

DESERT EAGLE

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Rivet Joint hits 50,000 flight- hour milestone



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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.



Senior Airman Sophia Hayner, 55th Aircraft Maintenance Unit communication navigation mission systems, and Airman 1st Class Dennis Lowe, 55th AMU RC-135 crew chief, remove an air conditioning tube from a RC-135 aircraft prior to takeoff here, Monday.

Wingmen watching Wingmen

By Capt. Robert Anson
379th Expeditionary Maintenance
Operations Squadron

"Hey! Watch this!"
"I'll bet you can't..."
"I double-dog-dare you-to..."

Rarely do those words precede a positive outcome, and most of us can think of examples where they paved the way for a negative one. In some cases, they heralded a harmless moment...one that resulted in simple loss of face or embarrassment amongst peers. In some, they signal painful, yet repairable, damage to people or resources.

Unfortunately, in too many events, the result of "Hey, watch this!" has been catastrophic. Have you ever heard someone use those words right before they embarked down a path of no return? If so, did you do anything about it?

Organizations will never be accident-free over the long-term, some accidents are going to happen, it's a given. However, I am a firm believer that most incidents are preventable.

The question is what can we do to ensure we've mitigated as many risks as possible?

As Airmen, we are fortunate to be members of an organization that embraces the "wingman culture." Safety begins with each individual, but you are never alone.

A good wingman should be there to say "knock it off" when something isn't right. Understanding this philosophy means knowing you're a wingman to your fellow Airmen,

“ A good wingman should be there to say 'knock it off' when something isn't right. Understanding this philosophy means knowing you're a wingman to your fellow Airmen, civilian friends, family and to your own conscience.”

civilian friends, family and to your own conscience.

Safety is not rocket science; it often boils down to simple common sense. A quick search of the Air Force Safety Center's website reveals that off-duty activities result in nearly 70 percent of all mishaps. In fact, 57 percent of our off-duty incidents are related to sports and recreation, while 41 percent are related to vehicle and motorcycle accidents.

On-duty incidents run the gamut including trips and falls in the workplace, lacerations from box cutters and even cases involving government vehicles.

I will share one interesting story with you.

One of our Airmen, after drinking alcohol, decided it would be a good idea to take a running jump over a large bonfire to impress his friends. This resulted in torn tendons to his knee, although it could've been much worse. Not only did he cause himself

SEE WINGMEN 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.

New Military Health System site makes information accessible

FALLS CHURCH, Va. (AFNS) -- Military Health System officials have launched a new Web site that provides a single point of entry to military health news, information and resources.

The site, Health.mil, is part of the Defense Department's continued commitment toward making health information available and easy to find, officials said.

Content is categorized by topic or audience, including servicemembers, retirees and families; health care providers; educators and researchers; Military Health System staff; Defense Department leaders; and the media.

"We've listened to the feedback from our users and redesigned the site to make it better - easier to navigate and easier to find information," said Dr. Michael Kilpatrick, director of strategic communications for the Military Health System. "The new Health.mil is better organized, better looking, and more seamlessly integrated with our social media efforts."

The new design better serves the system's health care beneficiaries by pro-

viding links to Tricare and eBenefits up front. An easy-to-navigate layout provides multiple paths to the information, including an exposed site map and a topic index on every page.

The new site includes improved Section 508 compliance for the disabled and is easier to use with mobile devices. A robust search function pulls in results from across multiple organizational Web sites within the Military Health System.

America's Military Health System is a unique partnership of medical educators, medical researchers and health-care providers and their support personnel worldwide. This DOD enterprise consists of the office of the assistant secretary of Defense for health affairs; the medical departments of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard and Joint Chiefs of Staff; the combatant command surgeons; and Tricare providers, including private-sector health-care providers, hospitals and pharmacies.

Courtesy of American Forces Press Service from a Military Health System news release)

Gates: Elections show Iraq's progress

By Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

ABOARD A U.S. MILITARY AIRCRAFT (AFNS) -- The Iraqi election process shows how far the country has come, Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates said March 7 here.

Secretary Gates received reports on the Iraqi election from Army Gen. Ray Odierno, the U.S. commander in the country.

General Odierno said he had expected a high number of high-profile attacks as al-Qaida attempted to disrupt the elections and keep Iraqis from the polls.

"But efforts of the Iraqi security forces are such that al-Qaida in Iraq was forced to change their tactics," Secretary Gates told reporters traveling with him.

"There were a number of explosions in Baghdad in the early morning hours, but they figure that 80 percent were these bottled noise bombs that did little damage, but were designed to affect the perception of the security environment," the secretary said.

Contrary to media reports, there were no mortar attacks in the capital. In the southern part of the country there were no security incidents at all, General Odierno told Secretary Gates.

"His view is the Iraq security forces have performed superbly and the turn-out is as high, if not higher, than earlier expectations," Secretary Gates said.

The contrast between the elections in 2005 and those held today "is just staggering," he said. The levels of violence in Iraq have dropped precipitously. "I don't think we could have written a script from the vantage point of March 2007 to be where we are today with the low level of violence," he said.

Secretary Gates said he was impressed by campaigning that went on before the vote. Candidates could put their ideas forward in a peaceful environment.

"All-in-all a good day for the Iraqis and all of us," Secretary Gates said.

FROM WINGMEN ON PAGE 2

great personal pain, he caused extra work for fellow Airmen who were left to cover his work during medical downtime.

Do you think that was a "hey, watch this!" moment? Better yet, what did the other guys around the bonfire say in the moments just before the jump?

We are the greatest Air Force in the world, capable of executing highly complex missions under strenuous circumstances. Yet, most of our preventable accidents occur during peacetime operations. Why is that?

Our attention to detail, sense of

urgency and focus are highest during intense operations. We tend to think through every situation and everything that could go wrong. Reactions to these situations tend to be instinctual and decisive.

The validity of this lesson is universal: think before you act. All Airmen should try to think one step ahead of their own actions both on and off duty. The challenge is to conduct ourselves in a way that keeps our focus one step ahead of actions. Safety is what happens in the next 30 seconds... and the next...keeping "common

sense" alive and well in our everyday lives.

Always anticipate the unexpected, always stay one step ahead of your actions, always be a wingman to fellow Airmen, family and to your own conscience.

If someone says "Hey, watch this!" their wingman should be there to say, "Hey, let's not." If the next time you hear "I double-dog-dare you," and the hair on the back of your neck starts to tingle, step in and slow things down.

Safety is often just Airmen taking care of each other.

Rivet Joint aircraft

Second time in history aircraft

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

An Air Force asset that's been keeping watch over the enemy in the area of responsibility for nearly 20 years marked a milestone in the skies over Afghanistan March 4.

Upon landing on the flightline at this non-disclosed Southwest Asia location, RC-135V/W Rivet Joint tail number 139 had surpassed 50,000 flight hours – only the second of its kind to reach this mark since the aircraft first took flight in 1962.

“For the Rivet Joint program and the mission, 50,000 flight hours is a significant milestone to recognize,” said Lt. Col. Richard Linehan, 763rd Expeditionary Reconnaissance Squadron commander.

“With only 17 of them in inventory – and about 25 percent of the fleet here – it is an indication of how valuable an asset the RJ is to operations within the AOR,”

the colonel said.

The RC-135 supports reconnaissance needs of both troops on the ground and national intelligence agencies. Its crew, in addition to pilots and navigators, consists of in-flight equipment maintenance technicians and intelligence experts – electronic warfare officers and intelligence operators who monitor the enemy's electronic activity – using sophisticated intelligence-gathering, analysis and dissemination equipment.

“We support all of our customers who are on the ground and in the air,” the colonel said. “Essentially, they – the various task forces – tell us when and where they want us to be. We glean intelligence through information we're able to pick up while we're flying and pass that back along to our customers.”

The information RC-135 crews provide for ground forces includes indications about location and intentions of enemy forces and warnings of threatening activity, broadcasting direct voice com-

munications, such as combat advisories, and imminent threat warnings that can go directly to aircraft in danger and operating data and voice links to get target info to U.S. ground-based air defenses.

“A lot of what's different today than in the past – and what sets the RJ apart from other reconnaissance aircraft – is that we're picking up real-time information on the enemy and getting that information directly to our customers on the ground real-time,” the colonel explained. “It can be intel about an attack or intel to aid in operations where they're going to take out high-value targets.”

One of many examples demonstrating the importance of the RC-135 to troops on the ground took place as recently as February, during the Afghan-led Operation Moshtarak in Southern Afghanistan.

While entering the area of operations, the aircraft used signal intelligence reports to support U.S. ground forces in enemy-occupied territory, Colonel Linehan explained. The RC-135 gathered in-



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

RC-135V/W Rivet Joint tail number 139 surpassed 50,000 flight hours March 4, here. The aircraft is only the second of its kind to reach this mark since the airframe first took flight in 1962. The RC-135 is a reconnaissance aircraft used to support theater- and national-level intelligence needs with near real-time on-scene collection, analysis and dissemination capabilities.

craft sets milestone: t surpasses 50,000 flight hours

telligence revealing insurgents' plan to ambush U.S. helicopters.

"The crew was able to tip forces of imminent danger," he said. "The helos then positively identified enemy forces preparing mortars for attack, concurrent with the RC-135's information. The helos assumed a defensive posture and an attack helo was called in to eliminate the enemy threat."

The RC-135's support resulted in zero U.S. casualties and a significant degradation of enemy capabilities in the region, the colonel added.

Master Sgt. Robert Evans, 763rd ERS airborne mission supervisor, currently on his sixth Operation Enduring Freedom deployment, said he's been flying on RC-135s for more than 20 years, and he can attest to the increasing demand for intelligence his crew provides for troops on the ground.

"When I first started flying, we hardly ever deployed, usually just short-term (temporary duty assignments) for exercises," he said. "But, with the shift in mission focus from strategic to tactical following the first Persian Gulf War, the amount of time we spend away from home supporting missions in the AOR has increased dramatically."

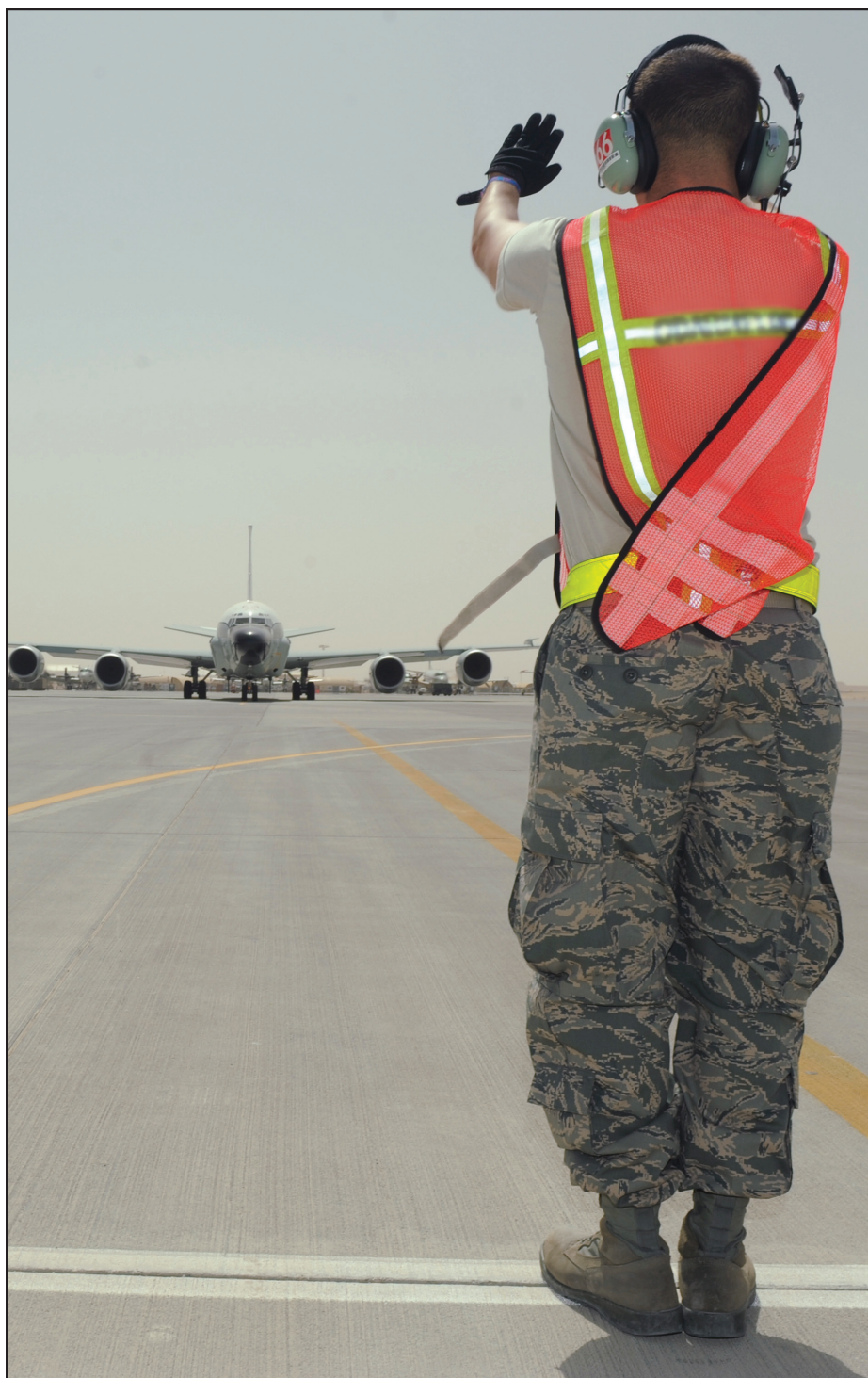
Sergeant Evans said he recalled a mission where his crew had crucial intelligence on a planned enemy attack that almost failed to make its way to ground troops before the troops headed directly into an ambush.

"We had locational data for seven enemy ambush positions along both sides of a road heading east from a forward operating base," the sergeant said. "We attempted to contact Coalition forces at the (forward operating base) through all available methods, but were unable to establish communication."

"I felt almost frantic not being able to contact the CF at the FOB," he said. "I didn't want to see any of our guys getting killed when we could have prevented it."

Ultimately, the team was able to get the information to ground forces, giving the convoy a life-saving advantage as they proceeded toward the enemy.

Colonel Linehan said his RJ team has excelled during his tenure and he's



Senior Airman Jonathan Robertson, 55th Aircraft Maintenance Unit RC-135 crew chief, marshalls an RC-135 aircraft for takeoff here, Monday.

proud of the important intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance piece they and the RJ bring to the ongoing war in Operation Enduring Freedom.

"I'm extremely pleased with the job my squadron and the 55th Aircraft Maintenance Unit have done here. I'm

so proud of the team we put together to get the mission done – from the intel, the staff support, to the maintenance unit. Even though we all come from different units back home, we're able to unite everyone to get the job done and save lives."

Airmen for life: Military retirees still supporting missions in AOR



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

(Second from left) Gary Hawkins, 379th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron discusses the laundry facility renovation with base contractors here, Feb 22. Mr. Hawkins is a retired Air Force civil engineer technical sergeant.

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

Military retirees spend a career serving their country, making contributions to war efforts and living their life based on a code set forth through core values and ethos all servicemembers must adhere to.

For some, service doesn't end with their military career. Military retiree's may find themselves working as DOD civilians, contractors or in Non-Appropriated Funds jobs that may require them to once again support their country in foreign locations.

The 379th Air Expeditionary Wing is no different, employing military retirees from a broad range of careers to accomplish

missions in support of the warfighter.

"I support everyone at the wing with information, from general Air Force history to lessons learned from past missions," said Jim Mesco, retired master sergeant and current 379th AEW historian. "I've enjoyed my work as an Air Force historian and have done it for 20 years. It's a very satisfying job."

As an active-duty Airman, Mr. Mesco deployed four times. His last deployment before retiring was in 2002 when he was sent to the Balkans Combined Air and Space Operations Center to write about the non-combat and peace-keeping missions and wrap up the mission history as it wound down.

However, this is his first deployment as a

DOD civilian.

"I've been given a lot of opportunities to learn the mission here," he added. "Working with aircrew members, learning the mission first-hand, has been an awesome experience. They've been amazing Airmen, and I look forward to continuing to document this wing's history."

There are also retired military serving as contractors to the wing.

Gary Hawkins, retired technical sergeant, was a civil engineer structures Airman; he currently works on small construction projects on base as a contractor.

"We've installed the Blatchford-Preston Complex parking lot lights, screen walls at the dining facilities and built fences at various secure structures on base," he said.

As a civilian Mr. Hawkins has travelled around Kuwait, Iraq and Afghanistan helping to build structures for bases in support of servicemembers deployed to them.

"Every job is rewarding," said Mr. Hawkins. "It's a lot of fun working on base; being former military, I know what Airmen go through on a daily basis, and still being able to support them gives me a lot of satisfaction."

However different each retiree's job is, both have one thing in common – military service.

"I spent 24 years active-duty," said Mr. Mesco. "Being able to use the expertise I gained while an active-duty historian and apply it as a civilian historian has been great. I like contributing, and in this case, in a deployed environment."

Seaman Apprentice Terronza Stephenson

Combined Air and Space Operations Center

Naval Amphibious Liaison Element administrative assistant

Home station: Southwest Asia

Arrived in AOR: July 2009

Deployment goals: My deployment goals are to learn the CAOC NALE job to the best of my ability, become an expert in the Yeoman rate, get promoted, save money, get involved with command activities and do an outstanding job here.

Best part of the deployment: Getting the opportunity to work with sister services and other military personnel from other countries and becoming a better all around Sailor.

Hobbies: Working out and playing sports.

Best Navy memory: When I was requested by the commodore of U.S. Pacific Fleet Electronic Attack Wing at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island to come and work for him.

Nominated by Chief Petty Officer Denise Flowers: "He has provided a seamless transition for the warfighters deploying to the Central Command AOR and has enabled a timely return of all aircraft to fully mission capable status in minimal time with his logistical expertise."



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

Maj. Brenda Simpson

379th Air Expeditionary Wing

sexual assault response coordinator

Home station: Pentagon, D.C.

Arrived in AOR: January

Deployment goals: To improve upon programs and processes that are already in place and leave it better for the next rotation. I'd also like to increase my running distance.

Best part of the deployment: For me, the best part of any deployment is the people that you have an opportunity to meet and work with.

Hobbies: I enjoy music, gardening and softball.

Best Air Force memory: It's hard to single-out a memory, but I would say my 365-day TDY to the Green Zone in Iraq was one of my most memorable experiences.

Nominated by Col. Ronald Jenkins: "Major Simpson has increased sexual assault prevention and outreach efforts across the base through commander's calls, unit visits and base organization meetings. She has collaborated with first responders and sister service advocates to ensure a seamless response capability exists."



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

Capt. Matt Parker

379th Expeditionary Operations Group

C-21A pilot

Home station: Andrews AFB, Md.

Arrived in AOR: December

Deployment goals: My deployment goals are to continue to work towards my master's degree in International Relations and get in shape.

Best part of the deployment: The best part of this deployment has been getting to work with great people, visiting new places and the opportunity to serve my country in a time of war.

Hobbies: I enjoy working out, playing basketball and reading.

Best Air Force memory: My best Air Force memory was when I earned my pilot wings in 2004.

Nominated by Lt. Col. Jeff Witkop: "Captain Parker has done a fantastic job here during his deployment. He is in charge of the standardization and evaluation shop and has created a model program. He is an instructor pilot and has trained three co-pilots and three members of the Colorado Air National Guard on AOR operations. His demeanor is always professional and he enthusiastically works to make things better here."

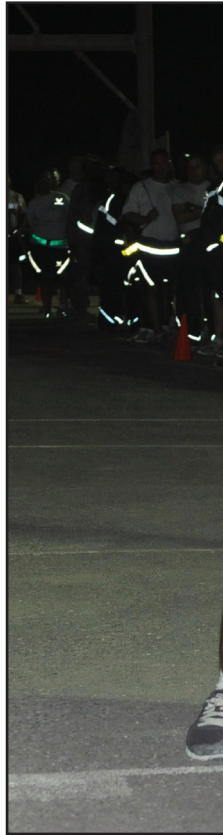


U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Michelle Larche



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

Army Sgt. Adam specialist, compete



TOP LEFT: A C-130 Hercules lifts off here, Sunday. The C-130 can be rapidly configured for various types of cargo such as palletized equipment, floor-loaded material, airdrop platforms, container delivery system bundles, vehicles, personnel and aero-medical evacuation.



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

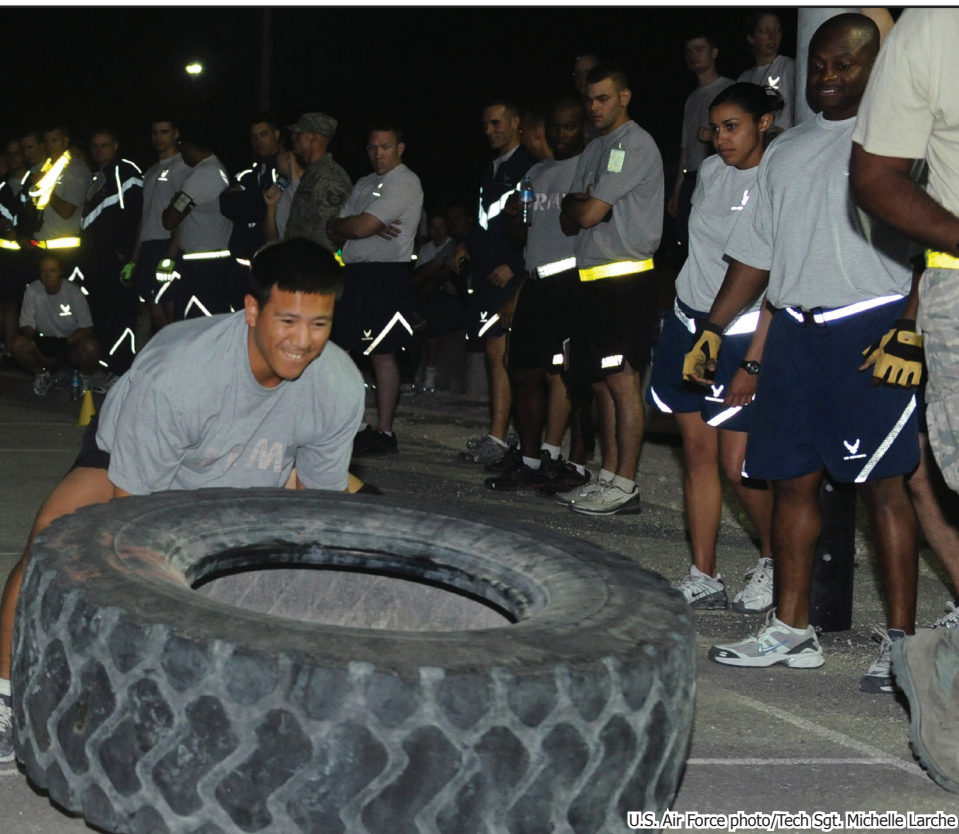
Maj. Gen. Cecil Richardson, U.S. Air Force chief of chaplains, speaks to servicemembers during a National Prayer Luncheon here, Monday.



U.S. Air Force

Petty Officer 3rd Class Sarah Connell, Command Task Group corpsman, and Petty Officer 3rd Class Christopher Scott, Command Task Group 57.2 naval aircrewman avionics, receive encouragement from others during a 24-hour charity event here, Tuesday.

Cruz, 1st Battlefield Coordination Detachment aviation operations specialists in a Commander's Cup Challenge event here, Tuesday.



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



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



photo/Tech Sgt. Michelle Larche

Group 57.2 hospital Command Task Group from fellow Sailors



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

Senior Airman Harold Baaske, 379th Expeditionary Force Support Squadron food quality assurance technician, checks a cooler temperature here, Monday.

TOP RIGHT: Steve Ritchie (second from left) addresses servicemembers during the Armed Forces Entertainment-sponsored Legends of Aerospace Tour here, Tuesday.

Visit reinforces Gates' confidence in Afghan strategy

By Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

NOW ZAD, Afghanistan -- Defense Secretary Robert Gates' visits with Marines here and with Soldiers at Forward Operating Base Frontenac in Afghanistan's Kandahar province have reinforced his belief that the strategy is working in Afghanistan.

"I feel reinforced that the path we're on is the right path, but it will take a long time," Gates told reporters after walking through Now Zad -- a city that was a ghost town for four years.

People are moving back to the city, and that's indicative of what's happening in other areas, thanks to a fundamental change in counterinsurgency strategy in the country, Gates said.

The secretary noted that Army Gen. Stanley A. McChrystal's strategy looks to protect the population. "For him, the metric of success is not the number of Taliban killed, but the number of Afghans protected, because only when they feel more secure are they more willing to cooperate with the Afghan government, with us and with the other allies," Gates said. "I think we're beginning to see the benefits of that."

The secretary met with young Soldiers and Marines serving in Kandahar and Helmand provinces, and he said they understand the new strategy. "They'd like to be able to fire more warning shots, but they understand for every innocent person they hurt, they likely recruit a number of Taliban," Gates said. "They got it, and they understood why General McChrystal has taken the approach he has."

Gates said he makes these visits to get what he calls "the ground truth."

"These incredible young



Defense Secretary Robert Gates participates in a promotion ceremony during a visit with 1st Battalion, 17th Infantry Regiment, at a forward operating base Tuesday in Afghanistan.

people, the enthusiasm they have, and they have some good feedback about partnering with the Afghans," he said. "And talking to them directly always in some ways is more reliable than what you see on a PowerPoint slide."

During his walk, the secretary stopped and spoke with Afghan storekeepers and families. The walk would have been unthinkable six months ago, when the Taliban controlled what was once the second-largest city in the province. When Marines first went into the city, they faced tough opposition and found mines and improvised explosive devices everywhere. Now, more than 50 shops are operating in the city, and people are returning.

"Having the roads demined and cleared will let them have more customers," Gates said. "Right now, most of their customers seem to be from the Afghan national security forces."

Now Zad is not a poster city. The shops are mud-walled, one-story huts facing the street. Garage doors, not windows, secure the premises. People hang out in front of the stores for lack of any worthwhile employment. The "clear, hold, build" strategy will require time here, Gates acknowledged.

"You have to begin with the fact that it's a poor country to start with and has been through 30 years of war," Gates said. "You have to have some context here: Build to what? It seems to me that somebody having a roof over their head and being able to work their farm and send their children to school -- for a lot of Afghans today, that sounds like a pretty good life."

Gates spoke about upcoming operations in Kandahar province, and said Coalition forces want to do the same kind of advance shaping operations they did in Marja for the operation now under way in central Helmand. The idea in Kandahar -- Afghanistan's second-largest city and the political home of the Taliban -- is to get tribal elders involved in governance, the secretary said.

"Kandahar is a different problem altogether, with more people, more infrastructure," the secretary said. It will be an altogether more complex operation, he added, which will include operating against criminal gangs that have used uncertainty in the city to prey on the people.

Marines use places like Now Zad as a base, but they spread out. "General McChrystal calls this the 'ink blot strategy,'" Gates said. "You establish control of the

lines of communication, highways, markets, things like that. I think it's a mistake to see this as Fort Apache, where everyone is inside the stockade and not doing anything else. [The Marines] are mostly outside on missions miles from here."

Earlier in the day, Gates had lunch with junior enlisted Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 17th Infantry, in Kandahar province. They gave him frank feedback on equipment and operating with the Afghans, and the secretary said he will go back to Washington with their recommendations.

One medic told the secretary that radio packs leaders carry are causing back troubles and interfere with flak vest protection. "So we're going to go back and look at that, and there were several things like that," he said. "I always learn things when I come out here."

Gates said the young servicemembers he met today are inspirational.

"They are resilient, they know what they've lost, and yet they seem very committed and very much with their heads in the game," he said. "They know what they are here to do, and they are clearly prepared to do whatever it takes personally to make it happen. I was very impressed."

February's non-judicial punishments

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

An active-duty staff sergeant from the 64th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron received an Article 15 for negligent discharge of a firearm. This NJP action resulted in a suspended

reduction to the grade of senior airman and forfeiture of \$500 pay per month for two months.

An active-duty senior airman from the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing received an Article 15 for entering the sleeping quarters of a member of the opposite sex and adultery. This NJP action resulted in reduction to the grade of airman first

class, forfeiture of \$300 pay per month for two months, and a reprimand.

An active-duty staff sergeant from the Joint Psychological Operations Task Force received an Article 15 for failing to obey a lawful order (alcohol consumption in quarters). This NJP action resulted in restriction for 25 days and extra duty for 25 days.

This Week's Caption Contest

Photo No. 165

The winner is...

"I swear sarge said, 'three clicks to the left and we can get Conan.'"

-Senior Airman Samuel Melton
379th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron



Photo No. 166 (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.

Proper photo release en

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

Editors note: This is the second of a three-part series.

Packages, letters and e-mails from deployed servicemembers often include photos of friends, and places and people they've met during their journeys.

Photos are a common way deployed members show people they care about where they've been and what they're doing. However, at the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing, there are policies in place to protect servicemembers from releasing information that may be

damaging to the mission or themselves.

Currently, any photography outside the Blatchford-Preston Complex or the Coalition Compound must be approved through Public Affairs via a photography authorization letter. To take photos on the flightline, you must submit a flightline photography authorization request.

"All requests require a specific need for the authorization as well as your commander's signature prior to submission to Public Affairs," said Capt. Patrick Cordova, 379th AEW Public Affairs chief. "A flightline photography authorization request is more involved. It requires a need, your com-

mander's signature and the 379th Expeditionary Operation Support Squadron commander's signature.

"All authorization requests require you to read AUAB Instruction 35-101, which gives guidance on taking photography and video here. When you sign the authorization, you are stating that you have read and understand this document," he added.

The main elements Public Affairs Airmen look for when evaluating photography for release can also be used by Airmen taking imagery for personal use. The four elements used to review each image are security, accuracy, policy and propriety. Security - is the photo violating operations secu-



U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Robert Barney

Operations security violations are important to watch for when taking photos. Taking photos or video in Ops Town and on the Flightline require special authorization.

Ensures operation security



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

Operations security violations are important to watch for when shooting video. Taking photos or video in Ops Town and on the Flightline require special authorization.

ity or does it contain classified information? Accuracy - does it tell the right story, does the photo accurately portray the subject? Propriety - is the photo appropriate? Policy - is everything and everyone in the photo adhering to Air Force policy?

It's important to adhere to the rules of photography release, however, the 379th AEW PA office does not discourage people from taking photos, said Senior Master Sgt. David Byron, 379th AEW PA superintendent.

"We just want people to take the appropriate steps when taking or releasing their photography," said Sergeant Byron. "Once a photo is posted online, it can go from being a harmless, funny memory to a photo that unintentionally releases information to our enemies. Also, it could be used as evidence against you or your friends.

"If you have some buddies who had a little too much to drink that evening, you may want to refrain from posting pictures of it around the internet," he added. "Just because you had a fun night, doesn't mean it's appropriate for world-wide distribution. Our enemies can use those photos as propaganda against us."

Once Airmen receive their authorization letter to take photography outside of the BPC and CC, they must also get each picture they intend to send out approved for public release by the Public Affairs office.

"If the picture was taken in the CC or BPC area and does not violate security, propriety or base policy, you are good to go," said Captain Cordova. "However, if you're not sure if an image is good or not, assume it isn't. You

can always have me take a look at it. I'll clear it for posting if I am able."

He also said all photography taken outside the CC or BPC must be sent to him for public release.

There are potential consequences for releasing photography or video containing OPSEC violations.

"Anyone who is here has had briefings or courses on proper OPSEC. So what members should consider is not how this will affect them, but how this will affect their Wingmen, the mission and the Air Force," Captain Cordova said.

The Public Affairs officials both echoed the same words of caution; if people have questions about any photos, bring them by PA for a look. It's better to be told no, than to get in "hot water" after the fact.



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.

Strength through Faith

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

Whether we serve in Haiti, Southwest Asia or another international location, we find ourselves foreigners in strange lands.

This should not be unsettling because many of us have at times felt like wandering strangers in this journey called life. The scenery may change or even appear familiar, but we continually experience new situations as we move through life.

The key is to know God moves through life with us regardless of the situation. God is walking at our side but we do not always recognize His presence for many reasons, including pain, anger, joy, silence, pride and a sense of self-reliance. Through these emotions we must always maintain our faith.

These are the times we turn on autopilot and trust God is there for us. It has also been said God is the co-pilot, and we need to switch seats. This is not easy. It means when we cannot find answers to all of our questions, we have to let go of reason and place our trust into the human experience of God and the mystery He is. It has been said, "when we come before God, all of our important questions will no longer exist."

One of these experiences happened to me 10 years ago, when I went through Commissioned Officer Training. It was supposed to be a piece of cake. I was in for a rude awakening, unlike what I was told, it turned out to be a difficult military training experience, rather than the summer camp I expected.

I found myself the wandering stranger in a new land. From the first moment of training, I had to stand in the corner for being late. That was the first time I had stood in a corner since I was three years old.

I arrived a few days before the others and was ready to start my training by getting to the meeting point early, but unbeknownst to me, they had changed the time and meeting point.

When I arrived, people were running and saying we were late. We ran as fast as we could, however, the training officers barked out their commands in harsh angry voices, like not even my mother used to use. She had always used a quiet voice when trying to get her children's attention.

I also arrived with a sprained ankle. I had been told I did not need to pass the physical fitness test to graduate, but only to graduate with honors. After limping my way through the program, leadership decided to x-ray my ankle before the final week to prove that there was nothing wrong. What they found was the ankle was broken and had been broken during this experience.

I cried out to God in anger and pain. I wanted several miracles; one, that my leg would heal; two, that I would wake up from this terrible nightmare; and three, that God would get me out of COT, pronto. I was not a happy camper.

After wailing and complaining to God, I had a moment of insight that God had not left me alone but was waiting for me to return to His embrace. For the first time in my adult life, I had a moment of deep trust in God because I could not walk this journey alone.

We have to be careful because these moments can be experienced differently by others. For some, it might be a mighty flash, for others a gentle whisper. We need to recognize and encourage those moments of God's presence. Sometimes, we are God's reflection to others and sometimes others are God's reflection to us.

I know now that during these moments when everything was critical for me to complete COT, my faith in God was the reason I was able to complete the training. The deeper insight was that even if I had not completed training, God was there.

We cannot know God completely, but we can find comfort, trust and hope in His steadfast presence. As wandering strangers on this journey called life, we should experience God as our enduring companion, not as a judge, juror or executioner, but as our creator, redeemer and sustainer.

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

Fire Fighter Games

The Fire and Emergency Services Flight invites members to participate in Fire Fighter Games April 10. Individuals and 4-person teams, one member of which must be female, will compete against one another in events such as a fire truck pull, bucket brigade, hose jousting and the fire fighter obstacle course. The top three winners in each event will be invited to challenge the Fire and Emergency Services Flight in head-to-head competition. The games will be followed by a BBQ and music. Prizes will be awarded to the top three teams and the top three male and female individual competitors. The sign-up deadline is April 1. To sign up or more information, e-mail Master Sgt. Arthur Clardy or Tech. Sgt. Timothy Smith.

Delivery Addresses

Incorrect and unreadable addresses are the same as no address. They waste postage and delay the delivery of the item being shipped. The item being shipped may not be delivered or returned to the sender when both return and delivery addresses are incorrect, unreadable or missing.

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.

CACs Lost Off Base

The 379th Air Expeditionary Wing Host Nation Coordination Cell 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.

Finance Notice

Visit <https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.aspx> to access 2009 tax information. If you are unable to access MyPay, or need your pin updated, visit the 379th Expeditionary Comptroller Squadron Customer Service office in person to update your MyPay information.

Wear of Sunglasses/Eyeglasses

Conservative ornamentation on frames and lenses are authorized on non-prescription sunglasses or eyeglasses, frames

may be black or brown material or gold or silver wire. Brand name glasses may be worn with small logo on frames or lenses. Conservative wrap-around sunglasses may be worn. Conservative, clear, slightly tinted or photosensitive lenses are allowed, faddish styles and mirrored lenses prohibited. Not worn around the neck or on top/back of head or exposed hanging on uniform. Eyeglasses/sunglasses will be worn in manner for which made. For more information, consult AFI 36-2903.

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.

Professional Development Courses

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

FreeThought Association

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

Open Parcel Inspections

All packages and parcels being mailed out of the CENTCOM theater must be searched by post office staff. All parcels must be brought to the post office unsealed.

Fire Extinguisher Tags

The 379 ECES Fire Prevention Office has received a new shipment of fire extinguisher tags and has them available for issue. Stop by the Fire Prevention Office at Fire Station 3 Bldg. 10130 in the BPC next to the hospital, or call 437-8771 or 437-5505 for any questions. As a reminder, please ensure fire extinguishers are being inspected monthly as required by AUABI 32-2001, AFOSH Standard 91-501, and NFPA 10.

379 ELRS Arming Requirements

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

Staff Sgt. George Fritz, 379th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron structural craftsman, installs an entrance door lock here, March 6. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Michelle Larche)

