

DESERT EAGLE

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Joint Service Cooperation

DESERT EAGLE

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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.



Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Patrick Brown (left) and Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Jonathan Frisch, Commander Task Group 57.2 aviation electronics technicians, open a P-3C aircraft nose radome here, Tuesday.

The Cornerstone of Virtue – Mutual Respect

By Chief Master Sgt. Richard Abueg
379th Expeditionary Medical Group
superintendent

Growing up, my parents placed a huge emphasis on the importance of respect. It was a lesson reinforced throughout my childhood.

When I joined the Air Force, this ideal was further instilled in me by my supervisors and leadership. To ensure this ideal lives on, I always try to instill the same reverence for respect into every newcomer who arrives to my organization.

Ironically, respect is not the topic I planned to write about. However, upon the advice of several of my distinguished peers and close friends, I have decided it is something to be revisited. That is not to say there is a problem with respect, only it is a topic that can bring inspiration to all of us. As such, it is well worth taking the time to talk about.

During my first week at a previous assignment, while living in billeting, I had a brief run-in with another guest. At the time, billeting was fully occupied leaving one laundry room with four small washers and dryers to be shared by all guests. Of course, as there were so many guests, the laundry room was in use all day and I had to wait. Finally, at 9 p.m., the laundry room became available. There was only one small problem; posted on the door

was a sign that read "Laundry Room Quiet Hours are from 10 p.m. to 7 a.m." I doubted that I could finish all of my laundry within one hour. I assumed that since billeting was full, and everyone had a hard time getting into the laundry room, the other guests would understand if I went a bit beyond the posted quiet hours.

As I was waiting for my last dryer-load to finish, a woman walked in and started yelling at me. She even pointed at the sign screaming, "do you know how to read English?" She continued yelling for nearly five minutes. I simply held my tongue until she had finished and began to explain the situation. She didn't bother to listen, however, but merely left the laundry room and slammed the door.

The following day, during an in-processing appointment, I spotted a woman who looked familiar; it was the woman from the laundry room. When she saw me, in uniform with chief master sergeant stripes, she immediately approached me, and in a low and polite tone, respectfully apologized for the events of the prior evening. I, of course, accepted her apology. I can't say whether or not my rank had anything to do with her actions that day, though unfortunately, I suspect it did.

The lessons my parents and

SEE RESPECT 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.

Veterans Affairs officials tackle root causes of homelessness

By Donna Miles
American Forces Press Services

WASHINGTON (AFNS) - No one who has ever served the United States in uniform should ever end up living on the street, Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric Shinseki insisted.

So he and VA officials are committed to ending homelessness among America's veterans within the next five years, and said he's already seeing signs of progress through a plan providing not just beds, but also services to address the root causes.

With increased funding in VA's fiscal 2011 budget request, Mr. Shinseki said, he's intent on expanding the homeless program to include more preventive services: education, jobs and health care.

"When I arrived (at VA), the homeless program primarily involved engaging the veterans that sleep on the streets and getting them to shelter," he said. "The deeper I dug into it, I realized it assured that we'd be dealing with homeless veterans forever, because (the system) is reactive. You wait to see who shows up on the street, you go out and try to encourage them to leave the streets and provide them safe shelter and

warm meals."

To break that spiral, 85 percent of VA's budget request for the homeless program will go toward medical services to confront substance abuse, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury and other issues linked to homelessness.

"I looked at it as a funnel, and out of the bottom comes a homeless person," he said. "Well, in the funnel, there is the missed opportunity of education. It's the missed opportunity to have a job."

Mr. Shinseki is committed to ensuring veterans don't miss out on these opportunities and wind up in the "downward spiral" that too often leads to homelessness.

The new Post-9/11 GI Bill signed into law in June will make education more accessible for more veterans, he said, as well as a broad range of other VA-funded educational programs. Meanwhile, VA is working through the interagency process and with a host of other organizations to improve veterans' job opportunities.

Mr. Shinseki and Labor Secretary Hilda Solis co-chair an interagency task force committed to getting federal agencies to hire more veterans. VA, Labor Department and Small Business Administration

officials also are encouraging more veteran-owned small businesses to compete for contracts, and are helping to connect these business owners with other veterans.

"We know that veterans hire veterans. They know veterans, and they are comfortable with hiring veterans," Mr. Shinseki said. "So the idea is to get the churn going (and) to get more employment for veterans."

Early indications show progress since Mr. Shinseki announced his homeless initiative last fall, with homelessness among veterans dropping by about 18 percent from an estimated 131,000 to 107,000 homeless veterans April 6.

"This is a good start," Mr. Shinseki said, but he vowed to be the driving force behind a "full-court press to keep driving those numbers down."

Anything less, he insisted, represents a failure of the system to provide the support its veterans deserve.

"This is not about reducing homelessness," he said. "This is ending veteran homelessness in five years. I don't have all the answers about how this will all happen, but a lot of people are committed to this and working to prevent...this downward spiral."

FROM RESPECT ON PAGE 2

supervisors have always taught me are the same. All people deserve to be treated with dignity and respect, no matter what their rank or position in work or life. Even our youngest and newest Airman, Soldier, Marine, Sailor and civilian employee deserve to be respected.

Under no circumstances should someone belittle, ridicule or disrespect another. Every day, we can approach living to the fullest by showing and

practicing respect. In my example, perhaps I should have just finished what laundry I could and planned to complete the rest another day. The woman, on the other hand, could have been more polite when confronting me about it. I suppose we both could have made some changes for a better outcome. The point is, each of us can improve the way we treat each other in some aspect of life. Take an inventory of yourself and reflect daily. Decide where to

make positive changes to become a better person.

Above all, always remember, each individual is important and deserves common decency and respect, simply by virtue of being another human being.

I know we all believe order and discipline are important, but we must also put that belief into practice by ensuring no one is allowed to treat others in a demeaning manner. We must conduct ourselves in such a way that defines,

promotes and exemplifies the ideals of respect by becoming a positive example and inspiring the same in others. We are only as strong as our weakest link; let us ensure the link of respect is strong!

I am fully convinced I'm a better person for having had those previous experiences. The best way to ensure order and discipline, and ultimately, mission success, is to treat each other with respect and kindness.

Base members respond to needs of AOR community



1st Lt. Ember Reed, 379th Expeditionary Medical Group clinic nurse, provides a pair of shoes to a wounded Soldier here, April 1. Lieutenant Reed is part of the Wounded Warrior Program designed to provide patients with clothes while receiving treatment here.

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

Under the charge of the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing Top 3 organization, base members here recently conducted deliberate acts of kindness to help ease the stress other servicemembers may experience while spending time here recuperating from injury or passing through on their way home to an emergency situation.

During a 2-week clothing drive, the organization collected more than \$8,200 in money and clothing to support the nation's Wounded Warriors and servicemembers on emergency leave orders.

"I couldn't be more pleased with the outcome of this project," said Master Sgt. Michelle McMeekin, 379th Expeditionary Force Support Airman Readiness Center NCOIC and Top 3 lead on the clothing drive. "I just never expected the results we received. Personnel in this wing went all out and did an amazing job collecting this amount in donations in only two short weeks of fundraising. We really couldn't have done it without the amazing drive of our group and unit reps getting out there face to face."

The Top 3 selected the clothing drive as a community service project at Sergeant McMeekin's suggestion.

"In my working relationship with (379th

Expeditionary Personnel Support for Contingency Operations) and Wounded Warriors, I've been given the opportunity to learn of the unique way in which they support our military members. This endeavor seemed like a beneficial way to reach out and serve our (area of responsibility) community," Sergeant McMeekin explained. "It also seemed like a better use of our (senior) NCO corps than cleaning up a stretch of road or painting a building; a way to really 'give back' in a manner that is long-lasting.

"I personally experienced going on emergency leave during the fundraiser – I know how stressful it can be trying to get home quickly...the last thing anyone downrange needs to worry about is waiting for the first-available military flight because you don't have clothes to travel on a commercial flight."

Those who work directly with servicemembers who have already benefited from the effort agree.

"This project allows the Wounded Warriors to focus their energy on recovery rather than worrying about maintaining clothing standards and constantly laundering the minimal amount of uniforms they were able to carry," said a 379th Expeditionary Medical Group nurse and Wounded Warrior representative, 1st Lt. Ember Reed.

Regardless of Top 3's certainty that the cause was deserving of generosity, they weren't nearly so sure how many

donations would actually be made or in what form they'd be made in.

"Going into it, I knew this was a worthwhile endeavor to honor, respect and help our fellow military servicemembers experiencing unfortunate circumstances," said Sergeant McMeekin. "I remember telling Master Sgt. Caryn Lynn (379th AEW Ground Safety) who stepped in when I had to go home, 'I'm reminding myself to be realistic with my expectations. If we bring in \$1,500-\$2,000 that is a great turn out for such a short-run project. Don't be discouraged.'"

One of our greatest challenges was the unavailability of "cash on hand," she added. "Most people donate by giving whatever money they have in their pocket. In the AOR, people typically don't carry around cash because of the EagleCash card. To alleviate this, we tried to think of multiple ways people could contribute – by accepting cash, gift cards, or new or like-new clothing."

Their multi-method donation plan worked.

"We pulled in almost \$8,200 in clothing, U.S. dollars, (host-nation currency), gift cards and even pogs," said Sergeant McMeekin. "Obviously, hearts really go out to our fellow servicemembers who are in unfortunate circumstances. This wing stepped up to show just how big our hearts are."

Airmen fly C-130 combat airdrop mission in Iraq



TOP LEFT: U.S. Air Force flight engineer, Staff Sgt. Melvin Perry, performs maintenance on a C-130 Hercules engine here, March 27. Sergeant Perry is deployed from the 758th Airlift Squadron, Pittsburg Air Reserve Station, Pa.

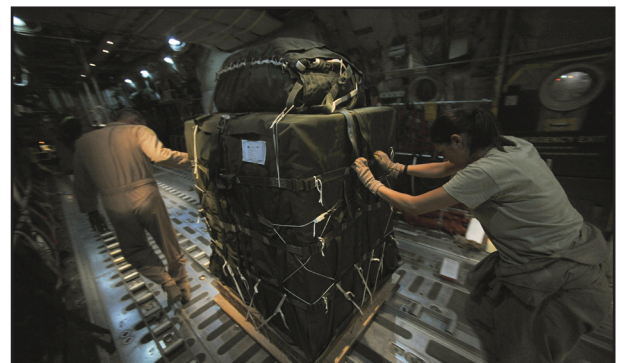


TOP RIGHT: U.S. Air Force loadmaster, Senior Master Sgt. Archie Brawton, waits for clearance to release a Container Delivery System bundle from the back of a C-130 Hercules during an airdrop mission over Iraq, March 26.



CENTER: U.S. Air Force loadmaster Senior Master Sgt. Archie Brawton prepares to chalk a C-130 Hercules after landing at Baghdad International Airport, March 26.

BOTTOM LEFT: U.S. Air Force C-130 Hercules pilot, Capt. Diane Ohm, waits for ground clearance before takeoff at a base in South-west Asia, March 26. The C-130 aircrew is part of the 746th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron here.



U.S. Air Force loadmasters Senior Master Sgt. Archie Brawton (background) and Staff Sgt. Stacie Shogan load a Container Delivery System bundle onto a C-130 Hercules for an airdrop over Iraq, March 26.

USACE turns over Iraqi Army post in Ancient Iraqi City



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Master Sgt. Elizabeth Gilbert

The Governor of Dhi Qar Province, Iraq, along with Iraqi Staff Brig. Gen Hassan, location commander for Camp Ur, cuts the ribbon to officially open the brand new facility built by a local contractor, overseen by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and facilitated by the Logistics Military Advisory Team at Camp Ur, Iraq, March 28. Distinguished Visitors, U.S and Coalition forces gathered together for a formal ribbon cutting ceremony, celebrating 15 months of work by Coalition forces and the Iraqi company at Camp Ur.

By Alicia Embrey
Gulf Region District

CAMP UR, Iraq - With a snip of the ceremonial ribbon, Dhi Qar's Governor Aziz Kadum Alwan Al Ogheli and Ur Location Commander Brig. Gen. Hassen welcomed more than 300 guests to view the \$27 million renovation and new construction at Camp Ur Location Command and Regional Training Center near Nasariyah, Iraq, March 28.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Gulf Region South District Commander Col. Jeffery Knippel said the completion of the location command represents principles from the area's historic past.

"More than 4,000 years ago, just a few miles from here, your ancestors celebrated the completion of the Ziggurat of Ur. At that time its completion, and the city itself, represented a time of peace,

prosperity and progress. In the same way today, the completion of this Location Command and Training Center represents a step towards peace, prosperity and progress for the people of Iraq," said Knippel.

The project provides sustainment and life support for approximately 2,700 Iraqi Army soldiers, plus training facilities. "What stands before us today are 48 facilities, 22 barracks to house 2,700 troops complete with showers and latrines. It also provides command and associated support facilities for the Iraqi Army," Knippel said. "There are two dining facilities with the capacity to feed 1,000 personnel during a sitting. There are nine administrative buildings such as headquarters, medical and classroom, and 15 other miscellaneous utility buildings and force protection facilities"

Work on the installation included the repair and upgrade of the existing

potable water and waste water treatment systems, an upgrade of the site's electrical system, construction of new roads and parking lots and construction of new officer, noncommissioned officer and enlisted billets. The contract also called for refurbishing the existing medical and dining facility, providing enhancements at the fire station and constructing a new dining facility and latrines.

The \$27 million construction and renovation project was awarded to an Iraqi company in September, 2008, and was completed in only 18 months

by a team of 800 employees working two shifts.

Knippel asked the guests to take a moment to reflect on the significance of the day's events.

"I ask all to take a moment and realize that what stands before you today is more than just some ground with some buildings, in some way it represents a modern Ziggurat dedicated to the commitment and teamwork of many hard working individuals," Knippel said. "A monument that we can all be proud of as it reflects virtues we all hold dear."

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Iraq has completed thousands of reconstruction projects in partnership with the government of Iraq. Since 2004, USACE has completed 5,257 projects throughout Iraq valued at more than \$9.1 billion, and has more than 250 projects ongoing. The overall reconstruction effort in Iraq currently provides jobs for more than 20,000 Iraqis.

Tech. Sgt. Maria Malkin

379th Expeditionary Operation Support Squadron
C-130 Aircrew Flight Equipment NCO-in-charge

Home station: 911th Airlift Wing, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Arrived in AOR: January

Deployment goals: To pass my professional military education test, learn another language and provide the best possible aircrew support while building strong working relationships with other agencies.

Best part of the deployment: Meeting new people.

Hobbies: Reading, singing, hiking and playing with my kids.

Best Air Force memory: When I received the John Levitow Award at Airman Leadership School.

Nominated by Capt. David Vandevoorde: "Sergeant Malkin displays extreme selflessness and maintains the highest level of professionalism in performing the many duties as NCO-in-charge of the C-130 AFE section. She has taken extra steps to ensure each and every piece of AFE equipment issued to aircrew members is in accordance with all regulations and has been thoroughly tested. Her attention to detail is second to none."



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

Tech. Sgt. Jason Mell

379th Air Expeditionary Wing

Host Nation Coordination Cell liaison

Home station: 177th Fighter Wing, Atlantic City, N.J.

Arrived in AOR: February

Deployment goals: I would like to improve the transition for all passengers arriving and departing here. I would also like to save money and depart in the best mental and physical shape of my life.

Best part of the deployment: Enhancing the relationship between the HNCC, Host-Nation, PERSCO, PAX terminals and the aircrews departing for their respective missions.

Hobbies: Sports, fitness, reading, building models and humor.

Best Air Force memory: My first deployment to the Middle East. I went from having the luxuries of every day life to having virtually nothing. The camaraderie at that deployment was great, and I gained a new appreciation for the little things.

Nominated by Maj. Docia Buchanan: "Since the day Sergeant Mell arrived, he has demonstrated incredible enthusiasm for his job as an HNCC liaison and his enthusiasm is infectious. I know whatever I give him to do, or whatever situation he is required to handle, he will do it to perfection."



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

Master Sgt. Gary Freeman

71st Expeditionary Air Control Squadron

Maintenance Operations Center technician

Home station: Hunter Army Airfield, Ga.

Arrived in AOR: February

Deployment goals: To lose weight, educate myself on all different job positions, read more, establish myself in a leadership role, leave the maintenance control position better than when we arrived and establish new friendships.

Best part of the deployment: Working with new equipment, working with the active-duty, Coalition forces and working with the friends I usually only work with on the weekends.

Hobbies: Weightlifting, fitness, reading, cooking, tennis and family.

Best Air Force memory: When I was given a pep-talk by Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf before crossing the deserts of Iraq during Operation Desert Freedom.

Nominated by Master Sgt. Stewart Brandt: "Sergeant Freeman was part of an ADVON team that provided continuity between the existing 255th and the arriving 117th. He has greatly enhanced unit morale, especially by providing off-base driving training."



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

TOP LEFT:
Airman 1st
Class Stephen
Barker, 379th
Expeditionary
Operations Sup-
port Squadron
aircrew flight
equipment jour-
neyman, per-
forms a post-
flight check
on an aircrew
helmet here,
Wednesday.



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

**BOTTOM
LEFT:** Staff
Sgt. Amaris
Carter, 379th
Expedition-
ary Com-
munications
Squadron
postal re-
ceiving and
dispatch
technician,
sorts through
out-going
mail here,
Tuesday.



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



Navy Lt. Brian Routh (left) and Cmdr. R.
pre-flight inspection on a C-20 aircraft



TOP RIGHT: Airman 1st Class Timothy Milders, 379th Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron aircrew egress systems technician, replaces a restraint safety wire on a B-1B aircraft ejection seat here, Monday.



Michael Ross (right), 379th Expeditionary Operations Group pilots, conduct a final check prior to takeoff here, March 31.



Army Sgt. Weston Suchenski, 824th Quartermaster Company, Det. 9, parachute rigger, conducts a final shop inspection on cargo here, Thursday.

Monthly enlisted promotions

Congratulations to the 59 Airmen who were or will be promoted to the ranks of airman first class, senior airman, staff sergeant, technical sergeant, master sergeant and senior master sergeant in the months of March and April.

The following master sergeant will be promoted to senior master sergeant:

-Elbert Bembry III, 379th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

The following technical sergeants will be promoted to master sergeant:

-Christopher Ballard, U.S. Air Force's Central Command

-Gregory Flannelly, AFFOR

-Martin Jackson, 609th Air Operations Center

-Tabatha Kane, 379th Expeditionary Force Support Squadron

-Albert Perkins, 379 EAMXS

-Aaron Williams, 379th Expeditionary Operation Support Squadron

The following staff sergeants will be promoted to technical sergeant:

-Joshua Avelar, 8th Expeditionary Air Mobility Squadron

-Cynthia Carter, 379th Expeditionary Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron

-Joshua Caudill, 71st Expeditionary Air Control Squadron

-David Counts, 379 EAES

-Ashleynichole Simpson, 379 EAMXS

-Gabriel Stocker, Combined Forces Special Operations Command Central

The following senior airmen will be promoted to staff sergeant:

-Kevin Bentley, 379th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron

-Glen Cook, Central Command Forward Headquarters

-Rufus Dixon, 816th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron

-Zachary Donarski, 340 Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron

-Adam Easley, 763rd Expeditionary Reconnaissance Squadron

-Jeff Green, 763 ERS

-Matthew Hyslip, 379th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron

-Tyson James, 763 ERS

-Nicolaas Leloux, 379 ESFS

-Kristin Nowatzki, 609 AOC

-Dustin Pate, 379 EFSS

-Annely Rezabek, 379 EFSS

-Mariela Roca, 379th Expeditionary Medical Group

-Evan Smith, 379th Expeditionary Contracting Squadron

-Daniel Troy, 379th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron

-Shayna Wells, 379 ELRS

The following airmen first class will be promoted to senior airman:

-Sean Beebe, 379 ECES

-Jeremy Bellamy, 379 EAMXS

-William Blue II, 379th Expeditionary Operation Support Squadron

-Jerald Bushon, 8 EAMS

-Krystian Daszkiewicz, 8 EAMS

-Achabe Durante, 379 ECES

-Vanessa Flores, 379 ECES

-Justin Fulcher, 379 ECES

-Koryn Gytoku, 609th Air Communications Squadron

-Robert Hartley, 379 ECES

-Carroll Hennigan, 379 ESFS

-Maurice Jenkins, 379 ECES

-Matthew Jenkins, 763 ERS

-Ayana Johnson, 763 ERS

-Valeria Luna, 379 ECES

-Jake Martin, 379 ELRS

-Stephanie McNamara, 379 ESFS

-Kyle Nelson, 379th Expeditionary Communications Squadron

-Joshua Olson, 379th Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron

-Kevin Roberts, 8 EAMS

-Jared Sahlin, 379 EMXS

-Ashley Shanley, 379 ELRS

-William Sheridan, 379 EMXS

-Benjamin Solin, 379 ESFS

-Lisa Stanton, 763 ERS

The following airmen will be promoted to airman first class:

-Marilyn Butters, 379 EFSS

-Nickolas Haughn, 379 ECES

-John Mullen, 379 EMXG

-Luke Seekins, 379 ELRS

-Ruben Velazquez, 7th Expeditionary Airborne Command and Control Squadron

Monthly award winners

Congratulations to the following nine monthly award winners for February.

The Base Honor Guard award winners for the month are as follows:

-Airman of the month: Senior Airman Devin Fields, U.S. Air Forces Central Command

-Non-commissioned officer of the month: Staff Sgt. Emerald Manriquez, 379th Expeditionary Logis-

tics Readiness Squadron

-Trainer of the month: Airman First Class Maurice Jenkins, 379th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron

The Base monthly award winners are as follows:

-Airman of the month: Senior Airman Jim Gillett, 379th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron

-NCO of the month: Staff Sgt. Sarah Harris, 379th Expeditionary

Communication Squadron

-Senior NCO of the month: Master Sgt. Jeffrey Maione, 379 ECS

-Company grade officer of the month: Capt. Michael DiFelice, 379th Expeditionary Medical Group

-Civilian of the month: Mr. Joshua Johns, 379th Expeditionary Contracting Squadron

-Team of the month: 379 ECES Main Base Structures Shop

Commander's Blog and 379th AEW Web site



Visit <http://379aew.dodlive.mil/> for inside access on base events, units and missions through the commander's perspective.

Visit www.379aew.afcent.af.mil for up-to-date Air Force news, multimedia and features on Air Force and Southwest Asia events.

Video stories added this week:
•Air Fest 2010

Marches 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 airman first class from the 379th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron received an Article 15 for sleeping while on post and dereliction of duty for failing to stay attentive. This NJP action resulted in suspended reduction to the grade of airman, forfeiture of \$811 pay per month for one month, and a reprimand.

An active-duty airman first class from the 379 ECES received an Article 15 for sleeping while on post and dereliction of duty for failing to stay attentive. This NJP action resulted in suspended reduction to the grade of airman, forfeiture of \$811 pay

per month for one month, and a reprimand.

An active-duty airman first class from the 379 ECES received an Article 15 for making a false official statement, larceny of non-military property under \$500, and communicating a threat. This NJP action resulted in reduction to the grade of airman basic with the reduction below airman suspended and forfeiture of \$723 pay per month for one month.

An active-duty airman first class from the 379th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron received an Article 15 for sleeping while on post. This NJP action resulted in reduction to the grade of airman, suspended forfeiture of \$250 pay per month for two month, and a reprimand.

An active-duty senior airman from the

379th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron received an Article 15 for going from their place of duty and dereliction of duty for failing to refrain from using an empty bottle for urine in CC. This NJP action resulted in restriction for 60 days, reduction to the grade of airman first class, forfeiture of \$225 pay per month for two months, and a reprimand.

A senior master sergeant from 1st Expeditionary Red Horse Group received an Article 15 for violating General Order-1B by drinking when unauthorized, signing a false official statement and being drunk to the discredit of the service. This NJP action resulted in reduction to the grade of master sergeant, suspended forfeiture of \$2,260 pay per month for two months, and a reprimand.

This Week's Caption Contest

Photo No. 167

The winner is...

"SQUIRREL!!!!"

-Staff Sgt. Xavyer Ortiz
379th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs
NCO-in-charge, broadcasting



Deployed Airmen support lo

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

The men and women who serve in the U.S. military are often described with words such as courageous, honorable or even selfless. But the words caring, understanding and compassionate are not as often heard when the population-at-large describes them.

However, those adjectives paint a better picture of a group of deployed Airmen here who correspond with kindergarteners through eighth-graders at the Spring Creek Rural School, S.D., through a pen-pal program.

The program, between 28th Bomb Wing Airmen deployed here from Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D., and Jeanette (Nette) Meade and her students, has its roots cemented with a flag pole. Honor guard members from Ellsworth AFB went to the one-room schoolhouse Sept. 8, 2009 to raise the Stars-and-Stripes, for the first time, on the schools brand new flag pole.

During the honor guard trip, one Airman noticed a large, outdated world map. Interested in raising funds to replace the map, the Airman began a correspondence with Ms. Nette. Through this seemingly innocuous string of events, a flourishing relationship began between Airmen and students of Ms. Nette's small, rural school.

Seven months later, that relationship has transformed into a pen-pal program spearheaded by members of the 34th Aircraft Maintenance Unit, and the 11 students who attend Spring Creek.

Using e-mail, letters and packages, the Airmen and students are in contact monthly, weekly, and for some, even daily.

"I usually get a letter out about



Airman 1st Class Candice Thomas, 379th Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron electro-environmental technician, writes a pen-pal letter to a Spring Creek School, S.D., student, March 26.

once a week, but I try to e-mail more often. Sometimes I'll get one out daily," said Airman 1st Class Candice Thomas, 379 Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron, electrical-environmental journeyman. "We talk about everything – from her asking me personal questions like if I miss my family, to talking about different assignments and projects she has going on at school."

Chief Master Sgt. Terry

Neuharth, 34 AMU superintendent, brought the pen-pal project to life, said Ms. Nette.

"We had a start to our pen-pal project but it was sort of in limbo until Terry came along," she said. "He has given my kids a chance to experience letter writing, penmanship, conversational skills and spelling."

Chief Neuharth, a South Dakota native, jumped head-first into the

Local school pen-pal program

program, helping distribute the letters and gifts from the school children to the deployed Airmen, urging the Airmen to stay in touch and keeping the program alive.

"There are 11 students in this one-room schoolhouse, but their patriotism is not small in the least – it's nothing short of impressive," said Chief Neuharth. "I really look forward to continuing our partnership with the schoolhouse – I'm interested in seeing where these wonderful kids find themselves in the years to come."

The children spend the morning and early afternoon hours each school-day learning mathematics, geography, history and the other lessons that go into an early education. However, when 2 p.m.

rolls around, the student's race to the mailbox in anticipation of letters and packages that may await them.

Kids have a sense for when someone is "real" or not, said Ms. Nette. Terry and his Airmen treat the children with respect, dignity and honor, and they appreciate that.

"We talk about our letters, have pictures posted all over our walls and work hard to make sure our letters are meaningful," she added. "I don't know how to tell you what their efforts have meant to us. We really feel what they are giving to us and to our country."

Recently, Ms. Nette and her students decided to plant a tree on Arbor Day in honor of each of the deployed Airmen who has bonded

with the students.

Through daily lessons, the pictures of the Airmen scattered throughout the classrooms and the trees that will soon line their playground, the Airmen's effect on the students can be seen throughout the small grounds.

Even though the students will be on summer break when their deployed pen-pals return to South Dakota, the Airmen said they look forward to the next time they get to meet with their pen-pals face-to-face.

"Even after school is out, I intend to continue writing," Airman Thomas said. "After we return, I look forward to seeing how our partnership will grow, and where we will go from there."



Senior Airman Kevin Butler, 34th Aircraft Maintenance Unit aircraft hydraulics technician, reads a pen-pal letter from Spring Creek School, S.D., here, March 26.

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.

Grown-up superheroes

By Chap. (Capt.) Garrell Calton
379th Air Expeditionary Wing chapel

When we hear the term "superhero" our minds create a mental picture of a comic book character. We tend to think of Superman, Batman, or my favorite, the Incredible Hulk. Their uncanny abilities and super-human strengths allow them to fly or pick up objects the normal human can't.

Often I would get in trouble for "hulking-out" when I was a child. I would watch an episode of the "Incredible Hulk," then, I would jump off the furniture, rip the shirt from my chest and turn into this green monster everyone feared. My mom would say, "Son, you better settle down, now!" I know everyone has a favorite superhero as well, so if you are laughing inside it is because you tried to mimic a superhero when you were a kid.

What gives superheroes their persona? Why do they hide their identity? What is it about them that makes our minds engage in the thought "I wish I could be like that."

I grew up on my parent's 400-acre dairy farm in Southwest Missouri, and as a young boy I was incredibly rambunctious. I had a giant playground to ride a bike, climb cliffs, explore caves, hunt and fish. You name it - I did it!

I remember one day my brother Jay and I made a trail in the woods we called "the dead man's trail." I am not sure why we called it "the dead man's trail" other than it sounded cool and we were superheroes. That trail went for roughly a half-mile. We removed rocks from the trail and made it our space. This is the space where superheroes hung out. We climbed trees, made traps, hunted squirrels, you know, the things that 7-and 8-year-old superheroes do every day. I must say, those were the days!

Grown-up superheroes do not wear masks, have capes or fly. They're the people we look up to. They demonstrate qualities that make them leaders. These heroes have captured our minds in such a way that makes us want to emulate them. Today, I want to tell you about two of my grown-up superheroes and some of the qualities that make me aspire to be like them.

The first superhero taught me how to be compassionate toward other people, see people where they are, and to encourage them to continue forward. She taught me how to help others when they were down and lend a helping hand when someone is in need.

The superheroes on television typically have super-human abilities such as x-ray vision to see through an object or incredible strength to move objects that seem immovable. This superhero, however, moved me in a different way. She taught me to see people's hearts and to have compas-

sion for those who carry their hurts on the inside. I guess one could say she has x-ray vision. This superhero knew me so well, if I did something I should not have been doing, she could see it - no matter how hard I tried to hide it. This superhero always encouraged me to be who I wanted to be because there are no limits to one's abilities.

In the comic book series "Superman," the only thing that could stop him was kryptonite. It drained him of all of his special abilities and super-human strength. My superhero taught me that the limits we put on ourselves is our kryptonite and encouraged me to go the distance. She once said, "Do not let people tell you that you are limited. That is what makes a superhero a superhero." They are not limited, or at least they do not see their limits.

The best quality this superhero taught me was love. My superhero has a saying that she tells me, which I remember since early childhood; "love and laughter." Epitomizing these essential characteristics, one can be a superhero. From the time I was a little boy, through high school, college, and even over Skype in a deployed location, my superhero encourages me to have "love and laughter."

Yes, my first superhero is my mom. I wish everyone could meet her.

My other superhero is my father, the hardest-working person I know. From the time I was a little boy I would see him lift things, go out in freezing temperatures, split firewood for hours and yet never complain. I wanted to be like him and tried to mimic everything he did. It seemed as if this superhero's strength was limitless. He taught me about never giving up and how to be a man. This superhero taught me that if I put my mind to any task, nothing could stand in my way.

I watched him day-in and day-out provide for his family, love his children and take in those who were not his own. Every winter this superhero would split wood in 20-degree weather to make sure the people he loved were warm at night. This superhero ensured food was always on the table. His actions not only demonstrated the work-ethic I carry today, but showed me to put others before myself.

Often, this superhero would check on the elderly in the surrounding area and make sure they were doing okay. I remember one night, it was below freezing outside when we were putting hay out for the cattle. I didn't know my superhero was sick with the flu at the time. It was raining ice and he was still outside making sure everything was done right, even though he should have been in bed.

Hardwork and determination are not strengths that can be purchased at the local convenience store. They are instilled in a person by seeing an example that moves them to compulsion.

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 Finish

There is a Right Finish briefing scheduled for 4:30 p.m., April 13, at the CC Theater, in addition to the normal Friday briefing. Members unable to attend the regularly scheduled Friday Right Finish briefing should attend the April 13 brief. Personnel attending Right Finish should bring a copy of their CED orders or VoP checklist to be stamped, and their ID card to be scanned.

Commissioning Briefing

A commissioning briefing is scheduled for April 17, noon at the Education Office. Anyone interested in applying for Air Force commissioning programs is encouraged to attend. Registration is required and limited to 10 seats. To sign up, contact the Education Office at 437-0015/0016 or e-mail al_uideidbtes@auab.afcent.af.mil.

Fitness Signup Deadlines

The signup deadline for fitness events is two hours before the event begins. For tournaments, the deadline is the day before the start of the tourney. No late signups will be accepted. For more information, call CC Fitness at 437-8721.

End-of-Tour and Exit Interviews

Air expeditionary wing and group commanders, DC-FACC, CAOC senior leaders and division chiefs, AFFOR directors, selected special staff directors and other senior leaders, such as director of mobility forces and director of air component consolidated element, etc., must submit an End-of-Tour Report or complete and exit interview with USAFCENT/A9. Additionally, expeditionary squadron commanders must complete an ETR. For more information or assistance with an ETR, call AFFOR/A9 at 436-4005 or 436-4256, and speak with Jerome Wilkins, or Capt. Thomas English.

Volunteer Opportunity

The Sexual Assault Response Coordinator is responsible for ensuring a victim support system exists, capable of responding to all reported sexual assaults, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

A volunteer victim advocate is a key component of this support system, providing essential support, liaison services and care to the victims of sexual assault. Trained VAs interested in volunteering with the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program here should

contact Maj. Brenda Simpson at 437-7272, or e-mail 379AEW.SARC@auab.afcent.af.mil.

Share-a-Ride

Drivers picking up riders in the base Share-a-Ride program must remain vigilant and cognizant of increased threat at all times. If the driver cannot vouch for a passenger via personal recognition, he must physically check the individual's CAC before entering the CC/BPC ECP.

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.

Women's Bible Study

An all women's bible study is scheduled from April 11 - May 9. The study will be held in the Chapel multi-purpose room from 3:45 p.m. to 4:45. The theme of the study is "no regrets life." For more information, call 1st Lt. Stephanie Railey at 437-2212.

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.

Post-Deployment LES Review

Redeploying members are encouraged to review their LES to ensure applicable taxes are once again deducted from their pay, and that all deployment-specific entitlements have stopped. For more information about entitlements or what to do once redeployed to home station, contact 379 ECPTS Customer Service at 379ecptscustomerserv@auab.afcent.af.mil, or call 437-8686.

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.

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.



Airman 1st Class Kera Mendoza, 379th Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron hydraulics technician, replace a heat-shield on a KC-135 landing gear component here, April 2. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Michelle Larche)