

# DESERT EAGLE

Volume 10, Issue 20  
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A close-up photograph of a person wearing safety glasses and gloves, working on a small component. A large magnifying lamp is positioned over the work area, casting a bright light. The person is holding a small, cylindrical object with both hands, examining it closely. The background is dark, and the overall scene is illuminated by the light from the magnifying lamp.

## Finding the cracks

For more week in photos, see page 8.



# DESERT EAGLE

Volume 10, Issue 20

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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. Richard Mabry, 379th Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron non-destructive inspection craftsman, conducts an inspection, in search of cracks, on a B-1B wheel bolt here, May 7.

## Commentary

# "Powerful people" in our midst

By Col Larry Stephenson  
379th Expeditionary Maintenance  
Group commander

When you think of powerful people, who comes to mind?

Is it Donald Trump, Pope Benedict XVI, Albert Pujol or maybe Oprah?

Many people automatically envision someone on the world stage who has immense resources at their disposal, or amazing athletic prowess or is an inspirational leader of people. However, being powerful does not require notoriety, stardom or a large bank account.

A powerful person can be an ordinary person, who utilizes their own potential, and that of those around them, to create powerful results by doing their job with excellence and living an honorable life.

A powerful person is not a hero or a star as promoted in contemporary culture. Ben Stein said the men and women who wear the uniform of the United States of America and fight for our freedom, while risking their lives for \$1,500 a month, are the real stars. He says the real stars are the ones who fight fires and fight crime and teach autistic children for modest wages.

We have the privilege of serving with these sorts of stars here at our deployed location. So, what makes us powerful people?

In the military, our potential to be powerful officially starts when we raise our hands, answer our Nation's call and volunteer to serve. Some have visions of grandeur and some have more humble aspirations.

In the end, the result is the same, we all volunteered. Over time, through training, development and experience, this volunteerism morphs into our on-the-job capabilities — guided and accentuated by our service values. Our drive to grow personal capabili-

ties is rewarded when opportunity emerges, and we are put to the test and succeed.

It does not matter if we are in leadership roles or in followership roles, we all have many opportunities to contribute.

In all our cases, we were deemed ready for deployment, and our capabilities are being tested in combat far from home. The excellence we display, in the seemingly simple and unheralded tasks we perform each day, actually integrates to create powerful results both here on base and further downrange. The results throughout our theater of operations are undeniable — powerful people making it happen.

Ordinary people arrive here with different backgrounds, training levels, experiences, motivations, and strengths and weaknesses. Melding these individual elements presents unique challenges for those in leadership and supervisory positions.

While individual power can be effective, the power of the team can be unbeatable. That's the beauty of seeing the Grand Slam Wing and our mission partners in action.

Leadership theories tell us it's nearly impossible to build cohesive teams with the lack of continuity we have. Our situation defies conventional wisdom. We should always be forming and storming. However, what's amazing is that powerful people are building powerful teams, based on a common purpose and sense of mission. Here, we have a multitude of powerful people doing extraordinary things, together.

So the next time you run across someone who thinks their job does not matter, or they are just "doing their time," remind them of their potential to be a powerful person.

We all have it in us. We merely need to tap into it, be driven by our core values and unleash that potential to accomplish our slice of the mission.



## Commander's Action Line

- The Action Line is your direct link to Brig. Gen. Stephen Wilson, 379th Air Expeditionary Wing commander.
- Use it if you have questions or comments about the base that cannot be resolved by your chain of command or base agencies.
- Each question will be reviewed, answered and may be published on a case-by-case basis. E-mail [379aewactionline@auab.afcent.af.mil](mailto:379aewactionline@auab.afcent.af.mil).

# Returning home to those you love

By Capt. Sundonia Wonnum  
379th Expeditionary Medical Group  
Mental Health Clinic

It's just about that time – time to start thinking about returning home (as if you haven't done this every day so far). The window on your "circle of freedom" is getting larger, and your dreams of going home are becoming more a reality as each day draws to a close.

For those who arrived at the start of the year, you're either halfway done or just about done with your duty at this non-disclosed Southwest Asia location.

For those who just arrived, save this article – your day will come soon.

The thought of returning home, particularly for those with families, can be exciting and a little nerve wracking. It's normal to think, "will my parents be proud of me? Will my child remember me? Will my husband love me the same way?" or, "Will my wife need me anymore?" If you've had any of these or similar thoughts, keep reading, this is for you.

## Enhance relationships even at a distance

It's possible to enhance your relationships, even at a distance, and there's still time to enhance yours before you return. One of the best ways to enhance your relationship with your spouse, children and parents is to improve communication with them.

Thanks to our communications personnel, we have fingertip access to most social networking, email and video-chat sites, in addition to telephone access. You can communicate as often as you have time for – take advantage of this. For those who aren't much for talking, focus on quality, rather than quantity, of communication. Here are a few tips to make your talk time count:

- Think:** If you're feeling angry, anxious or depressed, before you send an email or speak, ask yourself, "will I regret this next month?" If the answer is yes, don't send it or say it. Try to calm down or improve your mood first, then attack the problem or discuss the issue. Remember, when emotions are high, logic is low.

- Depend:** You may have seen or experienced some things that were very upsetting. Depend on family, your unit and friends for support.

- Discuss:** Discuss personal changes

and insights. Avoid playing the "who suffered the most game." You and your spouse have both experienced unique stressors. Don't make it a competition – it's an opportunity to learn more about each other and support one another.

- Explore:** Priorities may have changed. Explore plans for your future together, such as family plans, professional goals and financial desires. Future-oriented thinking helps keep us from dwelling on problems in our current circumstance.

- Brainstorm:** No matter how optimistic you may be, problems will arise. When they do, brainstorm new solutions based upon your current situation. You may have been the primary problem-solver when you were at home, but the balance has shifted. Encouraging your spouse to develop solutions with you empowers them with confidence to handle things in your absence.

- Negotiate:** Roles and responsibilities have shifted in your absence. Your spouse had to become more independent while you have been gone. They may flip-flop between wanting your help with children, to wanting to retain the power of independence. Talk about how to renegotiate or how you'll adjust upon your return.

- Expect (within reason):** Avoid unrealistically high expectations. Be flexible.

- Talk:** Talk about intimacy before you get home. You will have some extra time, so use it wisely. You may have just one thing on your mind when you see your spouse, he or she may have several (i.e. kids, bills, chores, work, health care, etc). Talk about such matters in advance to avoid disappointment.

- Dream:** It's okay to dream a little – it's healthy. With your spouse, children and parents make a wish list of events or experiences you'd like to share together. This will give your family things to look forward to. When you get home, you can establish a plan to make some of those dreams come true.

- Praise:** Your spouse may think, "I've done very well on my own, thank you very much." Avoid criticizing decisions they've made while you were gone. Praise them for things they have accomplished. Remember, your spouse's contributions are valuable.

- Apologize:** You will argue – it's normal. Even if you're not sorry for your position in an argument, you may very well be sorry that you're arguing or fighting. Apologize for your behavior (i.e. raising your voice, walking away or interrupting). Remember, these are the people you love and respect most – treat them that way.

## Reality Check

When you deployed, you left a void that could not be filled. You're important to your family and you are missed.

Your spouse may be pulling double-duty, filling your role and handling your responsibilities, while balancing their own. Don't be surprised if they've done things differently in an effort to get it done.

Your spouse may even be a bit resentful of your deployment wondering, "Why did they have to deploy again? Did they even miss me while they were away? Can we make up for so much lost time?"

Your children are growing each day you're away. Social media helps to see their changes and to hear about their experiences, but there's nothing like being there to offer your pride-filled smiles, comforting kisses and congratulatory hugs.

Your parents may be worried sick, counting the days until you return. Furthermore, your fantasies and expectations about how life will be upon return may be just that – fantasies.

Remember, you have to prepare to return home just as you prepared to deploy. Similar things that helped you and your family prepare for your deployment, will also help you prepare for redeployment. Here are a few tips to show you CARE about the reunion with your family:

- Communicate:** Tell your family members how you feel – nervous, scared, or happy – that you loved and missed them or whatever other feelings you may have. Listen in return. The best way to get through re-acquaintance jitters, regain closeness, and renegotiate your roles in the family is to talk openly and listen attentively.

- Assure:** Your family may be feeling the same confusing things you're feeling – worry, fear, stress, happiness and excitement. Children, depending on their age, may not understand how you could leave them if you really

SEE HOME ON PAGE 11



# U.S. Forces compete in Host-Nation military basketball tourney

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

Servicemembers recently competed in a basketball tournament near this Southwest Asia location against host-nation military teams.

The team of U.S. military athletes from the area played for the consolation championship, third-place trophy. The U.S. Forces team eventually lost the consolation game and placed fourth in the tournament.

"The host-nation teams are very good," said Capt. Curtis Puckett, U.S. Forces coach. "Our 12 guys, and assistant coaches were great. It was an outstanding experience and gave us an opportunity to meet some of the host-nation military members."

The sporting exchange between U.S. servicemembers and the host-nation began in 2003, when for the first time, the host-nation invited a U.S. Armed Forces team to join in their athletic activities.

"We have been participating in host-nation military-sponsored sporting competitions for the past six years," said Hani Abukishk, from an area support group civil affairs unit. "We are invited annually to compete in a wide range of sports such as soccer, basketball, volleyball, cross-country races and marksmanship competitions."

The U.S. Forces team went 1-1 during the round-robin portion of the tournament, giving them an opportunity to go to the championship game.

"We were able to represent the U.S. military, and our guys were good ambassadors," said Captain Puckett. "But the best part was that a lot of these guys haven't had the opportunity to experience the culture here. It was great that they were a part of it – there was a lot of camaraderie between the teams."

With only 65 hours of team practices under its belt, the U.S. team was able to implement a triangle offense, which creates good spacing between players and allows open cuts to the basket.

"We also implemented a full-court press," Captain Puckett said. "That

was the route of our win that gave us the opportunity to play for third place. We pressed them hard and were able to create some points off turnovers."

The coach commended his team on its strong showing, "I believe we're the first U.S. team to compete in this tournament and win a game," a testament to the ability of the U.S. Forces team as well as the host-nation military teams.

During the tournament, host-nation basketball referees called plays based on International Basketball Federation rules, which differ from rules most

U.S. servicemembers are used to.

"My one piece of advice to future coaches of the team is to start preparing further in advance," added Captain Puckett. "We came together well, but I believe with more training, we'd be able to make a stronger showing in the tournament."

The coach also pointed out that the results of the games weren't the most important part of the tournament.

"It was a nice, pleasant experience," said Captain Puckett. "There was a lot of respect between the teams whether it be taking pictures together, or drinking hot tea and hav-



Staff Sgt. Robert Gray, U.S. Forces basketball team center, jumps for a rebound during a host-nation tournament game.

يكية لكرة السلة، يقفز خلال المباشرة في مباراة بطولة كرة السلة  
يركية المباراة وحل في المركز الرابع للبطولة.

ing a conversation before the game."

Mr. Abukishk lauded the tournament as a success, commending the well-organized U.S. Forces team and its strong showing during the tournament.

"It is important to continue to participate in these events in the interest of promoting the U.S., host-nation military relationship," he added.

"This is a great way for servicemembers from both nations to meet and get to know each other in a friendly environment. We are guests in this country, and should do everything we can to build closer ties with our host-nation counterparts."



# القوات الامريكية تنافس في بطولة الدولة المضيفة لكرة السلة العسكرية



U.S. Army photo/Devin Butler

U.S. Army photo/Devin Butler  
Jumps during the tip-off against a host-nation armed  
U.S. Forces lost the game, but went on to take fourth

الرقيب. روبرت غراي ،لاعب إرتكاز فريق القوات الامر  
ضد القوات المسلحة للدولة المضيفة. خسرت القوات الامر

المضيفة" ، قد اُضاف. " وهذه طريقة رائعة  
لأفراد الجيش من كلا البلدين للالتقاء  
والتعرف على بعضهم البعض في بيئة ودية.  
نحن ضيوف في هذا البلد ، ويجب أن نفعل  
كل ما بوسعنا لبناء علاقات أوثق مع نظرائنا  
من البلد المضيف. "

"لقد كانت تجربة لطيفة وممتعة ،" قال  
الكابتن بوكيت. "لقد كان هنالك الكثير من  
الاحترام المتبادل سواء بالتقاط الصور معا ،  
أو بشرب الشاي الساخن والمحادثة قبل  
المباراة".

وأشاد السيد أبو كشك بأن البطولة كانت  
ناجحة وأثنى على حسن تنظيم الفريق  
الأمريكي وأدائه القوي خلال البطولة.

"من المهم الاستمرار في المشاركة في هذه  
المناسبات في مصلحة تعزيز العلاقات  
العسكرية بين الولايات المتحدة والدولة

"ونحن أيضا نفذنا خطة الضغط  
في جميع أنحاء الملعب" قال  
الكابتن باكيت. "وكان ذلك هو  
الطريق لفوزنا والذي أتاح لنا  
الفرصة للعب على المركز  
الثالث. لقد ضغطنا عليهم بقوة  
وكنا قادرين على خلق بعض  
النقاط بإصاعتهم للكرة. "

وأثنى مدرب الفريق على أداء  
فريقه القوي ، "اعتقد أننا أول  
فريق أمريكي يتنافس في هذه  
البطولة ويفوز في مباراة" ، وهو  
دليل على قدرة فريق القوات  
الامريكية بالإضافة الى الفرق  
العسكرية للدولة المضيفة.

وخلال البطولة ، استخدم حكام  
كرة السلة للدولة المضيفة  
التحكيم على أساس قواعد الاتحاد  
الدولي لكرة السلة ، والتي تختلف  
عن القواعد المعتاد عليها معظم  
أفراد الجيش الأمريكي.

"إن نصيحتي الوحيدة لمدربي  
المستقبل للفريق أن يبدأوا بالمزيد  
من التحضير مسبقاً ،" أضاف  
الكابتن باكيت. "لقد قمنا بعمل  
جيد معا ، ولكنني أعتقد مع مزيد  
من التدريب ، سنكون قادرين  
على تقديم عرض أقوى في  
البطولة".

كما أن المدرب أيضا أشار إلى  
أن نتائج المباريات لم تكن الجزء  
الأهم في البطولة.

بقلم كبير الطيارين سبنسر جالين  
الجناح الجوي 379 الشؤون العامة

أفراد الجيش تنافسوا مؤخرا في بطولة كرة  
السلة بالقرب من هذا الموقع في جنوب  
غرب آسيا ضد الفرق العسكرية للدولة  
المضيفة.

لعب فريق الرياضيين العسكريين الاميركيين  
من هذه المنطقة في الدوري قبل النهائي،  
كأس المركز الثالث. فريق القوات الامريكية  
خسر في نهاية المطاف مباراة المركز الثالث  
و حل في المركز الرابع من البطولة.

"إن فرق الدولة المضيفة جيدة جدا" ، قال  
النقيب كورتيس باكيت ، مدرب القوات  
الأمريكية. "كان أعضاء الفريق الـ 12 و  
مساعدتي المدرب رائعين. كانت تجربة  
ممتازة وأتاحت لنا الفرصة للقاء بعض  
الأفراد العسكريين من الدولة المضيفة. "

بدأ التبادل الرياضي بين أفراد الجيش  
الأمريكي والدولة المضيفة في عام 2003 ،  
عندما لأول مرة ، قامت الدولة المضيفة  
بدعوة فرق القوات المسلحة الأمريكية  
للانضمام إلى أنشطتها الرياضية.

" قمنا بالمشاركة في المسابقات الرياضية  
تحت رعاية المؤسسة العسكرية للدولة  
المضيفة على مدى السنوات الست الماضية"  
، قال هاني أبو كشك ، من مجموعة الدعم  
في وحدة الشؤون المدنية. "نحن مدعوون  
سنويا للتنافس في مجموعة واسعة من  
الألعاب الرياضية مثل كرة القدم وكرة السلة  
والكرة الطائرة وسباقات العدو ومسابقات  
الرمماية".

خلال مرحلة الذهاب والإياب من البطولة  
كان سجل فريق القوات الأمريكية 1-1 ، و  
التي أعطتهم الفرصة للذهاب الى المباراة  
النهائية.

"كنا قادرين على تمثيل الجيش الأمريكي ،  
ولاعبين كانوا سفراء على قدر المسؤولية" ،  
قال النقيب باكيت. و اضاف "لكن الجزء  
الأهم أن الكثير من هؤلاء اللاعبين لم تكن  
لديهم الفرصة لتجربة التقاليد هنا و لذلك كان  
من الرائع أنهم كانوا جزءا منها - كان هناك  
الكثير من الصداقة الحميمة بين الفرق. "

مع 65 ساعة فقط من التدريبات بحوزة  
الفريق ، فإن الفريق الأمريكي كان قادرا  
على تنفيذ خطة الهجوم المثلى، والتي توفر  
مسافة مريحة بين اللاعبين وتتيح ضربات  
مفتوحة على السلة.



# DOD officials to study compensation, incentives

By Lisa Daniel  
American Forces Press Service

**WASHINGTON (AFNS)** - Defense Department officials announced May 11, the start of the congressionally-mandated 11th Quadrennial Review of Military Compensation.

The review's focus, officials said, will be on combat pay, compensation for reserve-component servicemembers, caregivers and survivors and pay incentives for critical career fields.

Thomas Bush, a recently retired senior executive who worked in the office of the undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness and as the principal director for manpower and personnel in the office of the assistant secretary of defense for reserve affairs, was tapped to lead the review. He will report to Clifford Stanley, undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness.

The last review, released in two volumes in 2008, focused on hous-

ing allowance, retirement pay, Tri-care health system premiums, pay incentives for health care professionals and quality of life.

Retired Air Force Brig. Gen. Jan "Denny" Eakle chaired the 10th review and said, upon its release, that the first question for any quadrennial review of compensation is whether military pay is comparable to that in the private sector. The second is whether military pay is adequate to maintain the force.

William Carr, deputy undersecretary of defense for personnel policy, testified April 28 before a Senate subcommittee that military pay is competing well against the private sector, as evidenced by the high rate of recruitment and retention.

Using regular military compensation - basic pay with housing and food allowances and federal tax advantages - as a comparison, military members are paid higher than 70 percent of their private-sector peers of similar education and experience, Mr. Carr told members of

the Senate Armed Services Committee's personnel subcommittee.

Mr. Carr also called specialty and incentive pays essential to maintaining the force, especially for special operations forces and people with medical, dentistry, mental health, aviation and nuclear backgrounds.

The 11th review, which will take about two years to complete, will focus on:

- Compensation for service performed in a combat zone, combat operation, or hostile fire area, or while exposed to a hostile fire event;

- Reserve and National Guard compensation and benefits for consistency with their current and planned utilization;

- Compensation benefits available to wounded warriors, caregivers, and survivors of fallen servicemembers; and

- Pay incentives for critical career fields such as mental health professionals, linguists and translators, remotely piloted vehicle operators and special operations personnel.

## More bases to advertise vacancies on USAJOBS

By April Rowden  
Air Force Personnel Center  
Public Affairs Office

**RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFNS)** - Eight additional locations will begin using USAJOBS.gov, to advertise vacancies to current Air Force employees May 24.

Charleston Air Force Base, S.C.; McGuire AFB, N.J.; McChord AFB, Wash.; Langley AFB, Va.; Elmendorf AFB, Alaska; Andersen AFB, Guam; and the Air Force District of Washington's Bolling AFB and the Pentagon make up Phase II of the Air Force's civilian initiative to use USAJOBS to announce jobs vacancies to internal and external candidates.

Osan Air Base, South Korea; Goodfellow AFB, Texas; and all the bases under U.S. Air Forces in Europe launched the pro-

gram Feb. 22.

By phasing in the use of USAJOBS, Air Force officials are able to test system enhancements, verify that the program creates a more timely hiring process, and respond to feedback from the field.

"Above all, we want to ensure we allow time for feedback from our selecting supervisors, local civilian personnel section staff, employees and applicants that this recruitment tool is meeting their needs," said Jamie Beattie, of the Air Force Personnel Center.

Feedback has been positive.

"Our internal Air Force employees feel they are receiving fair consideration by applying via a resume in lieu of career briefs with skills coding, and our selecting supervisors appreciate receiving only one certificate with both

internal and external candidates instead of the two they received in the past," Ms. Beattie said.

Individuals applying for jobs at the test bases will apply through USAJOBS instead of the Air Force Civilian Employment Self-Nomination Application found on the Air Force Personnel Center's secure website.

After creating an account through USAJOBS, employees will have the ability to build and save up to five different resumes. Applicants then select which resume they want to submit based on the qualifications needed for the job vacancy. From there, an applicant can track when the application is received, when it's assessed for qualifications, and if it's referred to a selecting official.

Applicants can verify the announcement is avail-

able to current Air Force civilian candidates by looking for the "Current Permanent Air Force Employee" eligibility statement on jobs advertised in USAJOBS. Applicants should identify themselves as current Air Force employees in the assessment questionnaire included in the vacancy announcement.

USAJOBS can be accessed by computer or smart phone using a username and password 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

For guidance on preparing resumes, interview techniques or other career-search assistance, contact the local Airman and Family Readiness Center.

For more information on USA staffing, Air Force employees may call the 24-hour Total Force Service Center at 800-525-0102.



### Staff Sgt. Shannon Baksh

379th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron

Readiness and Emergency Management craftsman

**Home station:** Royal Air Force Lakenheath, U.K.

**Arrived in AOR:** December

**Deployment goals:** As this is my first deployment, my deployment goals are learning all I can about our expeditionary skill-sets and to obtain my Community College of the Air Force associate's degree in emergency management.

**Best part of the deployment:** The best part of my deployment has been working with people from all around the Air Force and other branches of the military - it exposes you to so many unique perspectives.

**Hobbies:** My hobbies include shopping and travelling.

**Best Air Force memory:** When I permanently changed my station to the United Kingdom.

*Nominated by Master Sgt. Dan Wyrick: "Sergeant Baksh recently led a detailed protective bunker upgrade plan, totaling more than \$1 million. She personally briefed the wing commander on the program. She continually displays an outstanding attitude and tackles tough projects with gusto."*



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

### Staff Sgt. Sheri Santiago

8th Expeditionary Air Mobility Squadron

Passenger Service shift supervisor

**Home station:** Aviano Air Base, Italy

**Arrived in AOR:** February

**Deployment goals:** My deployment goal is to leave with more knowledge than what I arrived with.

**Best part of the deployment:** The best part of my deployment has been the people I've come into contact with, the camaraderie and the opportunity to work with such hard-working, knowledgeable individuals.

**Hobbies:** Reading self-help books, music and helping others.

**Best Air Force memory:** My last deployment to Al Asad AB, Iraq. I've never worked so hard or been so tired in my life, yet felt completely rewarded.

*Nominated by Master Sgt. William Carsten: "From day one when Sergeant Santiago arrived here, she has been non-stop. Her first-rate customer service has been phenomenal, for which she has received numerous letters of appreciation and coins from grateful travelers. She analyzed and streamlined several processes throughout the passenger service section, saving time and enabling 100-percent capture of all passenger in-transit visibility data."*



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

### Master Sgt. Fred Rogers

379th Expeditionary Maintenance Operations Squadron

Wing maintenance plans, scheduling and documentation

**Home station:** Gowen Field, Boise, Idaho

**Arrived in AOR:** January

**Deployment goals:** To expand my knowledge of airframe scheduling in a wartime contingency. Enhance my fitness and to continue on Continuing Education Units.

**Best part of the deployment:** Meeting new people and cultivating relationships with co-workers and friends from all parts of the globe.

**Hobbies:** Racquetball, hockey, football, music and traveling.

**Best Air Force memory:** Reuniting with co-workers and leadership from previous assignments and reflecting on our growth.

*Nominated by Senior Master Sgt. Bruce Bryant: "Sergeant Rogers is a hard-working individual who goes above and beyond to support his normal duties, but also steps up as a unit Client Support Administrator, as well as the interim first sergeant. He was also recently selected as a team member for the Air Force racquetball team."*



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





**TOP LEFT:** Tech. Sgt. Fredrick Mabry (left) and Airman 1st Class Daniel Winders (right), 379th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron crew chiefs, re-install a KC-135 boom nozzle here, Monday.

**TOP CENTER:** Staff Sgt. Edward Pearce, 379th Expeditionary Squadron store room manager, stocks canned goods in the Blatchford-Preston Complex dining hall here, Wednesday.



**BOTTOM LEFT:** Airman 1st Class Matthew Carreiro, 379th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron water and fuels maintenance technician, upgrades a fire system at the Blatchford-Preston Complex dining hall here, Wednesday.





**Expeditionary Force Support  
in the Blatchford-Preston**



**TOP RIGHT: Senior Airman Bobby Sclater (left) and Airman 1st Class Cory Dupriest, 379th Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron aircraft generation equipment technicians, inspect a generator electrical safety relay here, Wednesday.**



**BOTTOM RIGHT: Senior Airman Christopher Hughes, 379th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron hydraulics technician, inspects a KC-135 engine hydraulic component here, Wednesday.**



# Monthly enlisted promotions

Congratulations to the 41 Airmen who have been promoted to the ranks of airman, airman first class, senior airman, staff sergeant, technical sergeant, master sergeant and senior master sergeant here between April 7 and May 5.

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

-Michael Wilsey, 379th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron

**The following technical sergeants will be promoted to master sergeant:**

-Kea Brown, 8th Expeditionary Air Mobility Squadron  
-Gregory Dineen, 379th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron

-Alonzo James, 379th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

**The following staff sergeants will be promoted to technical sergeant:**

-David Bradley, 65th Expeditionary Operation Support Squadron

-Jhoanna Duran, 379th Air Expeditionary Wing

-Alyssa Halstead, 7th Expeditionary Airborne Command and Control Squadron

-Rommel Salido, 7 EACCS

-Chad Shaw, 379 ECES

-Jeffrey Stone, 609th Air Communications Squadron

-Ashley Youngblood, 379 EAMXS

**The following senior airmen will be promoted to staff sergeant:**

-Brandon Arpan, 379th Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron

-Drew Balduff, 379 ECES

-Jonathan Cavezza, 379 Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron

-Mark Chalmers, 379 EAMXS

-Matthew Hyslip, 379th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron

-Kristine MacAsquit, 379th Expeditionary Force Support Squadron

-Jeremiah Merten, 763th Expeditionary Reconnaissance Squadron

-Ramon Negron-Cancel, 379 ELRS

-Jeremy Olson, 379 EMXS

-Joshua Stewart, 379 ELRS

-Alexandria Swanson, 379th Expeditionary Communication Squadron

-Brandon Trees, 379 ESFS

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

-Cristian Arnautu, 379 ESFS

-Douglas Chapman, 379 ESFS

-Christopher Conroy, 379 ECES

-Justin Daniell, U.S. Central Command

-Edward Diaz, 379 ECES

-Bryce Dick, 379 ECES

-Devon Drake, 379 ESFS

-Francy Fornataro, 379 ELRS

-Steven Juliano, 379 ELRS

-Lars Lasanen, 379 ESFS

-Justin Morgan, 8 EAMS

-Zachary Silchuk, 379 ESFS

-Steven Su, 379 ECS

-Carla Summers, 379 ECES

-Katelyn Thiele, 379 EAMXS

-Larry Washington, 379 EAMXS

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

-Michael Bilodeau, 379 ELRS

The following individual will be promoted to airman:

-Carlos Deaton, 379 ESFS

## Quarterly, Monthly award winners

Congratulations to the following nine monthly award winners for March.

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

-Airman of the Month: Senior Airman Sterling Stewart, 379th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron

-Non-Commissioned Officer of the Month: Staff Sgt. Matthew Harvey, U.S. Central Command

-Trainer of the Month: Senior Airman Brian Cavender, 379 ECES

**The Base monthly award winners for the month of March are as follows:**

-Airman of the Month: Senior Air-

man Daniel Kaminske, 816th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron

-NCO of the Month: Tech. Sgt. Robert Lombardo, 1st Expeditionary Red Horse Group

-Senior NCO of the Month: Master Sgt. Corey Davis, 379th Expeditionary Communications Squadron

-Company Grade Officer of the Month: Capt. Lloyd McDonald, 379 ECS

-Civilian of the Month: Jennifer Lizzol, 609th Air Operations Center

-Team of the Month: 379 ECS Client Service Center

**Congratulations to the follow-**

**ing five 1st Quarter 2010 award winners:**

-Airman of the Quarter: Senior Airman Joshua Miller, U.S. CENTCOM

-NCO of the Quarter: Tech. Sgt. Steven Guillen, 379th Expeditionary Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron

-SNCO of the Quarter: Master Sgt. Jeffery Dickens, 609th Air Communications Squadron

-CGO of the Quarter: Capt. Michael DiFelice, 379th Expeditionary Medical Group

-Civilian of the Quarter: Steven Scott, 379th Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron



# 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.

## CCAF graduates

**Congratulations to the 18 Airmen who received their Community College of the Air Force associate degrees:**

- Staff Sgt. Marline Abrajano, 379th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
- Tech. Sgt. Lewis Anderson, 379th Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron
- Staff Sgt. Shala Baugh, 763rd Expeditionary Reconnaissance Squadron
- Tech. Sgt. Timothy Buchmann, 379 EAMXS
- Staff Sgt. Robert Cosme, 379 EMXS
- Tech. Sgt. Tana Frangioni, 379th Expeditionary Communication Squadron
- Staff Sgt. Toneichia Graham, 379th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron
- Master Sgt. Jason Hiegert, 379 EAMXS
- Staff Sgt. Joel Hughes, 379 ELRS
- Senior Airman Kelli Miller, 379 ECS
- Staff Sgt. Christopher Klein, 379th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron
- Master Sgt. Clint Miller, U.S. Central Command
- Senior Airman Ramon Negron-Cancel, 379 ELRS
- Staff Sgt. Jennifer Niblick, 379th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron
- Tech. Sgt. Michael Sisler, 379 ECES
- Staff Sgt. Charles Smith, 379 ECES
- Master Sgt. Garrett Smith, 379 ESFS
- Staff Sgt. Aaron Stamm, 379 EMXS

### FROM HOME ON PAGE 3

loved them. Assure your family of your love.

•Relate: Your family may be unsure of what to expect from you upon return. Your children may feel uncomfortable around you or think of you as a stranger. Use the time from now until you redeploy to communicate your expectations about your roles, responsibilities and relationship.

•Engage: It may be hard for family members to control their excitement, especially children. There may come a time when you want to jump on your motorcycle to get that alone time you missed in the past months, when your child anxiously runs outside with wide eyes and a baseball bat in hand wanting to play. Remember, time is precious to both of you. Let them give and get the attention they need from you before you try to have quiet time alone or with your spouse.

Whether you're a mili-

tary member or civilian, this deployment, with all its problems, anxieties, and frustrations, is temporary.

Long after this deployment, the hope is that your family will be there to support, share, grow, love and live this precious life with you. Though going home can be both an exciting and overwhelming time to reunite with family members, be wary of some of the common pitfalls that can adversely affect your relationships.

Plan for your reunion with your family like it's the most important thing to you – they're worth it! If you're struggling with your return home or having trouble adjusting beyond six to eight weeks, seek out professional support through your local mental health clinic, chapel, family readiness center or Military One Source (1-800-342-9647).

They're all there to help make this a smooth transition.



# POL: powering operations long-term

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

As the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing transforms from its short-term origins to an enduring operation, perhaps no unit is more key to this revolution than the base's providers of energy – petroleum, oil and lubricants.

"A lot of people think of POL as the guys on the flightline in the big tan trucks, said Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Harden, 379th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron Fuel Service Center NCO-in-charge. "Yes, we provide aircraft with fuel, but we're more diverse than that. We also receive, store, quality test, issue and account for capitalized fuel and cryogenics belonging to the Defense Energy Support Center."

In addition to fueling hundreds of aircraft a day, POL provides fuel to power plant generators producing electricity for various base areas. It also supports missions such as Army Riggers, radar sites, British ground equipment, cryogenic support to the entire AOR and encoding vehicle information link keys for every vehicle on base to refuel at the base service station.

"Making sure clean, serviceable fuel is available basewide is a multifaceted process the flight of less than 100 specialists is tasked with," said Master Sgt. Paul Hutcheson, Fuels Operations section chief. "We are broken into multiple areas to properly manage resources."

POL consists of eight internal elements; fuels storage, laboratory, support and training, maintenance, cryogenics, service center, compliance and distribution.

"Before we can distribute the fuel, it goes through many different steps for quality assurance to ensure we are issuing on-spec product," explained Sergeant Hutcheson. "Without strict quality-control measures, the mission here would be severely impacted."

"Laboratory personnel work behind the scenes to ensure our fuel is on-spec every time," he said. "Distribution moves fuel on the flightline. What these men and women do in a month is unrivaled by any other base in the DOD."

As the base continues on its path toward establishing a permanent presence in this area of Southwest Asia, significant changes are taking place in



Senior Airman Jake Martin, 379th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron fuels specialist, prepares to refuel a KC-135 aircraft here, Monday.

how the fuel business is done here.

When this rotation first arrived in January, the POL flight was tasked with removing temporary fuel storage and distribution systems that had been replaced with a fixed hydrant facility system.

"At one time, tank trucks used to deliver all the fuel to base to be stored in 200,000-gallon fabric bladders," said Tech. Sgt. Tobie Inman, 379 ELRS Fuels Storage NCO-in-charge. "There was (nearly three) miles of expeditionary above-ground pipeline on base that connected two geographically separated storage points to replenish mobile refueling units. Although the pipeline served its purpose for almost eight years, it proved to be an arduous means of re-supply with constant maintenance issues and the extra manpower needed to operate. This ultimately slowed

response time to the aircraft."

The flight dedicated 18 people to removing the expeditionary storage systems.

"It was manual, labor-intensive work, transferring fuel out of the bladders until we reached the unobtainable level," Sergeant Inman said. "From there, we used a pump – like a water pump made especially for fuel – to empty what remained in the bladders, transferring it into one collection point."

Their innovative actions saved the Air Force nearly \$450,000 in disposition fees for about 170,000 gallons of unserviceable JP-8 fuel.

"We could have barreled the fuel and turned it into hazardous waste, but we reclaimed it – filtered it and put it back as usable stock – with no product deficiencies," Sergeant Inman said.

A contractor-provided, state-of-the



art hydrant system and underground hydrant piping to the flightline are now in place.

"This change has hugely improved the flights capabilities and allowed for the reallocation of military personnel to other areas within the flight," added Sergeant Hutcheson.

The mission of some POL troops deployed here also takes them downrange.

"This base is a hub," said Sergeant Harden. "There are three 2-man teams that fly with the Aerial Bulk Fuel Delivery System while loaded on a C-130 or C-17. They fly downrange to offload the requested fuel in support of Remotely Piloted Vehicles."

The key to keeping the POL mission running efficiently is applying knowledge gained by those with years of experience, strong communication and regular feedback from customers.

"It takes a lot of coordination to get the operator to the right aircraft at the right time to meet mission needs," Sergeant Harden said. "What we supply keeps the mission moving, not only here but throughout the AOR."

"Everybody needs fuel, and every mission is important," he added. "And when things get hectic, our people work together, get innovative and get the job done."



**Tech. Sgt. Bradley Childs, 379 ELRS fuels craftsman, prepares to fuel a KC-135 here, May 7.**



**Senior Airman Anthony Melendez, 379 ELRS fuels specialist, prepares to fill a fuel truck here, Monday.**



## In the Chapel

## VICTORY CHAPEL

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

WORSHIP  
SCHEDULEProtestant  
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.

## Battle Rattle

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

My siblings and I would often play cops and robbers while growing up. We would take turns playing each part, but my favorite was being the cop because I had the gun and handcuffs.

We had a certain area to protect, so the cops went after the bad guys. Those were the days!

As an Air Force chaplain I have the opportunity to influence Airmen on a daily basis. We give spiritual and emotional guidance that impacts people, which in turn impacts the mission.

Since this is my first deployment, I did not know what to expect. Some people told me about the base and the many different missions, others talked about writing out goals and achieving them.

Courage is one of the words my parents ingrained in me. My mom would always tell me to do my best and courage will do the rest. Gen. George Patton said, "human beings are made up of flesh and blood, and a miracle fiber called courage."

I decided the one thing I wanted to accomplish here was to impact Airmen spiritually and emotionally by giving them the courage to endure the task. Courage is what is needed to overcome seemingly impossible obstacles.

Every day I go out, I meet someone new who has overcome fear and displayed courage.

Former President Andrew Jackson said, "one man with courage makes a majority." I want to acknowledge a group of Airmen who display courage on a daily basis.

Each of these Airmen comes to work individually and leaves as part of a majority. This group puts life on the line to defend our men and women



from attack. We may not know their names or where they are, but they have names and they are always there.

Each day they are required to suit up with three uniforms held together with courage. When they wake up they don their duty uniform, the one each servicemember puts on. Then they check out various weapons for their day's work. This uniform is one most of us never wear, but one which gains a great deal of respect. The third uniform is the mindset each defender displays. Whether they feel good or tired, they provide for our freedom through their ceaseless effort to defend us.

At the end of the day every Airman who puts the uniform on displays the courage to go out and uphold the mission. However, today, I want to say thank you to those who strap battle rattle on every day. Whether it is blazing hot outside or pouring down rain, they are there.

Our defenders have answered our nation's call and I am not only proud to be their chaplain, I am proud to stand beside them as a warrior, Airman and as an American.

Their undaunting courage is truly a tradition of honor and one day you will look back and see the legacy they created. Their courage and determination has gained my respect as an Airman in the U.S. Air Force.

Defenders, thank you for being our nation's sword and shield.



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

### **Vehicle Security**

When leaving vehicles unattended, make sure to secure the vehicle prior to leaving it. Lock all doors and roll-up all windows. Make sure no operations security material, CAC cards, line badges or other personal items are left unattended inside the vehicle. It is important for everyone to practice good OPSEC.

### **Shuttle Bus Routes**

To improve customer service and ease the transition from expeditionary to enduring operations, the 379th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron will revise base shuttle routes beginning at midnight, May 14. The new, 45-minute, bi-directional route eliminates the need to switch buses to reach certain destinations, provides better access to meals for the base populace and improves service to transient personnel.

An "Ops Express" shuttle has also been added to service Ops Town, CAOC, Independence DFAC and the 30/40K dorms between 11 p.m. and 5 a.m. For more information, call 436-0635.

### **PAX Terminal Renovation**

The Passenger Terminal is currently being renovated. Normal operations will continue, however, there may be periods when the DV lounge is closed. Be prepared for delays.

### **Spanish II**

People with any level of Spanish-speaking ability, as well as native Spanish-speakers, are welcome to register for UMUC Spanish II. The class is scheduled for 11 a.m. - noon, Mondays through Thursdays, May 24 through July 8. Spanish I is not required to attend this class. Seats are limited. For more information or to register, contact UMUC at 437-0077.

### **Rising 6 Scholarship Essay**

The Rising 6 Quarterly Scholarship Essay Award submissions are due May 25. It is a one-time \$100 grant to offset educational financial costs. The essay question for the next award is "What is leadership and/or followership?" Essays should describe an example of good leadership/followership from Air Force history. Submissions must be 500 words, 12-point, Times New Roman font. Send submissions to the Rising 6 at AUAB. [Rising6@auab.afcent.af.mil](mailto:Rising6@auab.afcent.af.mil). For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Thundercloud Hirajeta at 437-6275.

### **Truck Safety**

All positions in a truck cab must be occupied before passengers may ride in the bed of a truck. The max speed is 40 km. Truck bed passengers must remain seated, and keep hands and feet inside the bed at all times. Limit the number of passengers in the truck-bed between one and three people. No sitting on tailgates, wheel wells or bed rails. Daewoo's and similar vehicles are not authorized to carry passengers in the back.

### **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).

### **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.

### **SGLI Premium Refund**

SGLI premium refund for March 2010 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.



**An RC-135V/W Rivet Joint takes off here Wednesday. The RC-135 is a reconnaissance aircraft supporting theater and national-level consumers with near-real-time on-scene intelligence collection, analysis and dissemination capabilities. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Kasey Zickmund)**

