircraft Maintenance Unit B-1B Lancer crew chief, inspects the underside of a B-1 as part of a post-flight inspection at a non-disclosed Southwest Asia location Tuesday. Sergeant Snyder is deployed from Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D.**





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



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

**CENTER:** Senior Master Sgt. Daniel Zent, U.S. Air Forces Central chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and high yield manager, re-enlists in a hazardous material protective suit at a non-disclosed Southwest Asia location Jan. 16.

**TOP RIGHT:** Staff Sgt. Jon Reed, 379th Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron water and fuels maintenance, prepares hoses for a pump at a sewage lift station at a non-disclosed Southwest Asia location, Monday.

**BOTTOM RIGHT:** Johnny Cardinale, Comedy Corps member, performs as part of the "Disarmed and Dangerous" comedy show at the Coalition Compound Theatre at a non-disclosed Southwest Asia location, Jan. 23. The comedy troupe, also including Matt Baetz and Lauren Ashley Bishop, is scheduled to appear at various locations throughout the AOR.



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

the wing of Snyder



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



# Celebrate! Deployed Coalition servicemembers enjoy Australian Day

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

Deployed Australian servicemembers celebrated a national holiday at a non-disclosed Southwest Asia location Tuesday.

Jan. 26 is the anniversary of the arrival of the first fleet of 11 ships from Great Britain, and the raising of the Union Jack at Sydney Cove by the commander, Capt. Arthur Phillip, in 1788, said Flight Lt. Jacqueline Hatch, Royal Australian Air Force.

Today, Australia Day reflects the diverse society, landscape and achievements they've made since the first settlers arrived at Sydney Cove, she added. "It's an opportunity to reflect on our nation's history, and consider how we can make Australia an even better place in the future."

Australia Day is filled with barbecues and fireworks, starting in the early morning

and lasting well into the evening, said Pilot Officer Gene Elliott, RAAF Combined Air and Space Operations Center watchkeeper.

"It's very similar to America's Independence Day," he said. "Being able to celebrate here, while deployed, reminds me of home. In Australia, everyone has a day off and it's usually a barbeque and a few beverages with your mates... and the cricket is usually on."

The deployed Australians enjoyed barbecue and cricket games on the television as they were granted a reprieve from their day-to-day deployed duties.

The RAAF contingent at this Southwest Asia location is made up of roughly 30 servicemembers supporting Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom, as well as, missions in the Horn of Africa.

"It's important while deployed overseas, we represent our contingent here," said Maj. Gus Walker, Royal Australian Army liaison officer. "We may be here; (but)



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Master Sgt. David Byron

**Deployed Australian servicemembers celebrated a national holiday, Australian Day, recognizing the day the first settlers arrived at Sydney Cove and hoisted the British Flag at a non-disclosed Southwest Asia location, Tuesday.**



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

**The Australian military contingent celebrated Australia Day which included a barbecue, conversation, mingling with Coalition forces and watching a broadcast of a cricket match at a non-disclosed Southwest Asia location, Tuesday.**

we're still celebrating with everyone at home.

"We've invited some of our Coalition partners and some Host Nation representatives that we work with to celebrate this day with us and have a fun, relaxing and enjoyable day," Major Walker added.

One thing the deployed RAAF members have in common is a sense of pride in their country, as well as serving overseas, said Major Walker.

"It's really good being over here, especially in this coalition environment—we are given the opportunity to work with some fantastic people, learn invaluable tools we can bring home with us, and just to be serving overseas—It's just a great experience."



## GRAND SLAM FLASHBACK: Largest bomber operation since Vietnam War

By Jim Mesco

379th Air Expeditionary Wing Historian

In the early morning of Jan. 16, 1991, one of the largest aerial assaults ever executed took place as hundreds of jet, propeller and rotor-winged aircraft left bases in the Persian Gulf to liberate Kuwait after a month of occupation by forces of the former Iraqi leader, Saddam Hussein. Months prior to the beginning of the air campaign, fighters, tankers, airlifters, reconnaissance aircraft, helicopters and bombers arrived inside and outside of the region to carry out attacks on enemy positions and troops. One of those units was the 1708th Provisional Bombardment Wing at Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. A major participant in that wing's air armada was the 379th Bomb Wing's B-52G assigned to Wurtsmith Air Force Base, Mich. The 379th BW brought with it 16 aircraft, 32 aircrews, and hundreds of maintenance and other personnel critical to keeping the B-52G flying. During the 42-day air campaign, aircrews and ground personnel completed 846 sorties and dropped roughly 13,000 tons of ordnance on the enemy. This equated to 20 percent of all weapons dropped on enemy forces during Operation DESERT STORM. On Feb. 26, 1991, the wing participated in one of the largest bomber operations since the Linebacker missions of the Vietnam War. With all the missions, both low- and high-level

el flown, only two aircraft received damage from enemy fire. Two B-52s flying through some of the heaviest air defenses seen in modern warfare received damage from radar-guided surface-to-air missiles. Weeks later, the aircraft, crews and support personnel returned to Wurtsmith AFB. A major event to remember from nearly 20 years ago.



## This Week's Caption Contest

The winner is...

**"Now I'm ready to be the stunt double for 'Jaws'"**

-Airman 1st Class Justin Monroe  
34th Expeditionary Bomb Squadron  
Aviation Resource Manager



Photo No. 160

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.



Photo No. 161 (next week's photo)



# Southwest Asia's superheroes of software

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

As the realm of computer technology advances day by day, software engineers are increasingly being called upon to be innovators, forward thinkers...the guys who make leadership's dreams reality. The ones working for Air Forces Central A6 Division here in Southwest Asia are no exception.

"The Air Force Force combat coders are all doing high-visibility jobs that have theater-wide impact," said Capt. Rodney Bagley, AFFOR Theater Maintenance and Software Development chief, deployed from Dyess Air Force Base, Texas. "Thanks to their efforts, people across all services are getting where they need to be within the AOR, faster and safer; and close air support is being provided to U.S. and Coalition ground forces more effectively than ever before."

Two of these combat coders, Staff Sgt. Jonathan Kirby and Senior Airman Josh Miller, both software engineers deployed from Maxwell-Gunter AFB, Ala., are dedicated to ensuring travel within the AOR takes people out of the fight for shorter periods of time and keeps them out of harm's way as much as possible in the process.

The Prototype Passenger Reservation Process is an initiative started in mid-November, Airman Miller said. "We're now getting close to the completion of a basic system that will move people throughout the AOR significantly better. The days of people having to travel on dangerous roads to a passenger terminal and spend a lot of time there, waiting to see if they did or didn't make a flight, will become a thing of the past. People will request a flight online and find out via e-mail whether or not they made it."

The engineers are modeling their system after one that's been used successfully in the Iraq theater, said Captain Bagley.

"The system used in Iraq is outstanding for point-to-point reservation travel, and ours will have further enhancements to accommodate round trips," he said.

There are also issues moving passengers between Iraq and Afghanistan – which AOR commander takes control at given points in time and

differences these commanders have in passenger movement priorities. But, as the commanders work these issues out and provide the coders with that data, they'll be able to incorporate the correct algorithms into their system, the captain said.

Although they found a system to fashion their own after, their job hasn't been easy to accomplish.

"This project has been a bottom-up approach as far as development, in that usually, my team gets a project package with a full set of requirements up front...but not this time," Captain Bagley said.

Leadership simply said it wanted something like this that works, the Captain added.

"From there, I went all around talking to various people, from passenger terminal to Air Mobility Division folks, to figure out how they do their jobs and how I can make a reservation system to make what they have to do easier," Airman Miller explained. "Everyone must be happy with what we've done, especially the command-

ers prioritizing and approving the travel requests, before we put the system into a live situation. So, it wasn't until after talking to all of these people and putting a set of requirements together of what I understood they'd need, that I was able to sit down with the code and start writing the prototype."

And "sitting down with the code," meant sitting down and typing more than 10,000 lines of perfectly inputted code, the captain explained.

"It's been a lot of long days for them, but it's also been great to see their faces light up when they've figured something out that's been giving them trouble," Captain Bagley said, "and their work will soon be presented to high-level NATO movement personnel, to explain the initiatives being worked here to see how they might dovetail into things being worked elsewhere."

Another initiative the captain's team has worked on to improve troop war-fighting capability is already up and running – the Air Tasking Order Database.



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

**Staff Sgt. Jonathan Kirby, Air Forces Central A6 Division NCO in-charge of software engineering, develops a software program for a precise air strike at a non-disclosed Southwest Asia location Jan. 8. Sergeant Kirby also works on a better personnel tracking system.**





**Senior Airman Josh Miller, Air Force Forces A6 Division software engineer develops an online passenger reservation system to prevent servicemembers from having to travel on dangerous roads to get flight information, at a non-disclosed Southwest Asia location, Jan. 11. Airman Miller and his crew are a few months away from completion of the software program.**

"The requirements for this project came from the strategic air division, senior operations duty officer and Navy liaison officer on the Combined Air Operations Center floor," said Captain Bagley. "One of the coders on this project, Airman 1st Class Justin Daniell, and I also went to Afghanistan to talk with the Air Support Operations Group that interfaces with the CAOC to ensure he had all the criteria he needed to do the job right, from the tactical level all the way up to the strategic level."

The ATO system took location-specific desktop tracking systems, maintained at various places throughout the AOR, and consolidated them into a Web-based tracking program giving strategic leaders an all-in-one picture of all the activity, and available resources in the AOR, said Airman Daniell.

The ATO log-side of the project concentrates on flights as a whole, said Sergeant Kirby. A subsidiary system to the ATO log, the Chief of Combat

Operations log, coded by Senior Airman Armani Wilson, adds in the actual kinetic factor, such as weapons fired and weapons equipped.

Together, the ATO and CCO logs allow commanders to track things like execution of aircraft mission information in direct support of ground forces, changes in planned missions, weather issues and post-mission analysis, by automatically generating reports streamlined to the strategy division.

The processes, done the old way, took roughly four or five hours a day to get in order, but with automation, it is knocked down to less than an hour, said Airman Daniell.

"The whole idea is that, instead of all these little, individual databases, all of them would reside on one huge database with different interfaces that can be accessed through a Web link," said the captain. "What's created is a picture of what aircraft are flying what missions and when. So, when a Joint Tactical Air Controller on the ground calls for air support, leaders can

quickly see which aircraft is nearest the troop location, and they can direct that aircraft to the controller much more quickly."

Within seconds from the time a JTAC calls in, leaders can see which air asset can get there fastest, Airman Daniell added.

"Getting this system up and running has required Airman Daniell to pull some crazy hours to support the CAOC, and he's done an absolutely stellar job helping warfighters make quicker decisions because they have more accurate information at their fingertips."

Captain Bagley attributes his team's ability to succeed and thrive on effective communication, up and down the chain, and the professionalism of his troops.

"We've got a real strong dialog with all the key players involved in producing and using our software, and I have a strong team of coders. I couldn't be more pleased with them," he said.



# In the Chapel

## VICTORY CHAPEL

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

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### Protestant Saturday

7:30 p.m., Contemporary, Chapel

### Sunday

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

9:45 a.m., Contemporary, Chapel

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

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

4 p.m., Liturgical, Chapel

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

Muslim  
Buddhist  
Orthodox  
Jewish

### Earth Religions

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

# Excellent choices

By Chaplain (Capt.) Jason Kim  
379th Air Expeditionary Wing Chapel

Every day, we make choices from a simple one like, "What will I eat for lunch today?" to a major decision like, "Will I marry this person?" Many times we do not stop to think whether our choices are sound, especially when the burdens and cares of life weigh us down.

The choices we make throughout life determine where we are today and what we may become in the future. What we want, think and love show up in the choices we make. It is no wonder Apostle Paul urged us to make "excellent" choices, ones that come from a heart committed to God.

As we begin a new year, it is worth our time and effort to pause momentarily and ponder the choices we make daily.

We have all made poor choices, the consequences of which may have left us pained and broken. Many of us may be living with the familiar "what ifs and what could have beens." We have regrets about poor choices we have made in the past.

Hopelessness and depression, however, do not have to characterize the emotional pattern that plagues us. The psalmist reminds us "(The Lord) heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds," (Ps.147:3). Although the past is irrevocable, the future offers new chances and opportunities.

I recently came across a school teacher's letter to her students. The letter included an alphabetized list of life principles called "ABC's To Live By."

The teacher's "ABC's To Live By," are as follows...

- Accept Difference
- Be kind
- Count Your Blessings
- Dream
- Express Thanks
- Forgive

- Give Freely
- Harm No One
- Imagine More
- Jettison Anger
- Keep Confidence
- Love Truly
- Master Something
- Nurture Hope
- Open Your Mind
- Pack Lightly
- Quell Rumors
- Reciprocate
- Seek Wisdom
- Touch Hearts
- Understand
- Value Truth
- Win Graciously
- Xeriscape
- Yearn For Peace
- Zealously Support A Worthy Cause

While many wise principles are given, what catches my attention are the letters, "F" and "L." Notice the letter "F" is for "Forgive" and "L" for "Love Truly."

When we repent, God can and will forgive us, and give us a place to begin again. This demonstrates the greatness of God's forgiving love for us. Empowered by such love, our lives can begin to move in a new, positive direction. Have you done any soul searching lately? Do you find yourself doing daily chores and duties without giving much thought to why you are making the choices you do?

Are you too tired or weary to make good choices? Be assured in this: God loves you, and He loves you without any strings attached. When we accept His unconditional love, we are no longer motivated simply by the dictates of law. Instead, the overwhelming love received propels us to become the best we can be. We will make choices guided by love and forgiveness.

So the next time you find yourself thinking about what to eat for lunch, remember, quality choices equal quality life.





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

### **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. Right Start and Right Finish briefings have been scheduled for Feb. 5, 12, 19 and 26 at the CC theater. Right Start begins promptly at 6:45 a.m. and Right Finish begins at 5 p.m. The PT uniform is not acceptable dress for either briefing. Right Finish attendees must bring their ID cards and CED orders or their out-processing checklist.

### **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**

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. All personnel deployed here will have IPE no later than Feb. 26.

### **CACs Lost Off Base**

The 379th Air Expeditionary Wing Host Nation Coordination Cell recently announced a new policy requiring servicemembers who lose their Common Access Card downtown to file a report with the host-nation police station. The police report must then be shown at the front gate in order to enter the base and to replace the CAC. For more information, call 589-1157.

### **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.

### **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. Joseph Grubbs, 379th Expeditionary Communications Squadron telephone maintenance, pulls Cat-5 cables for NIPR and DSN lines at a new air traffic control tower while Senior Airman Jessica Davis sheds light on the situation at a non-disclosed Southwest Asia location, Tuesday. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Michelle Larche)

