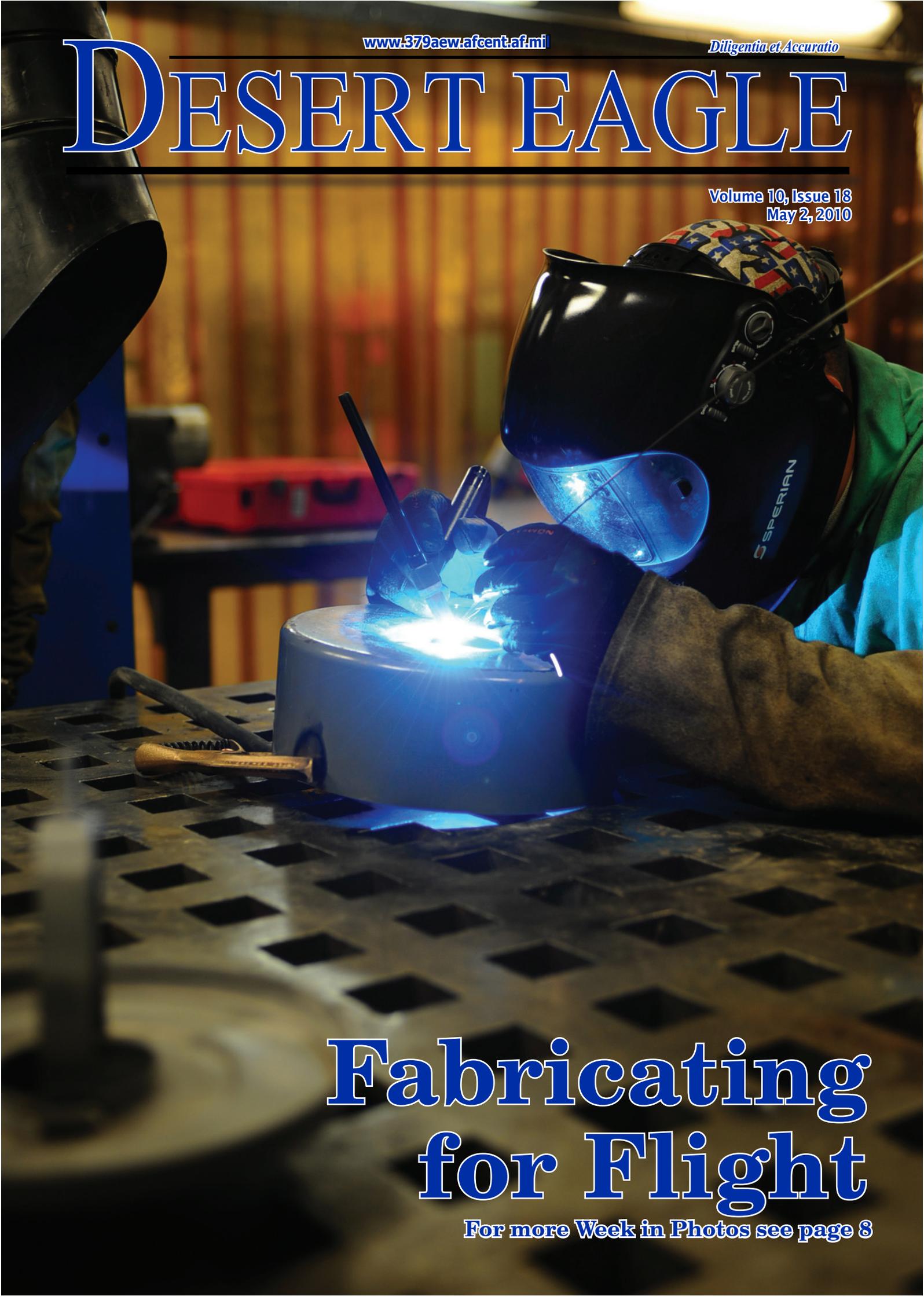


# DESERT EAGLE

Volume 10, Issue 18  
May 2, 2010



## Fabricating for Flight

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**DESERT EAGLE**

Volume 10, Issue 18

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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.



Staff Sgt. Rogelio Lopez, 379th Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron aircraft metals technology journeyman, welds an air filter housing for aircraft ground equipment here, Monday.

# “To the HORSE”

By 2nd Lt. Zachary Davis  
1st Expeditionary RED HORSE Group

According to the dictionary, a team, “is a number of persons forming one side in a game or contest that share a common goal.”

I’m sure most of you would have come to the same conclusion without looking it up. My goal isn’t to educate everyone on the definition of “team,” my intention is to explain what makes RED HORSE one of the most versatile engineering squadrons in the AOR today.

Teams must have the ability to work toward a common goal. Teams must also share a vision directing individuals to accomplish missions, work hard, overcome failures and meet objectives, allowing the team to achieve success. The team I am talking about is the 1st Expeditionary Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy Operational Repair Squadron Engineers.

Ask Airmen their job, and they are probably going to give you a 5-digit code, such as 3E451 or 6C0X1, which we know as an Air Force Specialty Code.

What separates RED HORSE from other Air Force squadrons is the 550 or more Horsemen, accounting for 43 AFSCs from more than 20 units working in different countries. Engineers, force support personnel, logisticians, vehicle maintainers, aerial porters, doctors, medics, security forces and chaplains unite to make up this diverse group.

Not only is the “HORSE” made up of a plethora of AFSC’s, these Airmen are a force multiplier throughout

the area of responsibility. They are trained with special capabilities to include well-drilling, quarry operations, demolition, horizontal drilling, batch plant operations, convoy teams and material testing. It is not uncommon to see Horsemen working outside of their AFSC – they are not assigned to an AFSC. They are assigned to the HORSE.

One of the reasons the Horse has such a great sense of team and confidence is the “Red Hat.”

A retired general said it best, “The initial RED HORSE troopers wore the then BDU Headgear in Vietnam. However, because of the outstanding performance of these new direct combat support units that became primary elements of U.S. Air Force combat capabilities, it was determined by Brig. Gen. Archie Mayes, SAC civil engineer and myself, then TAC civil engineer, that special recognition and identification of RED HORSE troopers was necessary and appropriate. This identification was necessary due to the times, places and special effort of these troopers, especially while performing emergency operations and/or wearing of the combat helmet where conditions dictated for personal safety needs. In recognition of these requirements, the RED HAT, either cloth or construction hardhat was established as the headgear for all RED HORSE troopers in 1972 and has remained in effect ever since. To deny or curtail this identification at this time would have a devastating morale effect on RED HORSE troopers and on RED HORSE unit esprit de corps and performance.

SEE HORSE 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@aub.afcent.af.mil](mailto:379aewactionline@aub.afcent.af.mil).

## U.S. Air Force musicians join in ANZAC Day ceremony



**Staff Sgt. Mark Nixon, U.S. Air Forces Central Command Band, sounds "Reveille" as the Australian and New Zealand Flags are raised here on Australian New Zealand Army Corps Day, April 25, to honor fallen Australian and New Zealand servicemembers who fought in the Gallipoli Campaign in Turkey during World War I.**

Story and photos by Maj. Chad Steffey  
U.S. AFCENT Public Affairs

**SOUTHWEST ASIA** - Six Airmen from the U.S. Air Forces Central Band performed hymns, bugle calls and the national anthems of Australia and New Zealand at a dawn memorial service here in commemoration of ANZAC Day.

A national day of remembrance in Australia and New Zealand, Anzac Day is commemorated on April 25th every year by both countries to honor members of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) who fought in Turkey during World War I.

Much like Memorial Day in the United States, ANZAC Day pays tribute to all those who have served in

military operations for their country.

Having just arrived here in the AOR the previous morning, Master Sgts. Paul Perez and Robert Newlin, and Staff Sgts John Garcia, Christopher Moore, Mark Nixon and John Rattay began playing before the sun came up, having only a brief rehearsal the day before.

Airmen from six partner nations gathered to participate in the solemn ceremony.

Squadron Leader Charles Vandeppeer, Royal Australian Air Force, spoke of the history of ANZAC Day and its importance to the people of Australia and New Zealand. "We do not celebrate victory or glorify war - we celebrate the triumph of human

valor - the spirit of ANZAC."

Senior officers from Australia, New Zealand, the United States, Great Britain, Canada and France each laid a wreath at the base of the flag poles here. RAAF Air Commodore Neil Hart, Combined Air and Space Operations Center director, and U. S. Air Force Maj. Gen. Stephen Hoog, Deputy Combined Force Air Component commander, were among the day's distinguished participants.

As the flags were lowered to half mast, Staff Sgt. Mark Nixon

sounded the "Last Post" bugle call.

After a moment of silence, RAAF Flying Officer Bronwyn Rowe recited the traditional ode: "They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old. Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them."

The half light of dawn grew, and the audience replied together, "We will remember them ... lest we forget."

At the RAAF-hosted breakfast following the ceremony, Air Commodore Hart reminisced with band members about prior celebrations at his home in Newcastle, Australia, noting how special the occasion is for older veterans.

### FROM HORSE ON PAGE 2

Through Desert Storm, Bosnia and Afghanistan, these units performed missions under extremely adverse conditions and functioned beyond the capabilities of similar units in other services including the high-cost logistic contract services."

Currently, the 1 ERHG is housed here and has "Horsemen" forward deployed in support of Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom.

The "Horse" tends to be the combat engineering unit of choice. In the past six months the 1 ERHG supported OEF/OIF operations in four countries, accomplishing 106 projects.

The group provides support to U.N. International Security Assistance Forces, U.S. Forces Afghanistan, Air Force Central Command, U.S. Forces Iraq, Naval Construction Regiment and

other government agencies. The logistics team palletized, processed and shipped an average of 36 pallets a week, totaling 210,000 lbs, worth an average cost of \$670,000. In the past six months, these Airmen have shipped more than 900 pallets totaling more than 5.4 million pounds, with a value of more than \$17 million.

RED HORSE members' commitment to the mis-

sion - from a one-striper, NCO, senior NCO up to the seasoned full-bird colonel - all understand they are vital members who directly impact the team's success.

Gen. Collin Powell said, "There are no secrets to success - it is the result of preparation, hard work and learning from failure."

These attributes have made the 1 ERHG the outstanding team it is.

# Goodwill Ambassador Team completes first mission

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

Airmen from the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing recently read to second, third and fifth-grade students at a host-nation school as members of the base's newly-formed Goodwill Ambassador Team, created to promote good relations between U.S. and Coalition members, and host-nation residents.

"The team is geared toward, but not limited to, Arabic-speaking members," said Capt. Patrick Cordova, team organizer and 379 AEW Public Affairs chief. "With a team of community-oriented Arabic speakers, we can engage in meaningful conversation so our hosts don't just see the results of an action, but also know the thought process behind it.

"Ultimately, there's no better way to increase our knowledge and appreciation – of not only the things that make us different from one another, but also the things we have in common - than by coming together face-to-face," he said. "This was the first of what we anticipate will be many opportunities to gainfully interact with members of our host-nation community."

The team's first event coincided with the school's "book week," in observance of World Book Day, April 23. Throughout book week, students attended three workshops a day where they focused on reading-related activities tied to their regularly-scheduled studies, which include subjects such as Islamic studies and English language.

Nele Noe, the school's academic vice principal, said opportunities for interaction like this are beneficial to her students for several reasons.

"It's very important for the boys to see people who are different from them," she said. "Many of the students don't get an opportunity to travel and see different cultures and how other people live. It's also good for them to see that the military doesn't all carry weapons."

Ninety percent of the students attending the school are host-nation children. The other 10 percent are from other Arab countries.

"This is also an oral culture, and we're making a push to increase literacy here," Ms. Noe added. Having visitors come to the school and read during book week shows the boys that other people read, reading has value and can be fun, and it's not just their teachers who believe this, she said.

Team members took turns reading to different classes throughout the morning.

"They started calling me 'Teacher Shala,'" said Staff Sgt. Shala Baugh, 763rd Expeditionary Reconnaissance Squadron airborne cryptologist linguist. "I wrote my first name on the board and one of the boys wrote his last name beside it – it made me laugh, like I just got married to a fifth-grader," she said jokingly.

Others who visited the school also said they felt well-received by the students.

"They loved it," said Maj. Cam Shirley, 379th Expeditionary Operations Group pilot. "They all wanted to shake hands, find out my name and how old I was. It was a lot of fun."

The students also engaged team members in other "get-to-know-you" activities.

"As soon as I walked into the room, the kids crowded around me, giving me hands to shake and telling me their names," Captain Cordova said. "The children then sounded out the letters as I wrote my name on the board with a dry-erase marker. Next thing I knew I was signing autographs."

The students, who are taught more of their classes in English than in Arabic, practiced speaking English with their visitors. They also had a chance to teach their visitors some Arabic words.

"One student helped me pronounce words in the Arabic book I was reading," said Senior Airman Joseph Warren, 763 ERS linguist. "I said, 'shukran.' He said, 'you're welcome, no problem.'"

U.S. and Coalition members interested in Goodwill Ambassador Team events should contact the 379 AEW Public Affairs office at 379AEW.PA@auab.afcent.af.mil or call 436-0100.



Senior Airman Joseph Warren, 763rd Expeditionary Reconnaissance Squadron linguist and member of the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing Goodwill Ambassador Team, reads a book aloud while a host-nation student during "Book Week" at a host-nation school as part of the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing's first community relations mission.

عضو في الجناح الجوي 379، وعضو في فريق سفير النوايا الحسنة في مدرسة الصف الثالث باللغة العربية خلال "أسبوع الكتاب" في مجمع أعضاء التحالف والأمريكيين الذين يرغبون في تعزيز علاقات مع المجتمع المحلي لهذا الفريق.



Staff Sgt. Shala Baugh, member of the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing Goodwill Ambassador Team, asks a host-nation student a question during "Book Week" at a host-nation school.

ح الجوي 379، وعضو في فريق سفير النوايا الحسنة الذي تم مع الكتاب" في مدرسة الدولة المضيفة. فريق الناطقين باللغة ن في تعزيز علاقات جيدة مع مجتمع العامة من الدول المضيفة. الفريق.



# Airman to represent Air Force during national racquetball tourney



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

**Master Sgt. Fred Rogers, 379th Expeditionary Maintenance Operations Squadron wing maintenance scheduler, demonstrates his swing before participating in a racquetball tournament here, Monday. Sergeant Rogers was recently selected as a member of the U.S. Air Force Racquetball Team for the ninth time in his 31-year Air Force career.**

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

An Airman deployed here was recently selected as a member on the U.S. Air Force Racquetball team for the ninth time in his career and second year in a row.

Master Sgt. Fred Rogers, 379th Expeditionary Maintenance Operations Squadron scheduler, was selected after winning this year's national singles championship in San Diego. He's also currently ranked first on the Military Racquetball Federation Web site.

"I've been playing racquetball for 34 years," said Sergeant Rogers. "I started playing with team members in the early '80s through base, regional, major command, Air Force and finally joint-service level tournaments."

The sergeant describes himself as a power player with a plus backhand volley and a serve reaching speeds of 152 mph.

"There are all sorts of players I meet in the different circuits I play in," he added. "I'm the type of player that will try to overpower and eliminate my opponent's reaction time – much like a power tennis player vs. a finesse player."

Previously, Airmen wishing to compete for the Air Force racquetball team had to advance through a series of tournaments. However, due

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*“ The best thing about racquetball is the relationships. It brings people together from all over the world with one commonality – our passion for the game. ”*

-Master Sgt. Fred Rogers

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to deployment cycles, they must now complete an AF Form 303, a player resume and bio, rather than win a series of tournaments at various Air Force levels.

Later this month, the military's best racquetball players will compete in Houston in a national tournament open to anybody who wants to compete.

"I've been preparing here, using the time I have while deployed, to increase my cardio and weightlifting workouts," said Sergeant Rogers.

He's also been working with a personal trainer, preparing for the rigors of a national tournament through agility and speed training.

Last year, Sergeant Rogers won the Men's 40+ division and took third in the Military Men's Open.

"I really just want to make a strong showing in the tournament," Sergeant Rogers said. "The Air Force has consistently been near the top of the lead-

ers board during national tournaments and I'd like to continue that trend."

Since deploying here, Sergeant Rogers has helped organize two Military Racquetball Federation sanctioned tournaments.

"Really, it is a great sport," he added. "I'm a certified instructor, and I love to get new people involved in the sport.

Recently, he helped put together a "March Madness" tournament including beginner, intermediate and advanced brackets.

"We have had a great turnout for our tournaments," said Sergeant Rogers. "We even had a servicemember travel here from Kuwait to compete. He took second place in the advanced men's division."

Although racquetball is competitive, a spirit of friendship and connection embodies the group of Airmen who find themselves playing year-in and year-out.

"Just during my time here, I've run into numerous servicemembers that I've played with throughout my 31-year career," said Sergeant Rogers. "I recently reconnected with someone I had played with during the years I spent at Anderson Air Force Base, Guam.

"The best thing about racquetball is the relationships," he added. "It brings people together from all over the world with one commonality – our passion for the game."

### Staff. Sgt. Shala Baugh

763rd Expeditionary Reconnaissance Squadron  
airborne cryptological linguist

**Home station:** RAF Mildenhall, England

**Arrived in AOR:** March

**Deployment goals:** To put a dent into my 42 credits necessary to accomplish my bachelor's in Middle Eastern studies, promote morale for my crew and peers, improve my fitness and make a difference in the community with the newly-formed Goodwill Ambassador program.

**Best part of the deployment:** The awesome birthday celebration my crew held for me.

**Hobbies:** Singing, dancing, reading mystery novels, poker, volleyball and ultimate frisbee.

**Best Air Force memory:** June 11, 2008, the day I became qualified to do my job operationally for the Air Force.

*Nominated by Capt. Ian Calderon: "Sergeant Baugh is a pivotal member of our RC-135 aircrew. With her on our team, morale is high because of her professional and uplifting attitude. Her actions reflect courage and a commitment to the Air Force core values."*



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

### Tech. Sgt. Adam Szyszowski

816th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron  
C-17 instructor loadmaster

**Home station:** Charleston Air Force Base, S.C.

**Arrived in AOR:** December

**Deployment goals:** To safely fly as many missions as possible in support of Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom and to continue my college studies while maintaining my grade point average.

**Best part of the deployment:** Enjoying the "Saving Abel" concert with several members of the 816th EAS, and relaxing at "Scotch and Cigar" night with more 816th members.

**Hobbies:** Golf, fishing and reading.

**Best Air Force memory:** Hasn't happened yet, but hopefully it will be accepting a commission later this summer. Flying my family out to Spain for a couple of weeks during my last deploying is up there too.

*Nominated by Master Sgt. Lisa Peele: "Sergeant Szyszowski is at the top of our list in flight time for the past 90 days. He is one of a select few Reservists who volunteered to serve with our active-duty unit for a full 120-day deployment. He is a prime example of how well the total force comes together."*



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

### Senior Airman Michael Gouch

379th Expeditionary Maintenance Operations Squadron  
C-130 maintenance data systems analyst

**Home station:** Pittsburgh Air Reserve Station

**Arrived in AOR:** January

**Deployment goals:** To make an impact, leave an impression, surpass all goals set by my supervision and improve at my job.

**Best part of the deployment:** Seeing the impact the work I do, as an analyst, has on the mission.

**Hobbies:** I enjoy fitness, exercise and reading.

**Best Air Force memory:** Seeing in practice the various qualities of leadership that I was able to learn from and incorporate into my professional life and development.

*Nominated by Master Sgt. Travis Huckaby: "Airman Gouch brings a positive, can-do work ethic every day and has been a true asset to the maintenance analysis team and the 379 EMOS. He has provided tremendous analytical support to the 379th Expeditionary Maintenance Group leadership. In addition to this, he has been an integral member of the Scorpions Activity Council. The SAC refurbished the squadron sign and was heavily involved in the transformation of one of its building."*



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



**TOP LEFT:** Servicemembers compete at sumo wrestling during the tenth and final Commander's Cup Challenge competition for this rotation here, Tuesday.

U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman



**BOTTOM LEFT:** Staff Sgt. Mitchell Smith, 379th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron fuels lab technician, tests fuel here, Sunday.



KaseyZickmund



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

**TOP RIGHT:** Staff Sgt. Alfredo Overman, 8th Expeditionary Air Mobility Squadron jet propulsion craftsman, checks a C-17 aircraft engine's electronic control here, Thursday.



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



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman KaseyZickmund

**BOTTOM RIGHT:** Airman 1st Class Jason Pettine, 34th Aircraft Maintenance Unit jet engine mechanic, attaches safety wire to a B-1B aircraft gear box here, Monday.

# TIME magazine recognizes Airman in top 100

By Maj. David Small  
National Media Outreach Office

NEW YORK (AFNS) - TIME magazine editors have named Chief Master Sgt. Antonio D. Travis to the 2010 TIME 100, the magazine's annual list of the 100 most influential people in the world for his efforts after the Haiti earthquake.

Chief Travis was one of the first U.S. military members on the ground at the Toussaint L'Ouverture International Airport in Port au Prince, Haiti, only 30 hours after the earthquake and less than 12 hours after the nation's president requested U.S. assistance. The chief led a team of special tactics Airmen from the 23rd, 21st and 123rd special tactics squadrons.

With his team of combat veterans, Chief Travis led the largest single-runway operation in history, using hand-held radios to control thousands of aircraft. Their air traffic control tower was a card table set up next to the airport's runway.

"Twenty-eight minutes after touchdown, we controlled the first air landing followed immediately by a departure, and we did not slow down for the next 12 days," said Chief Travis, who hails from Nelson County, Ky.

After establishing control of the airfield there, his team orchestrated an orderly flow for incoming aircraft and dealt with the constraints of the inadequate airfield, which potentially could have limited relief operations. Facing 42 aircraft jammed into a parking ramp designed to accommodate 10 large planes, untangling the gridlock was the first of many seemingly insurmountable challenges necessary to facilitate the flood of inbound relief flights.

In the dawn of the U.S. response to the Haitian crisis, Chief Travis coordinated with Miami FAA officials via text messaging on his Blackberry. His ingenuity paid massive dividends as priority aircraft transited the small airport, delivering lifesaving water, food and medical supplies in support of the U.S. Agency for International Development-led international humanitarian effort.

From chaos, Chief Travis established order as his combat controllers reduced a four-hour hold time in the air on day one to less than two hours on day two and less than 15 minutes by day three.

For 12 days, 24 hours a day, the airfield team ran the international airport in Port au Prince. Together with more than 200 other Airmen from Hurlburt Field, Fla., they tirelessly ensured the safe and effective control of more than 4,000 takeoffs and landings, an average of one aircraft operation every



**Chief Master Sgt. Antonio Travis has been recognized by editors of TIME Magazine as one of the 100 most influential people in the world for his efforts after the Haiti earthquake. Chief Travis is shown here with combat controllers (from left) Senior Airman William Barrett, Staff Sgt. Kyle Graman, Staff Sgt. Jose Diaz, Staff Sgt. Joshua Craig, Staff Sgt. Chad Rosendale and Senior Airman Johnnie Yellock.**

five minutes, and enabled the delivery of 4 million pounds of humanitarian relief to the people of Haiti.

Without computers or electricity, Chief Travis and his team controlled as many as 250 aircraft a day, exceeding the normal capacity of the airfield by 1,400 percent without a single incident. By Jan. 25, his team was able to hand operations over to Air Force air traffic controllers with a portable control tower.

While directing the airfield operations, Chief Travis also supervised a group of pararescuemen, or PJs, and medical technicians who augmented a search and rescue team from Virginia. These teams were credited with 13 technical rescues and 17 additional saves. Additionally, the special tactics Airmen he led surveyed nearly 100 sites for use as potential humanitarian relief supply delivery sites. His teams' technical expertise and unflinching commitment ultimately led to successful air deliveries by C-17 Globemaster IIIs of humanitarian aid including more than 150,000 bottles of water and 75,000 Meals Ready to Eat that was subsequently delivered to earthquake victims by helicopter.

Chief Travis is the chief enlisted manager of the Air Force Special Operations Training Center at Hurlburt Field, Fla. He served seven and a half years in the Marine Corps before transferring into the Air Force as a combat controller in 1993.

As a senior combat controller, he has supported combat, combat support, humanitarian and search and rescue opera-

tions throughout the United States, Pacific and European theaters and many austere locations across the globe.

Chief Travis is married to the former Andrea Lawrence of Bardstown, Ky. Their children are Brittany, 21; Amanda, 19; and Emily, 15.

Like Army Rangers and Navy SEALs, Air Force Special Tactics Airmen are an elite force of special operators. They are combat controllers, who conduct tactical airfield operations and close air support; PJs, who conduct combat search and rescue; special operations weathermen, who provide tactical weather forecasting and environmental reconnaissance; and tactical air controllers, who integrate close air support into special operations missions.

TIME's full list and related tributes of all those honored appear in their May 10 issue, available on newsstands April 30 and online.

The list, now in its seventh year, recognizes the activism, innovation and achievement of the world's most influential individuals. As TIME's managing editor Rick Stengel has said of the list in the past, "The TIME 100 is not a list of the most powerful people in the world, it's not a list of the smartest people in the world, it's a list of the most influential people in the world. They're scientists, they're thinkers, they're philosophers, they're leaders, they're icons, they're artists, they're visionaries. People who are using their ideas, their visions, their actions to transform the world and have an effect on a multitude of people."

# 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](http://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:  
● Finance

## College alumni muster at local campus

by Capt. Patrick Cordova  
379th Air Expeditionary Wing  
Public Affairs

Servicemembers recently attended an "Aggie" muster on a Texas A&M University campus in Southwest Asia.

The earliest musters began in 1883. In 1903, the muster coincided with the San Jacinto Day, April 21st; the day Texas won its independence from Mexico. Musters vary in size and scope, but all share a common theme.

"Aggie Muster is a special event that brings Aggies together to remember their time at A&M and reflect on memories of lost classmates," said Capt. Allen Rich, 379th Air Expeditionary Wing Host Nation Coordination Cell liaison officer.

In 1942, Aggie Muster gained international recognition when 25 men, led by Maj. Gen. George Moore, mustered during the Japanese siege of the Philippine island of Corregidor. Since then, muster has taken on a special significance for military alumni.

"The school is steeped in traditions," said Brig. Gen. Stephen Wilson, 379 AEW commander and Texas A&M Alumni. "Aggies hold true to many of the same core values that our Air Force does: service, commitment to excellence, loyalty and honor."

This muster was a melting pot of na-



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

Texas A&M alumni gather for the annual Aggie Muster at a host-nation campus, April 21.

tionalities and cultures. Men and women, in their traditional native dress, were linked arm-and-arm or stood shoulder-to-shoulder with non-Arab classmates.

"This is the first truly international muster that I have attended," said Capt. Rich. "Seeing students from the Persian Gulf share in something that has been so unique to our school, and find meaning in such an event, was truly humbling. It is very powerful to see the Aggie spirit reach across cultures."

The significance of this particular

muster, with representatives from diverse regions of the world, was not lost on this year's student body.

"We desire our sense of fellowship to spread to people in all schools and nations in order to bring the men and women of the world into a new bond of friendship and mutual understanding," said Anirudha Chowdhury, Traditions Council member at the Texas A&M campus here. "May this occasion inspire us to be strong in body, keen in mind, and friendly in society."

# 64 AEG vigilance supports regional security



U.S. Air Force photos/Staff Sgt. Kelly White

**Staff Sgt. Mason Messick, 64th Expeditionary Support Squadron Explosive Ordnance Team leader, inspects a vehicle during a training demonstration at a non-disclosed Southwest Asia location, April 22.**

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

With an aircraft taking off from the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing flightline about every two minutes, nearly any Airman assigned to the wing need only look up to be reminded of the airpower their efforts bring to the fight on terrorism – all except for those assigned to one unit.

The Airmen of the 64th Air Expeditionary Group, a geographically-separated 379 AEW unit of security forces, support Airman and civilians, have a mission and culture all their own at their non-disclosed Southwest Asia location.

“Ours is truly a unique mission and experience,” said Col. Michael Mounts, 64 AEG commander. “Our mission is defending this base and providing emergency response for the people who work and live here, so security forces are our focus. There’s no flightline here, so the cops, who are primarily Air National Guardsmen, are our flightline,” he explained. “There are also active-duty and Reserve Airmen here to support security forces, so we’re a Total Force community, as well.”

Twenty-four/seven, the 64 AEG focus on perimeter protection is ensured by way of strategically posting troops on perimeter defense positions, patrols and

quick response force teams.

“The days are long and demanding,” said Tech. Sgt. Pedro Kladis, 64 Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron member. “Maintaining vigilance at all times during a 12-hour shift can be really tedious, but these troops understand what’s at stake. They persevere and they do a great job.”

While ESFS troops are at their post for 12 hours a day, the time they spend at the armory and on guard mount leave them with fewer hours off-duty than on, and some without an opportunity to as much as take a break for meals.

“Everyone from the gate writes their (meal) order on the sheet and ‘chow runners’ get their lunch to them,” said Sergeant Kladis. “We even have a pulley system at our PDP that we use to hoist their lunch up to them.”

It’s not just the 64 ESFS members supporting one another on base. Other Airmen are also there to support them, from civil engineering, to logistics, to computer network support.

“The 64 (ESFS) is here to perform a security mission, and we’re all here to support our cops,” said Tech. Sgt. Jesse Reisinger, 64th Expeditionary Support Squadron Logistics Readiness Flight vehicle fleet manager.

The flight maintains about 130 ve-

hicles overall, but of those, there’s one make that takes priority, hands down.

“The HUMVEES are basically why we’re here,” Sergeant Reisinger said. “We’ve got to keep them all running and ready to go.”

Explosive ordnance disposal is another critical support component at the 64 AEG.

“Primarily, we’re force protection for this base,” said Staff Sgt. Mason Messick, 64th Expeditionary Support Squadron EOD team leader. “We also provide K-9 explosive detection support, help out with augmentees doing vehicle search training...and support downtown at the embassy for VIP service, when called upon.”

When the EOD technicians aren’t responding to a call, they spend their time training.

“We’re always training, so we don’t get rusty. (Staff Sgt. Ryan Bobzin, 64 ESS EOD flight chief) looks up everything that’s going on in-country – what the troops are responding to every single day – briefing us on those,” Sergeant Messick said.

“A lot of our job is figuring out if something is, in fact, a threat,” he added. “We’ve also spent some time building IEDs for exercises. If you’re able to actually build something and have it work,



**Staff Sgt. Jessica Salo and Senior Airman Meghan Boben, 64th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron members, execute a "chow run" for fellow ESFS members April 22, at a non-disclosed Southwest Asia location.**

then you're able to understand it a lot more. Building these helps us have a better understanding so we can better defeat them."

While the EOD technicians said they enjoy their jobs, the reality of what's on-the-line when they're called upon is ever-present.

"We train quite often," said Sergeant Bobzin. "One of the last EOD guys to die was stationed at (a base like this) and got pushed forward, so we want to make sure we stay sharp in case that happens to us."

Regardless of the demands placed on Airmen serving at the 64 AEG, their focus remains on the positive aspects of their deployment.

"Sometimes it's good to get away from home," said Senior Airman Alex Velez, 64th ESFS member. "Back home, there's so much stress and problems that we don't have to deal with here. We have time to focus being here -- whether it's conditioning our bodies, studying or reflecting on life.

"I've lost weight going to the gym, done (Airman Leadership School distance learning course) and spent time thinking about things back home," he added. "(From) the encouragement and support I've had here, I've become wiser. I've grown."

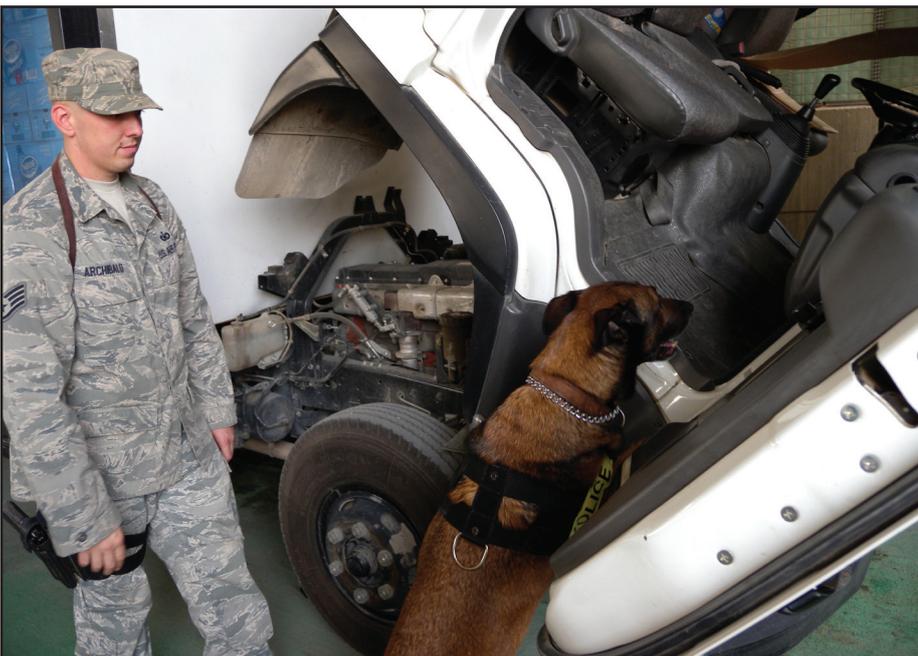
One other aspect 64 AEG Airmen deem essential to their deployed experience is having and being a "wingman."

Camaraderie is important here, said Senior Airman Derek Sizemore, 64th ESS Escort Flight. "In what I do, there are a lot of people from different AFSCs coming together to do one job. We deal daily with over 700 third-country nationals -- a lot of people with different languages, cultures and circumstances. I've met people here I would have never met otherwise."

At the Visitor Control Center, 64 ESFS member, Staff Sgt. Jamie James, who processes all pedestrian workers and visitors coming onto the base, agreed.

"It's been hard being deployed, but we're a small base -- well-contained -- and we have a good relationship with the workers and visitors who come through, because they see a familiar face every day," Sergeant James said. "Being deployed here, we get to know each other very well and we can be a crutch for each other."

Sergeant James, whose husband is also a security forces Airman, currently deployed to Balad Air Base, Iraq, said as the current rotation winds down, she's ready to get back home to her two daughters and resume her role as a "proud, full-time mom."



**Staff Sgt. Joshua Archibald, 64 ESFS member, and Military Working Dog Diego perform a vehicle search at a non-disclosed Southwest Asia location April 22.**



## 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., 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.

# The shape of things to come

By Chap. (Maj.) Mike Newton  
379th Air Expeditionary Wing chapel

It takes a long time to shape a human being.

We weren't really present the day we were born. We were physically alive, but not so much aware that we were. We were a bundle of cells preprogrammed with inherited traits, instincts and characteristics. The real person was yet to come.

The real "we" is the product of trillions of assimilating sights and sounds.

From the moment of birth, our brains have processed an endless amount of sensory data supplied by our eyes, ears, mouth, etc. One of the reasons we remember so little about our first three years is because our brains were maturing.

Little by little,

day by day,

a person

emerged –

uniquely

designed

by God.

We

developed

an identity,

and before

long,

we are

here, and

we continue

developing.

Even here

today, regardless

of your age or station

in life, you are developing.

In fact, your time in this environment is shaping you in ways that could positively or negatively impact the rest of your life.

This is exciting to grasp because it means the person we are is not finished developing. We are still processing endless amounts of experiences, each of which alters who we are. The books we read, the films we watch, the conversations we have, the places we go, the role models we respect – continually forge a new us. What is scary is the changes are so subtle, we are rarely aware.

Stop for a moment and reflect on the quality of your life and character. Are you happy with what you see?

I suspect many of us would like to improve, do more and grow as people. The good news is you can do that by taking advantage of your time here. Yes, we work long hours, but there is still time to grow intellectually, spiritually and professionally. As you do, you grow your character also.

The building, or the erosion, of character occurs silently in the core of our minds. Decisions made today are not necessarily decisions we would have made last year or last month. Always remember, character is a renewable resource unless you lose it entirely. As author and founding father Thomas

Paine said, "character is much easier kept than recovered."

We can choose what kind of person we

want to

be and

craft that

person.

Your

time

on this

deployment

or

assignment

is a vehicle to

take you there.

If we do not take

control of this vital

process, we will still be

shaped, but neither we nor our family back home may like who we become.

Take on an area of your life that you know needs to get better, then take the time you have left on this deployment and work on achieving that goal. It is important for us to take control of our life and shape it into the person God intended us to be.

If you would like to talk more about how to do this, come by and chat with any of the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing chaplains today. We are here for you!



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

### **Voting Assistance**

Hawaii will hold a special general election May 22 to fill the congressional vacancy left by the resignation of Congressman Neil Abercrombie. The 1st Congressional District includes Honolulu and parts of Oahu. If you do not have a ballot on file, fill out an absentee ballot request as soon as possible.

Additionally; Indiana, North Carolina, Ohio, Nebraska, West Virginia, Arkansas, Kentucky, Oregon, Pennsylvania and Idaho military and overseas voters have upcoming state elections. Registered voters must request a ballot by accessing [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov) and follow the instructions to complete the "request for overseas ballot form" and e-mail the form to the state County Election offices as listed on the Web site. An "official ballot" will be e-mailed to complete before the ballot submission deadline. For more information, contact your unit voting officer or call 436-0215. For other voting concerns e-mail [vote@auab.centaf.af.mil](mailto:vote@auab.centaf.af.mil).

### **SGLI Premium Refund**

SGLI premium refund for March 2009 will be reflected in affected Air Force members' paychecks in May 2010. Deployed members in support of OEF/OIF who arrived in the AOR on or before March 1 and continue to serve through April will receive two months of SGLI credit in May, for the contributions made in March and April. SGLI refunds, also known as SGLI premium reimbursement allowance, only applies to servicemembers serving in the theater of operations for OEF/OIF who have SGLI coverage. To ensure proper amounts are credited, members are asked to monitor their LES. For more info, call the finance office at 437-8686.

### **Knowledge Ops Office Relocation**

379 ECS Knowledge Ops Office is now located in Bldg. 8207, in the ECS Compound. Phone numbers are as follows: Base Records Manager, 437-3411; Base Publications Manager/SharePoint, 437-3413; SharePoint, 437-3412; Section Chief, 437-3415

### **CC Dorm Exterior Doors**

CC Dorm residents should ensure the exterior doors are not left open. When these doors are left open, outside air flows through the building causing nuisance alarms in the fire alarm panels. The smoke detectors in the hallways get clogged with dust, which sets them off.

### **Bone Marrow Donor Registry**

A registry drive for personnel wanting to donate bone marrow is scheduled from April 25 to May 8. There are roughly 500 military personnel and family members in the DOD needing a bone marrow match. Registering does not commit you to donating. Contact your unit POC for more details.

### **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.

### **Enlisted Luncheon**

First Friday of each month, 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., Manhattan DFAC Twin Towers Room, junior enlisted personnel, ranks E-1 through E-6, are invited to have lunch with senior enlisted leaders.

### **CACs Lost Off Base**

379th Air Expeditionary Wing Host Nation Coordination Cell policy requires 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.

### **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.

### **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.

### **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.



**Maj. Michelle Engelken, 379th Expeditionary Medical Group anesthesiologist, annotates a patient's vitals during a diagnostic laparoscopy here, April 24. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Kasey Zickmund)**