

# DESERT EAGLE

Volume 10, Issue 23  
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## Momentum signing marks continued partnership

See page 5 for an Arabic translation



# DESERT EAGLE

Volume 10, Issue 22

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Commentaries and Warriors of the Week are scheduled according to a squadron rotation. Unit commanders and first sergeants are the points of contact for submissions.

For more information, call 436-0107.



Brig. Gen. Abdullah Jassim Al-Merai-khi, host-nation base commander, and Brig. Gen. Stephen Wilson, 379th Air Expeditionary Wing commander, reaffirm a partnership between host-nation military and the wing by signing a Combined Operating Procedures document here, Tuesday. The document provides a foundation to handle situations ranging from base defense to real-world contingencies at this location. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Michelle Larche)

# Airman and airpower

By Lt. Col. Steven Beasley  
34th Expeditionary Bomb Squadron  
commander

How do you define the term Airman?

Ask a member of any other service what a Soldier, Sailor or Marine is, and I guarantee you they will proudly answer you.

Surely, if the other servicemembers are clear on what their service asks of them, Airman should have the same confidence in their service.

Former Air Force Chief of Staff, Gen. John P. Jumper asserted, "we must understand what it means to be an Airman and be able to articulate what air and space power can bring to the joint fight."

Merriam-Webster defines Airman as a civilian or military pilot, or aviation technician or an enlisted man in the Air Force.

I disagree with Merriam-Webster's narrow definition of Airman. They don't define the proper form of the noun, capitalized Airman, versus airman; instead, they lump all definitions of airman into one, ill-defined category. The term Airman transcends the duty title of pilot or

aviation technician.

While it is also a rank below staff sergeant, all members of the U.S. Air Force should be proud to call themselves Airmen. They should be proud because it's a title they earn every day with their dedication, technical expertise and work ethic.

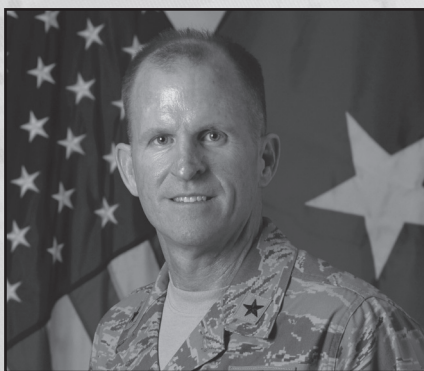
According to Airman Magazine, there are about 330,000 active-duty Airmen.

The 330,000 Airmen in the U.S. Air Force get the mission done every day in their nation's defense and in support of the other services when called upon. The question remains, how do you define the term Airman?

If you are even a little unsure, I recommend two sources to help you answer this simple, but abstract question. The first is Air Force Doctrine Document 1 – Air Force Basic Doctrine, and the second is United States Air Force Core Values, also known as "The Little Blue Book."

Both of these books are available online at the Air Force E-Publishing Web site, and will help shape your definition of Airmen and the airpower they wield.

SEE AIRMAN ON PAGE 3



## Commander's Action Line

I want to take a moment to thank you for the recent update of functioning dryers at the CC Self-help Laundry – not only do I appreciate the ability to now do laundry without the added "musical-chairs" dance of trying to find an available dryer, several members of my unit have also expressed their satisfaction with the update.

-Satisfied Customer

- 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).

# Selective early retirement board to be held in July

By 1st Lt. Gina McKeen  
Air Force Personnel Center  
Public Affairs

**RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFNS)** - Air Force leaders will hold a selective early retirement board here July 19-23 to consider select officers who must retire by Jan. 1, or upon retirement eligibility.

The SERB is part of Air Force officials' expanded force management measures announced in March.

Colonels and lieutenant colonels may avoid the board by submitting applications for voluntary retirement by June 28 and establishing a retirement date of May 1, or earlier.

The board will consider officers for retirement in the ranks of colonel and lieutenant colonel in line of the Air Force, judge advocate, medical science corps, and chaplain competitive categories.

Colonels with four or more years time in grade and lieutenant colonels deferred for promotion at least twice who do not have an approved voluntary retirement date, are not

on a promotion list, or do not have a mandatory retirement date will be considered.

The board members will make their decisions based on a review of each officer's retention recommendation form, the officer selection brief, decoration citations, and training and performance reports using a process similar to the promotion selection board.

All eligible officers will be able to review their RRFs and their officer pre-selection briefs prior to the board's convening date. Officers are responsible for reviewing their records for accuracy and ensuring information is up to date.

The board may select up to 30 percent of the eligible officers for early retirement at



the time of the board. If an officer is selected by the SERB for early retirement, Air Force Personnel Center officials will establish a mandatory retirement date of Jan. 1, or upon the first date of the month after becoming retirement eligible.

SERB-eligible officers remain available for air expeditionary force deployments until an established retirement date limits their availability. Deployed officers may pursue

voluntary retirement actions to avoid meeting the SERB.

AFPC officials will announce the board results in September.

For more information call the Total Force Service Center at 800-525-0102, or visit the officer retirements Web page of AFPC's personnel services website at <https://gum.afpc.randolph.af.mil/> and click on FY 10/FY 11 Force Management Programs.

## FROM AIRMAN ON PAGE 2

With regard to airpower, the U.S. Air Force's first Chief of Staff and only General of the Air Force, Gen. Henry H. "Hap" Arnold, had this to say: "Air power is not made up of airplanes alone. Airpower is a composite of airplanes, air crews, maintenance crews, air bases, air supply, and sufficient replacements in both planes and crews to maintain a constant fighting strength, regardless of what losses may be inflicted by the enemy...and a large training establishment that can furnish the personnel when called upon."

After conceptualizing what an Airman is, the next logical step is to determine what airpower adds to any conflict. How is airpower different than ground power or sea power? Does airpower include the mediums of space

and cyberspace?

I have asked some elementary questions about Airmen and airpower to stimulate thought on the matter, so I'll end with my own definitions.

Airmen are members of the U.S. Air Force who wield airpower. The title of Airman is not given, but rather earned...and you must earn it every day in what you do to wield airpower.

Airpower is grouped into three core competencies – developing Airmen, technology-to-warfighting and integrating operations – and six distinctive capabilities: air and space superiority, information superiority, global attack, precision engagement, rapid global mobility and agile combat support. Airpower operates in all domains – air, land, maritime, space, and cyberspace

– and is inclusive of space and cyber operations.

Finally, Airmen internalize and live out the Air Force Core Values of "Integrity First, Service Before Self, and Excellence in All We Do," every day. If you can't do it with integrity, it's not worth doing.

Those are my definitions of "Airman" and "airpower." You should develop your own—consistent with Air Force doctrine.

If you are an Airman in U.S. Central Command's area of responsibility, you have been around long enough you should readily be able to answer these simple questions about Airman and airpower. If you can't, I urge you to take some time on your next run to think about it.



# COP provides U.S., Host Nation base guidelines

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

The 379th Air Expeditionary Wing reaffirmed a partnership between the wing and host-nation military during a Combined Operating Procedures signing here, June 1.

The COP is a document with more than 300 pages detailing five functional area processes – airfield operations, first responder, base defense, infrastructure and maintenance, and logistics and maintenance support.

“Many of the procedures in the COP simply document processes we have already been doing,” said Lt. Col. Todd Cheney, 379th Expeditionary Mission Support Group deputy commander. “However,

this document signing solidifies its relevance and provides a solid foundation to handle situations that arise on base, from base defense and medical exercises to real world contingencies.”

The signing of the COP, a detailed document identifying how the host-nation and U.S. will operate together as one team on the same base, is a huge step in the right direction, said Colonel Cheney.

Currently, the base is in a transition from expeditionary to enduring operations.

“As we move forward with operations here, this signing marks a huge milestone,” said Colonel Cheney. “It sets the precedence for a closer partnership between our Air Forces which promises to strengthen our mutual trust and combined capability for years to come.”



Brig. Gen. Abdullah Jassim Al-Meraikhi, host-nation base commander, discuss future plans with base r

جناح الجوي 379 ، يناقشان الخطط المستقبلية مع  
ب آسيا ، 1 يونيو 2010.



Brig. Gen. Abdullah Jassim Al-Meraikhi, host-nation base commander, and Brig. Gen. Stephen Wilson, 379 AEW commander, engage in friendly conversation before signing a Combined Operating Procedures document here Tuesday.

العميد /الركن. (طيار) عبد الله جاسم المريخي، قائد قاعدة الدولة المضيفة ، والعميد ستيفن ويلسون ، قائد الجناح الجوي 379 ، يتحدثان بشكل ودي قبل التوقيع على وثيقة إجراءات العمليات المشتركة في موقع غير مفصّل عنه في جنوب غرب آسيا ، 1 يونيو 2010. هذه الوثيقة تؤكد من جديد الشراكة بين جيش الدولة المضيفة و الجناح ، و تنص على أسس التعامل مع حالات عدة تتراوح من الدفاع عن القاعدة إلى حالات الطوارئ الحقيقية في هذا الموقع.

During a celebratory ceremony, Brig. Gen. Abdullah Jassim Al-Meraikhi, host-nation base commander, and Brig. Gen. Stephen Wilson, 379 AEW commander, presented certificates of appreciation to more than 50 host-nation and U.S. servicemembers who helped make the COP signing possible.

After the certificates were presented, the generals exchanged coin boxes, signifying the mutual trust and respect between the two and their respective commands.

“Everyone involved with the (Combined Operating Procedures) made a great effort,” said General Al-Meraikhi. “I’m looking forward to increasing the cooperation between our Air Forces and our countries.”

General Wilson agreed.

“I’d like to thank you all for your efforts making this possible,” said General Wilson. “The COP has been a huge priority. Making this happen strengthens the relationship and partnership for both nations.”



## إجراءات العمليات المشتركة توفر إرشادات تتعلق بالقاعدة للولايات المتحدة الأمريكية و البلد المضيف



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

host-nation base commander, and Brig. Gen. Stephen Wilson, 379 AEW command members following a Combined Operating Procedures signing here, Tuesday.

العميد /الركن (طيار) عبد الله جاسم المريخي، قائد قاعدة الدولة المضيفة ، والعميد ستيفن ويلسون ، قائد أفراد القاعدة في أعقاب التوقيع على إجراءات العمليات المشتركة في موقع غير مفصّل عنه في جنوب غرب



**Brig. Gen. Stephen Wilson, 379th Air Expeditionary Wing commander, speaks to wing and host-nation military members prior to signing a Combined Operating Procedures document here, May 27.**

ستيفن ويلسون ، قائد الجناح الجوي 379 ، يتحدث إلى الأفراد العسكريين التابعين للدولة المضيفة قبالت التوقيع على وثيقة إجراءات العمليات المشتركة في موقع غير مفصّل عنه في جنوب غرب آسيا ، 27 مايو 2010. هذه الوثيقة تنص على أسس التعامل مع حالات عدة تتراوح من الدفاع عن القاعدة إلى حالات الطوارئ الحقيقية في هذا الموقع.

بقلم كبير الطيارين سينسر غالين  
الجناح الجوي 379 / الشؤون العامة

الجناح الجوي 379 الجوية يؤكد من جديد الشراكة بين القاعدة وجيش الدولة المضيفة خلال التوقيع على إجراءات العمليات المشتركة، 1 يونيو.

إن وثيقة إجراءات العمليات المشتركة تحتوي على أكثر من 300 صفحة تتضمن تفاصيل الإجراءات العملية الخمس - عمليات المطارات، المستجيب الأول، دفاع القاعدة، البنية التحتية والصيانة والدعم اللوجستي والصيانة.

"العديد من الإجراءات في هذه الوثيقة هي مجرد عمليات توثيق لإجراءات كنا نتبعها أساساً"، قال المقدم تود تشيني، نائب قائد فريق دعم المهمة في الجناح الجوي 379. "ولكن توقيع هذه الوثيقة ترسخ أهميتها وتوفر أسس صلبة لمعالجة الحالات التي تنشأ في القاعدة ، من الدفاع عن القاعدة وتدريبات طبية إلى حالات طوارئ حقيقية."

إن التوقيع على وثيقة إجراءات العمليات المشتركة ، الوثيقة المفصلة التي تبين إمكانية الدولة المضيفة والولايات المتحدة الأمريكية من العمل معاً كفريق واحد في نفس القاعدة ، هي خطوة كبيرة في الاتجاه الصحيح ، قال العقيد تشيني.

في الوقت الراهن ، فإن القاعدة في مرحلة إنتقالية من حملة إلى عمليات دائمة.

"وكما نمضي قدماً في العمليات هنا ، فإن هذا التوقيع يشكل معلماً كبيراً ،" قال العقيد تشيني. "إنها تحدد الأسبقية لتوثيق الشراكة بين قواتنا الجوية والتي تعد بتعزيز الثقة المتبادلة والقدرة المشتركة لسنوات قادمة."

وخلال المراسم الاحتفالية ، العميد عبد الله جاسم المريخي ، قائد قاعدة الدولة المضيفة ، والعميد ستيفن ويلسون ، قائد جناح الجو 379 ، قدموا شهادات التقدير إلى أكثر من 50 شخصاً من الدولة المضيفة والقوات العسكرية الأمريكية الذين ساعدوا في جعل التوقيع على وثيقة إجراءات العمليات المشتركة ممكناً.

بعد أن قدمت شهادات التقدير ، تبادل العمداء الهدايا من قطع معدنية بداخل صناديق مزخرفة ، والتي تدل على الثقة والاحترام المتبادلين بينهما وقيادتهما الخاصة بهما.

إن جميع من شارك في ( إجراءات العمليات المشتركة ) أبلوا جهداً عظيماً،" قال العميد المريخي. "إنني أطلع إلى زيادة التعاون بين قواتنا الجوية وبلدينا".

وافقه العميد ويلسون.

" أود أن أشكركم جميعاً على جهودكم في جعل هذا ممكناً،" قال العميد ويلسون. " إجراءات العمليات المشتركة لطالما كانت ذات أولوية كبيرة. الجعل من هذا ممكناً يوطد العلاقات و الشراكة لكلا البلدين."



# C-21s provide quick transit to individuals throughout AOR

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

Troop and cargo movement through the CENTCOM area of responsibility is vital and nonstop in today's fight – C-17 Globemaster IIIs and C-130 Hercules are constantly transporting people and things in massive number. But when the need arises to rapidly move "one-sies and two-sies," it's not the big birds that best fit the task. At this non-disclosed Southwest Asia location, this is the niche of the C-21 fleet.

"Our day-to-day mission is primarily (distinguished visitor) transport throughout the Persian Gulf," said Capt. Robert Ovares, 379th Expeditionary Operations Group C-21 pilot. "As operational support, we also transport – on a limited basis – items and other personnel."

Captain Ovares is one of about a dozen members of the C-21 squadron here serving, primarily, military customers. Flying about 10 missions a week, their aircraft are used for transportation missions all over the Gulf region in support of Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom, moving people and cargo such as blood shipments, registered mail, aircraft parts and intelligence products going stateside for analysis.

"Occasionally, we'll take congressmen or senators, if they're traveling through the AOR," he said, "and, on a limited basis, we do

get some foreign dignitaries – usually high-ranking foreign military officials."

But the elite aren't the only ones the C-21 squadron looks out for. The aircraft, which can carry eight passengers and 42 cubic feet of cargo, is also able to accommodate one litter patient or five ambulatory patients for aeromedical evacuation.

"People are surprised because they think the C-21 is only for generals and high-ranking individuals, but that's not the case," he added. "If we're available, we help out however we can – sergeants, captains, whoever – we can take them where they need to go. And, while I haven't personally flown any aeromedical evacuations, if the need were to arise we're configured to do that, too."



**Capt. Gina Stramaglio, 379th Expeditionary Operations Group C-21 pilot, conducts a pre-flight inspection here May 28.**

Aeromedical and cargo movement are primary missions for C-130s and C-17s, both of which have a secondary mission for DV transport.

"Because our mission is primarily DV transport and we can't do the missions larger aircraft are also tasked with, we're 'it' a lot of times as far as DV transport," he explained. "What makes the C-21 so vital is that our function allows those other airframes to be used for their primary purposes. If we weren't there, the DVs would have to take a C-130 or C-17 that could be used to move cargo, bullets, bombs, fuel – whatever the case may be – and they'd have to use that aircraft to transport a DV instead of moving vital supplies. We take a burden off of them, and we get people where they need to be in a rapid time."



**Mark Hilton, air frame and power plant technician contractor, marshals out a C-21 for a flying mission here May 28.**

**SEE C-21 ON PAGE 11**



## Senior Airman Judy Groomes

379th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron

Aircraft Parts Store journeyman

**Home station:** Barksdale Air Force Base, La.

**Arrived in AOR:** January

**Deployment goals:** My goals are to continue my education, improve my physical fitness and continue gaining knowledge about my career field.

**Best part of the deployment:** The best part of being deployed is gaining that wider scope of what the mission entails and how much it impacts us as a whole. Also, being able to meet new friends from all over and seeing old ones again.

**Hobbies:** Working out, reading and volunteering.

**Best Air Force memory:** When I received a letter of appreciation from a two-star general in 2007.

*Nominated by Tech. Sgt. Jason Domenico: "Airman Groomes is an important and vital member of the squadron as well as the section. She continually seeks new challenges and strives to improve the work processes around her. I can always count on her to get the job done right the first time. She demonstrates her tremendous job knowledge on a daily basis."*



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

## Senior Airman Stephen Smith

379th Expeditionary Contracting Squadron

contingency contracting officer

**Home station:** Scott AFB, Ill.

**Arrived in AOR:** January

**Deployment goals:** My goals are to learn as much as I can, do the best that I can and make my deployment the best possible experience it can be.

**Best part of the deployment:** The learning and the social interaction.

**Hobbies:** Reading, writing, martial arts and playing most popular American sports.

**Best Air Force memory:** My best Air Force memory is when I graduated basic training.

*Nominated by Capt. Melissa Fields: "Airman Smith has been in my flight for about a month and in that time has closed out 120 contracts and recovered more than \$900,000. In addition, he helped recover \$105,000 worth of equipment in support of operations in Kandahar, Afghanistan. He also resolved a Navy Hyster forklift repair in two weeks - an outstanding issue for more than a year!"*



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

## Airman 1st Class Nawaf Al-Khenaizi

379th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron

Expeditionary Theatre Distribution Center Warehouse journeyman

**Home station:** Whiteman AFB, Mo.

**Arrived in AOR:** January

**Deployment goals:** To further my knowledge in my career field and my education. I'd also like to be fit enough to pass my PT test with a 100!

**Best part of the deployment:** Breaking the habit of playing video games, going to the drag race and tax-free money!

**Hobbies:** Weightlifting and reading.

**Best Air Force memory:** Serving on my home base's Honor Guard.

*Nominated by Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Loehr: "Airman Al-Khenaizi is a hard-charging Airman, who does anything asked of him without hesitation. The most junior Airman in an office of nine, he gets the short end of the stick, but he accepts it with a smile on his face. The thing I admire most about 'AL' is that he applies the same focus and determination to everything he does. Whether it's cleaning the office, building personal body armor for forward deployers, or inventorying items in our warehouse."*



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





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



**TOP LEFT:** Senior Airman Stephen Smith, 379th Expeditionary Contracting Squadron contingency contracting officer, updates a contract database here, Wednesday.

**TOP CENTER:** Tech. Sgt. Earnest Mann, 379th Expeditionary Medical Group pharmacy technician, fills a prescription here, Wednesday.







**Senior Airman Jimmy Pauth, U.S. Central Command material management, issues protective gear to Master Sgt. Robert Purzycki, CENTCOM air mobility specialist, here, May 28.**

**BOTTOM LEFT: Tech. Sgt's Jimmy Boone and Szumoy Ruiz, Air Force Central Combat Camera broadcasters, discuss editing techniques for recent video footage here, May 28.**



# Joint team ensures supplies get to warfighters

By Tech. Sgt. Oshawn Jefferson  
U.S. AFCEC Combat Camera

**SOUTHWEST ASIA (AFNS)** - Less than 30 seconds, that's all it takes for 40 container-delivery-system bundles, totaling 70,000 pounds of supplies, to drop out of the back of a C-17 Globemaster III.

As the bundles descend toward the designated drop zone, Airmen from the 816th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron watch another successful delivery of supplies to warfighters on the ground. While it takes just 30 seconds for the bundles to be air dropped, a successful mission begins long before takeoff.

"For an airdrop to be successful, it all starts with Soldiers and Airmen working as a team," said Maj. Mike Parker, an 816 EAS



U.S. Air Force photos/Staff Sgt. Manuel Martinez

**Forty container-delivery-system bundles parachute to the ground from a C-17 Globemaster III May 9, over a drop zone in Afghanistan.**

C-17 pilot at an undisclosed air base in Southwest Asia. "People always

see the end result of an airdrop, but without our joint team we couldn't deliver

the supplies warfighters need to be successful."

**SEE SUPPLY ON PAGE 11**



**Staff Sgt. Bryan Carey hooks parachute draw cords to container-delivery-system bundles prior to take off for an airdrop mission May 9, here. Sergeant Carey is a C-17 Globemaster III loadmaster assigned to the 816th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron.**



## FROM SUPPLY ON PAGE 10

After a request for supplies is put in from troops on the ground, a small team of Soldiers from the 824th Quartermasters Company, Detachment 8, deployed from Fort Bragg, N.C., come together to load life-essential supplies into bundles that will be air dropped over the battlefield.

"We're a small team, but we understand the impact our mission, combined with the Air Force, has for our forces on the ground," said Army Sgt. 1st Class Jonathan Hall, an 824th QC, Det. 8, rigger. "It's a big challenge for us to take on, but we do it with pride."

These Army riggers build bundles containing food, water, fuel, ammunition and other supplies. In the month of April, Soldiers with the unit built more than 1,000 bundles for servicemembers serving in Iraq, Afghanistan and the Horn of Africa.

"We can take pride in the fact that what we're doing is directly supporting warfighters in Iraq, Afghanistan or wherever supplies are needed in

theater," said Army Staff Sgt. Joseph Hall, an 824th QC, Det. 8, rigger. "Our team puts a lot of effort into ensuring we get the bundles we rig right the first time. We understand that somebody is relying on us to get them the supplies they need to complete their various missions."

After bundles are rigged and ready for delivery, Airmen from the 8th Expeditionary Air Mobility Squadron take them to waiting aircraft for delivery.

"Sometimes we get overlooked in the air-drop process," said Tech. Sgt. Collin Skinner, 8 EAMS aerial porter. "But there are no small parts in the process. Our aerial porters are out here every day making sure people and supplies get to their destinations. It's a total team effort and we're happy to be a part of it."

After the bundles are loaded aboard the aircraft, a joint team of

Soldiers and Airmen inspect each bundle to ensure it is secure. The team also inspects the parachutes to ensure they are ready to deploy upon being dropped out of the aircraft.

"Almost 100 percent of the time, when we get bundles from the Soldiers, they're ready for delivery," said Senior Airman Brandon Ybarra, an 816th EAS loadmaster and air-drop inspector. "These guys are good at what they do, and I love working with them."

After the inspection is complete, Airmen take off and make the delivery, after coordinating with warfighters on the ground.

"Communication and teamwork are what makes us a valuable asset for our air and ground commanders," Major Parker said. "Airmen and Soldiers working at home station, aircrews flying with precision, and ground assets telling us where to drop supplies means success for our warfighters."

## FROM C-21 ON PAGE 6

There's another way the C-21 pilots strive to ease the burden of their fellow warfighters.

"We take a lot of people on emergency leave," Captain Ovaes said. "We always call here before we leave to see if they have any takers for wherever we're going."

"A lot of times when we land somewhere, we'll have empty legs on the way back to home station," he added. "We make it a point to go into the (passenger) terminals and see if someone needs a lift. They're pretty flexible with allowing us to do that, and as pilots, we try to offer as much support as we can to everyone out here."

The amount of support each of the C-21 pilots here provide adds up quickly.

"We're a small squadron, basically three crews, about half-dozen maintainers and our leadership," Captain Ovaes said. "A lot of our pilots

are young guys, too – some of them straight out of pilot training.

"Flying in the U.S., everything is cut and dry. If you have a problem and need to stop somewhere, you can just drop in at any airport – from one state to another," he explained. "But here, if you have a problem, you're going to have to go back to where you started from because you don't have a lot of other options, in terms of being able to land and get help. That makes you rethink how you play the game."

"Because of the unique environment here, the C-21s are known for its young guys being aircraft commanders in a quick amount of time compared to some of the other major weapons systems out there," he said. "I get to watch these guys mature at such a rapid pace. It's neat to be involved with, and you see that kind of development here quite a bit."

## Commander's Blog and 379 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:  
-Memorial Day



# Memorial Day 379 AEW-style

**TOP LEFT:** Master Sgt. Renee Munshower, 379th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron cargo movement section, and Senior Airman Latoya Neu, 379th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron receiving section, participate in a Memorial Day parade here, Monday.



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

*"Memorial Day is a time to remember those who have passed, and to remind us that freedom is not free."*  
-1st Lt. U.S. Air Force  
specialist

**CENTER:** Several members of the 379th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron participate in a Memorial Day parade here, Monday.



*"To be deployed during this Memorial Day means a lot to me. We have a better understanding of where many veterans have been before us."*

*-Staff Sgt. Sean Collins  
379th Expeditionary  
Operations Support Squadron  
link technician*



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

**Base servicemembers pay tribute to fallen warriors during a Memorial Day retreat ceremony here Monday.**



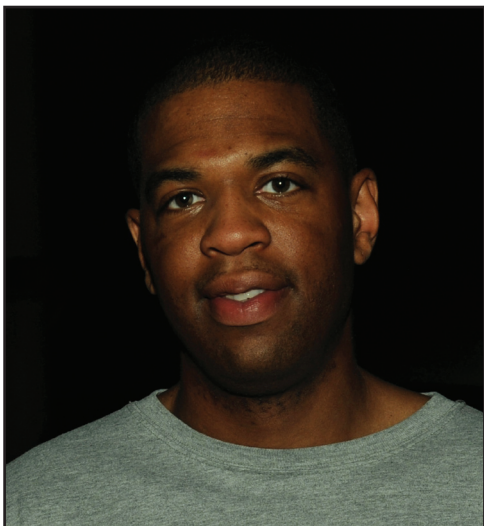
**Texas-based servicemembers**



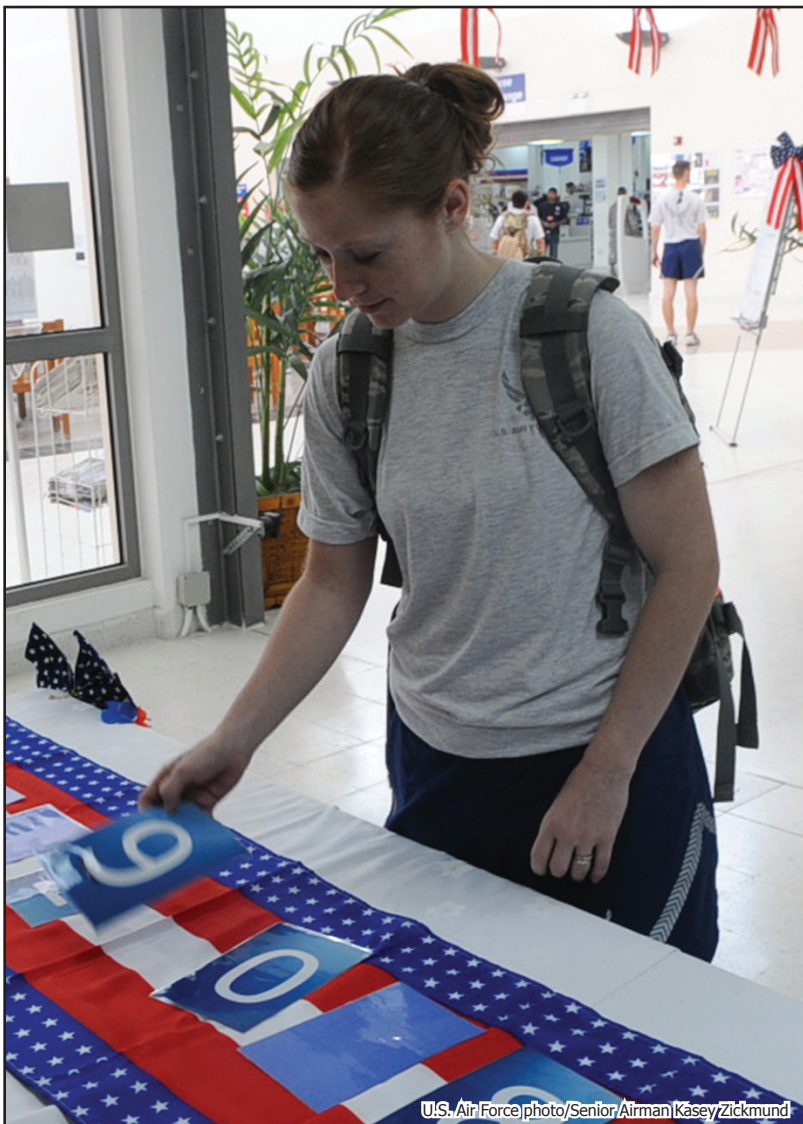
*"I Day is a day to  
for all troops that  
making it possible  
be here - Freedom  
e!"*

Lt. Corey Winston  
Central Command  
list security officer

U.S. servicemembers participate in a 10K run, one of  
Memorial Day events here Monday.



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



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

**TOP RIGHT:** Staff Sgt. Bonita Hummel, 609th Combined Air Operations Center imagery analyst, turns over a card while playing High/Low during the Memorial Day Holiday Carnival here Monday.



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

Country music band The Pear Ratz perform a Memorial Day concert for servicemembers here Monday.



*"I'm glad to be here giving back in my way. It gives me a chance to say 'thank you' to all that serve."*

*-Mable Smith  
AAFES manager*





## 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.

# Perspective

By Chap. (Capt.) Craig Nakagawa  
379th Air Expeditionary Wing Chapel

I am saddened when I hear people complain about conditions here. Whether it is the need for room-mates, or the 30-yard walk to a Cadillac in the middle of the night, or the food, or noise from Memorial Plaza or even the wireless internet being too slow. These are indications we have lost our perspective. It happens.

Maya Angelou recounts in her book, "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings," of how people would come into her grandmother's general store and while conducting business complain about the heat, a bad back or a stubborn mule.

"And as soon as the person would leave, my grandmother would say, 'Sister, come here.' I'd stand right in front of her. She'd say, 'There are people all over the world who went to sleep last night who did not wake again...They would give anything for just five minutes of what she was complaining about.'"

I often think the same thing as I stand over a transfer case draped with an American flag. The following words are ones I offer at every Fallen Warrior Ceremony; whether Soldier, Marine, Airman, Sailor or DOD civilian. I use the same words, every time, for each warrior – military or civilian:

*"Let the world give ear  
Warriors have fallen*

*Though I have said these words  
before*

*And I will sadly have need to say  
them again*

*They will always be new to my lips  
And bitter to my tongue*

*And let the ears that hear them,  
hear them as if for the first time*

*For it is the first time for these  
warriors*

*The only life they had to give  
And the last words of peace to be  
spoken over them*

*As they begin their journey home  
And so we speak them*

*Let us pray:*

*In the Name of the Merciful Cre-  
ator God*

*The Author of Friendship and the  
Inspirer of Selfless Service*

*We lift up our fallen Warriors  
Who have paid the Highest price of  
service to their Country*

*Of them we can ask no more  
They have laid down their weapons  
to make war no more*

*And we pray for the day when all  
spears will be beaten into plow-  
shares*

*And our Country, indeed the  
world, will be at Peace*

*And so we pray peace upon the  
fallen*

*Peace upon the family and loved  
ones who will receive them*

*Upon the military members who  
will honor them*

*And those gathered here, who so  
honor them now*

*May God Bless and keep our fallen  
Warriors*

*Bring us home from the toils of  
war*

*May God Bless the United States  
of America and her Noble Allies*

*And all who serve in their armed  
forces*

*So let those gathered say, 'Amen'  
Say, 'Amen'*

*And so we all say: 'Amen.'"*

I share this because the next time you are dissatisfied with something here, think of your brothers and sisters in arms who have paid the highest price; the Fallen Warriors. It may not make your day better, but it just may put it into perspective.



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

### **Right Start/Right Finish**

All servicemembers redeploying in the next two months must plan early in order to avoid missing mandatory Right Start and Finish briefings. ID cards and CED orders or an out-processing checklist are required. Following is the schedule for June briefings at the CC Theater. Right Start begins promptly at 7 a.m. and Right Finish at 5 p.m. For more info, call 437-3058.

**June 4, Right Start and Right Finish**

**June 8, Right Start**

**June 11, Right Start and Right Finish**

**June 16, Right Finish**

**June 18, Right Start and Right Finish**

**June 25, Right Start and Right Finish**

### **Airfield Driving**

All personnel driving on the airfield must have an Airfield Drivers License and monitor the Ramp Net in case of emergencies and for overall situational awareness. Personnel without an Airfield Drivers License or Ramp Net-capable radio should contact their Unit Airfield Driving Program Manager immediately. Additionally, all personnel driving on the Main Ramp when a Ramp Freeze is initiated must pull over and stop their vehicles immediately until announced over the Ramp Net that the Ramp Freeze has ended. Contact your Unit Airfield Driving Program Manager for more information.

### **Personnel Traveling in the AOR**

All base personnel deploying or going TDY to forward locations in the USCENTCOM or AFRICOM AORs are required to process through the 379 EMDG for an immunizations and medical record review and medical threat briefing. For more info or to schedule an appointment, call 588-5412.

### **Voting Monitors Needed**

The Wing Voting Officer is looking for volunteers to act as voting monitors from each squadron. This additional duty is not overly time consuming as the wing program is already organized. Please obtain permission from your supervisor and submit your name, unit and expected redeployment date to [vote@auab.afcent.af.mil](mailto:vote@auab.afcent.af.mil).

### **Vehicle Accident Reporting**

Base members involved in a vehicle accident on or off-base must report it to BDOC. Every base vehicle should contain a procedural checklist for reporting both on- and off-base accidents. For more info, call your unit

vehicle control officer or 379 ELRS Fleet Management at 436-0637.

### **235th Army Birthday**

Celebrate the 235th Army Birthday Ball June 17. The off-base location will be announced at a later date. Tickets are on sale for \$100; admission for ranks E1-E6 is \$80 (cash only). For more info, call Army Staff Sgt. April Plante at 432-3506.

### **SGLI Premium Refund Update**

The SGLI Refund for December and March have been posted in affected members' paycheck in May. However, due to a system glitch at DFAS, the SGLI refund for April did not get included for the May payroll. Deployed members in support of OEF/OIF who arrived in the AOR on or before April 1 and continue to serve thru May will receive two-months of SGLI credit in June for the contributions made in April and May.

DFAS is currently working on the on-going problems and are asking for servicemembers continued patience. SGLI refunds, also known as "SGLI Premium Reimbursement Allowance," only applies to servicemembers in the theater of operations for OEF/OIF who have SGLI coverage. This allowance has been in effect since 2006. To ensure proper amounts are credited, members are asked to monitor their LES.

For more information on SGLI refunds, contact finance office at 437-8686.

### **Lessons Learned**

As we learn valuable lessons on our assignment here helping to do our individual jobs or units' jobs quicker, better and safer, we should be collecting those hard learned lessons so the rest of the Air Force can benefit from our experiences. Get your lessons into the Air Force Joint Lessons Learned Information System at <https://www.jllis.mil/USAF> so you can help the rest of the Air Force learn from you. Visit the Web site, register, select "add observation," and fill in the blanks. For more information or assistance with JLLIS, contact USAFCENT/A9 at 436-4005 or 436-4256 and speak with Mr. John Wallin or Capt. Heather Clapper.

### **Post-Deployment LES Review**

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

### **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.



Senior Airman Veronica Klyber, 379th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron expeditionary theatre distribution center journeyman, prepares to place a crate of Joint Service Lightweight Intergraded Suit Technology pants in a warehouse here, Wednesday. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Kasey Zickmund)

