

Border Eagle

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Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas

May 14, 2004

Laughlin wing commanders meet while deployed

By Capt. Paula Kurtz
Public affairs

When it comes to deployments, one thing is certain. If you've had more than one assignment in the Air Force, you're bound to run into someone you've worked with before. And the longer you've been around, the more it becomes a matter not of whether you'll run into an old friend, co-worker, subordinate, supervisor, or commander, but how many you'll come across in your travels.

While visiting various sites within the Operation Enduring Freedom area of operations, deployed 47th Flying Training Wing commander Col. Dan Woodward ran into former Laughlin commander Brig. Gen. Jack Egginton, current commander of the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing. General Egginton served as wing commander at Laughlin from December 2000 to August 2001, but he and Colonel Woodward have known each other since serving together at the Pentagon in 1995. General Egginton began his one-year assignment as commander of the 379th AEW last year, providing aerial combat support for Operations



Photo by Senior Airman Wes Auldridge

Col. Dan Woodward, 47th Flying Training Wing commander, and Brig. Gen. Jack Egginton, former commander of the 47th FTW, stand in front of an F-16 at a forward deployed location. The two commanders met when Colonel Woodward was visiting an operations center near General Egginton's location.

Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

Meeting during Colonel Woodward's site visit to General Egginton's location, the two took the

opportunity to reflect on life at Laughlin and the impact of the 47th FTW on today's real world operations.

See **Laughlin**, page 4

Community invited to see Armed Forces Day displays

By Airman 1st Class
Olufemi Owolabi
Staff writer

The Del Rio community will see first-hand displays and demonstrations of Air Force and other branches of the armed forces during the Armed Forces Day celebration scheduled from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday at Plaza Del Sol Mall in Del Rio.

The celebration's events will include display booths from more than 20 Laughlin organizations, military uniform modeling, a Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps drill team performance, a mass enlistment ceremony, an obstacle course and canine demonstrations.

"These Armed Forces Day events enable different branches of the military to come together to explain to

people what we represent," said Master Sgt. Pamela Lee, Armed Forces Day coordinator. "So, people can know the role the armed forces play in national defense."

The first Armed Forces Day, celebrated by parades, open houses, receptions and air shows May 20, 1950, was created to replace separate Army,

See **Forces**, page 4

Newslines

Change of command

The 47th Medical Group will hold a change of command ceremony at 9 a.m. today at Club XL.

Col. (Dr.) Laura Torres-Reyes will take over command from Col. (Dr.) Chuck Hardin.

Summer registration

Registration of the summer term at Park University runs from Monday to June 14.

For more information, call 298-5593 or 298-3061 or stop by the education office.

OSC scholarship banquet

The Laughlin Officers Spouses Club is holding its scholarship banquet at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday at Club XL.

Call Marlene Katz at 298-3752 to R.S.V.P.

Deployed family dinner

A buffet dinner will be held at 6 p.m. May 25 to honor the families of deployed members and returnees within the last year.

All family members, commanders and first sergeants are invited to attend.

Call 298-5327 or 298-5111 to R.S.V.P.

DEFY graduation

A Drug Education For Youth graduation is set for 9 a.m. May 22 in the Chapel Hall Annex.

Deployment stats

Deployed:	26
Returning in 30 days:	22
Deploying in 30 days:	9

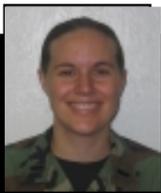
Mission status

(As of Tuesday)

Days behind or ahead:

T-37, -7.62	T-1, 2.00
T-38, -5.65	T-6, -8.40
Mission capable rate:	
T-37, 90.7%	T-1, 85.2%
T-38, 74.8%	T-6, 73.1%

AEFs mean Laughlin must be ready to deploy



Commander's Corner

By 1st Lt. Jamie Wade
47th Logistics Readiness Division director

Since Sept. 11, 2001, Air Education and Training Command has begun to play a larger role in the Aerospace Expeditionary Force.

AEF is the structure the Air Force uses to identify expeditionary combat support forces. AEFs consist of a 15-month cycle, which includes 10 months of training, one month of preparation, three months on-call or deployed and one month reconstitution.

Within the 15-month cycle there are five

AEF pairs, all with equal capability. The AEF concept is to rotate deployed personnel after 90 days, however for some critically-manned career fields, such as security forces, may be extended in place for up to 180 days.

How does Laughlin Air Force Base play a role in the AEF cycle?

The majority of Laughlin's combat support forces are assigned to AEFs 2 and 5. The on-call windows for these AEFs during cycle 5 are: AEF 2, Sept. 15 through Dec. 15; AEF 5, March 15 through June 15, 2005.

Like all bases in today's Air Force, Laughlin must be ready to deploy forces to support our national military strategy/objectives. In the last year we have deployed more than 100 Airmen to various locations worldwide and these numbers are continuing to increase, which is a growing trend throughout the Air Force.

This is a sign of times to come and the

shift in focus for our Air Force leaders.

What can you do to support the AEF concept?

Basically be ready. Ensure that your family, finances, medical and legal affairs are in order. Communicate frequently with your unit deployment manager and supervisor regarding your readiness status. When your window arrives ensure that you are ready to deploy within 72 hours. Even if you are not selected initially you must be prepared to deploy anytime within your three-month on-call window.

Do you know what AEF you are in?

As we continue to do more with less, Laughlin must stand ready to do our part to support the warfighting commanders. We will do what our new wing mission statement reads we: train the world's best pilots and deploy expeditionary forces worldwide to fight and win America's wars ... period!

It takes special people to build great organizations

By Lt. Col. John Specht
23rd Fighter Squadron

SPANGDAHLEM AIR BASE, Germany – Not all organizations are created equal. Some units have something special. Their members seem remarkably happy, the mission always gets accomplished and their names are heard whenever the very best are mentioned.

I've noticed a few qualities that are common to many of the

outstanding units I have either observed or been fortunate enough to have been a part of. People. Great organizations are always composed of great people. There is no shortage of great people within the Air Force family, yet great organizations have a way of grooming, attracting and keeping quality people.

One of the best ways to make somebody great in his or her profession is by providing the absolute best training available.

In the very best units, people are provided with the right training at the right time and are given the right tools to complete the mission.

It doesn't really matter if the training is formal or informal, initial or follow up, one-time or continuous. The bottom line is that people will never be competent and self-confident unless they've been given the proper training. Their proficiency and confidence enhances their performance and reflects well on the organization.

When highly trained people become the trademark of the unit, the unit quickly gets a reputation for being one of the best in the

business. Great units are full of people who display loyalty and pride.

It is sometimes difficult to determine if loyalty and pride create great units, or if great units promote loyalty and pride. Suffice it to say, loyalty and pride are contagious attributes, and great organizations have little trouble attracting and developing great folks who display these qualities.

The best units also understand the importance of effective communication. Think about the myriad ways effective communication enhances a unit.

See **People**, page 3

Border Eagle

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Deadlines, Advertising

News for the Border Eagle should be submitted to the 47th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 338, Laughlin AFB, TX, 298-5262. **Copy deadline is close of business each Thursday the week prior to publication.**

Advertising should be submitted to the Del Rio News-Herald, 2205 Bedell, Del Rio, TX, 774-4611. Advertising should be submitted by 4 p.m. each Friday.

Submissions can be e-mailed to: timothy.stein@laughlin.af.mil or sheila.johnston@laughlin.af.mil.

Diversity brings advantage to defense

By **Dr. James G. Roche**
Secretary of the Air Force
and

Gen. John P. Jumper
Air Force Chief of Staff

Recognizing and leveraging the benefits of diversity is a mission imperative. In a new era with new threats, successful military operations will continue to demand greater agility, adaptability, and versatility to achieve and sustain success. We must be

prepared for enemies who will deploy any means to attack our freedom. To do this requires an expeditionary force of men and women that possess not only superior technology and operational capability, but also keener international insight and cultural acumen to integrate across the spectrum of operations.

Our Air Force members' diversity of culture, life experiences, education, thought, creativity, and background help us achieve the asymmetric

advantage needed to successfully defend America's interests wherever threatened. The enduring competencies developed through diversity are force multipliers. Marshalling the unique skills, distinct talents, and divergent perspectives of our total force is essential to maintaining air and space dominance.

Air Force leaders must develop inclusive teams at every level of operation. We expect our commanders and supervisors to instill respect and appreciation for

our differences, promote our core values, and develop the talents of all Airmen. This will bring the qualities of our members together to improve overall individual and organizational performance.

At the Headquarters Air Force level, we are committed to inclusively developing tomorrow's expeditionary Airmen and civilians, consistent with the requirements of law, and we expect the same commitment from you. America's security depends upon it.

People, from page 2

Good units establish goals and ensure their people know what these goals are and how they'll be accomplished. Good units ensure that everyone understands the mission and where the unit is trying to go.

They make it a point to recognize their folks, both formally and informally, to ensure people get the credit they deserve. They provide formal and informal feedback and ensure people understand their strengths and weaknesses. People are aware of how to improve their performance and contributions to the unit.

Good units also provide their folks with the best information available on deployments, work schedules and contingencies. This enhances long-range planning and cre-

ates stability at home and in the workplace.

If you are fortunate enough to be part of a great organization, congratulations. If not, see what you can contribute to your unit to start moving it in the right direction.

People should get the training they deserve, and ensure those who work with and for them do the same. Know how to do the job well, and continue to get the training and experience needed to continually improve.

Know what it is that the unit is trying to accomplish. Understand your role, no matter how seemingly insignificant, in accomplishing the mission.

And finally, be proud and be loyal. Your organization is just that – it's yours! It is a reflection of you and of those who work with you. Be willing to make it great.

Armed Forces Day important reminder of service, commitment

By **Dr. James G. Roche**
Secretary of the Air Force
and

Gen. John P. Jumper
Air Force Chief of Staff

WASHINGTON – Since 1949, America has paid tribute to its men and women in uniform by celebrating Armed Forces Day on the third Saturday in May. Grateful Americans in every state will hold parades and fly Old Glory to honor those who have worn the uniform either as a Soldier, Sailor, Airman or Marine.

It is indeed an important time to be a member of our nation's Armed Forces and especially to be an Airman. America needs your service today as much, if not more, than any other time in our country's history. America's security is a global issue as we continue the fight in the war on

terrorism. Our country needs your steadfast devotion to protecting the freedoms we enjoy.

Today, we serve a grateful nation. From shore to shore, Americans are proud of your professional competence, combat capabilities and unwavering courage to defend our country. They have seen firsthand your efforts in the mountains of Afghanistan and the skies over Iraq and your steadfastness in protecting our homeland. They have reveled with us in your triumphs and cried with us when we lose brothers and sisters in battle.

You represent the pride and patriotism of the United States. You are the standard for sacrifice, devotion and bravery. We are proud to serve with you. On this Armed Forces Day, let's remember those who came before us and those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom. May God bless all of you and our great nation.



Actionline
298-5351 or
actionline@laughlin.af.mil

Col. Dan Woodward
47th Flying Training Wing commander

This column is one way to work through problems that haven't been solved through normal channels. By

including your name and phone number, you are assured of a timely personal reply. It's also useful if more information is needed to pursue your inquiry. We will make every attempt to ensure confidentiality when appropriate.

Before you call in or e-mail an Actionline, please try to work out the problem through the normal chain of command or directly with the base agency involved. Please keep e-mails brief.

If your question relates to the gen-

eral interest of the people of Laughlin, the question and answer may also be printed in the Border Eagle.

Thanks for your cooperation, and I look forward to reading some quality ideas and suggestions.

Below are some useful telephone numbers that may be helpful when working your issue with a base agency.

AAFES	298-3176
Finance	298-5204
Civil Engineer	298-5252
Civilian Personnel	298-5299

Clinic	298-6311
Commissary	298-5815
Dormitory manager	298-5213
EEO	298-5879
FWA hotline	298-4170
Housing	298-5904
Information line	298-5201
Legal	298-5172
MEO	298-5400
Military Personnel	298-5073
Public Affairs	298-5988
Security Forces	298-5900
Services	298-5810



Photo by Senior Airman Timothy J. Stein

Keep it shining ...

Airman Ashley Shepard, 47th Flying Training Wing command post controller, cleans the Air Education and Training Command Small Unit Command Post of the Year award the command post recently won.

Blood donations needed in war, peace

By Senior Airman
Stacia Zachary
*100th Air Refueling Wing
public affairs*

ROYAL AIR FORCE
MILDENHALL, England – It may seem like blood centers are always asking for more. The fact is, there is a constant need for blood.

Technological advances have a lot to do with this continuous need for blood, said Capt. Christine Murphy, the 48th Medical Group executive officer here. More and more, there have been scientific breakthroughs that allow a person a chance at life where once there was none. And along with these breakthroughs, a steady supply of blood is needed.

“Our job, as a medical community, is to save as many lives as we can,” Captain Murphy said. “Technology has grown so we are now able to help people in ways not possible in the past.”

According to the Armed Services Blood Program Web site, trauma victims may use up to 40 units of blood, and that does not include the number of surgical procedures that require

blood transfusions.

“It is always important we have enough (blood) on hand,” said 1st Lt. Adam Minnich of the 100th Logistics Readiness Squadron and a blood drive advocate. “The main purpose of blood drives is to maintain medical readiness. Units of blood are not only used here in the immediate vicinity.”

In the current world climate, there are many ongoing operations in hostile environments that require blood donations, Captain Murphy said.

“We still have several operations our military is involved in, and it’s important to keep those blood stores well stocked,” she said. “We are usually at full capacity, but it’s always smart to never let them deplete or we would end up in a critical situation.”

Although war, and the casualties that result from it, are the most high-profile reasons to give blood, there are several closer-to-home reasons people may need blood.

“We need to take care of our families and civilians, too,” Captain Murphy said. “They are our obligation as well as a large contributor to our blood stores (here). Remember, blood is always needed – in both war and peace.”

Laughlin, from page 1

“General Egginton wants everyone at Laughlin and in Del Rio to know that there is no way we could do what we are doing over here without the incredible contribution of the 47th Flying Training Wing and the people of Del Rio,” Colonel Woodward said. “He

asked me to pass on that message.”

Although General Egginton was assigned to Laughlin for only nine months, during their conversation he noted that he has personally flown formation combat sorties with two former student pilots who received their wings from him.

“Another half dozen or so of his former students have come up to him since he’s been in the AOR ... they are flying everything from F-15Es to KC-135s to C-130s ... essentially everything we have over here,” Colonel Woodward said, referring to the fighters, aerial refuelers, and cargo and troop transport air-

craft used throughout the AOR.

Colonel Woodward was not surprised. “In some cases less than six months after getting their wings in Anderson Hall at Laughlin, our students are in the fight over here,” he said. “As you know, this is a tough mission on every front, but Laughlin graduates are

clearly doing their part. The fact that our Air Force is so successful is a tremendous testament to the instruction our pilots receive at Laughlin in terms of flight discipline, basic flying skills, professionalism and attitude. We truly are ‘training the world’s best pilots and then deploying them to fight and win America’s wars.’”

Forces, from page 1

Navy and Air Force Days and to educate the public by expanding their understanding of the military’s role.

Other events and demonstrations Saturday will include the fire department smoke house, a chemical warfare display, an Army climbing rock wall and other Army, Air Force, Navy and Marine recruiting display booths. The Engine Regional Repair Center will

display two cutaways of the J-69 and J-85 aircraft engines. Engine specialists will be present to explain how the engines function.

Also, the 47th Civil Engineer Squadron will set up a mobile command post and the 47th Communications Squadron, with computers, monitors and voice analyzer on display, will show people how they interact with the base.

“The medical and health awareness centers, displaying a blood pres-

sure machine, will educate the community on effects of different foods on the body and how they can maintain healthy diets,” she said.

Sergeant Lee said security forces’ military working dog teams will demonstrate their handler and dog teamwork capabilities.

“These events will allow school children who may someday be a part of the military to see military skills and people in action,” she said.

Also, she said it will give servicemembers the opportunity to interact with the people downtown, thereby, building a stronger community relationship.

As former Secretary of Defense, Robert Lovette once said, the day emphasizes the practical application of unification in action and reminds Americans of the continued need for unity in the armed forces and among the citizens in the interest of security and peace.

Air Force Television News spotlights how flying can enrich lives

SAN ANTONIO – Man's thirst for flight highlights the latest edition of Air Force Television News. Stories from Staff Sgts. Melissa Allan and Leigh Bellinger illustrate two different ways flying has occupied and enriched two people's lives.

Air Force Television News plays at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Monday through Friday on the Laughlin commander's access channel, base cable channel 34.

Sergeant Allan profiles Maj. Andrew Lourake. Despite having his leg amputated above the knee, he spent countless hours in rehabilitation and therapy and has now regained his flying status. Sergeant Allan also reports on Major Lourake's work with servicemembers who have had limbs amputated because of combat injuries.

Sergeant Bellinger features another example of how flight changed a person's life. In the 1980s, Lt. Col. Robin Stoddard formed the Wright Flight program. Named in honor of Wilbur and Orville Wright, the program offers students free airplane rides if they reach a certain grade level, providing incentive for them to improve their academic standings. Wright Flight now operates in seven states with more expected, officials said.

Tech. Sgt. Pachari Lutke travels to Ascension Island off the coast of Africa to report on the Air Force tracking station

located in that remote area of the world, and to talk to the two Airmen assigned there. It is a mission that involves constant tracking of just about everything in space.

Staff Sgt. Marty Rush travels to Beale Air Force Base, Calif., to see how the T-38 Talon trainer aircraft is used to teach pilots how to fly the U-2 Dragon Lady.

Staff Sgt. Kevin Dennison is at Little Rock AFB, Ark., as the C-130 Hercules unit there is the first active-duty squadron in the Air Force to receive the latest model of that aircraft, the C-130J.

Tech. Sgt. Bill Scherer is at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, to show how vegetable oil has moved from the kitchen to the machine shop.

Finally, Staff Sgt. John Anderson goes to Dover AFB, Del., to tour the recently reopened Air Mobility Command Museum that was closed to the public shortly after Sept. 11, 2001.

Air Force Television News is a biweekly production of Air Force News Service. It is distributed on videotape to more than 3,000 military and civilian outlets worldwide, and is seen on more than 700 cable TV outlets nationwide. It is also available on the Internet at www.af.mil, and can be seen regularly on The Pentagon Channel. The program is closed captioned. Viewers can comment on the program by sending an e-mail to aftvnews@afnews.af.mil.

**Please recycle
this newspaper**

Laughlin AFAF drive nets \$26,000

By Airman 1st Class
Olufemi Owolabi
Staff writer

Laughlin's 2004 Air Force Assistance Fund campaign, held March 22 to April 30, raised more than \$26,000 to exceed this year's monetary goal by 12 percent.

The 47th Flying Training Wing exceeded two of three goals for the AFAF campaign; a monetary goal and contacting each military member on base. The goal of gaining participation by 50 percent of servicemembers was not met.

The AFAF campaign is designed to raise funds annually for organizations that benefit active-duty, Reserve, Guard and retired Air Force members and their families. Funds are used to provide emergency assistance, education grants, volunteer childcare, community enhancement programs and assisted living for airmen, fam-

ily members, veterans and widowed spouses.

These organizations are Air Force Aid Society, Air Force Village Foundation Inc., Air Force Enlisted Village and General and Mrs. Curtis E. Le May Foundation.

"The Air Force Assistance Fund is about the Air Force taking care of each other," said 1st Lt. Alan Dick, 84th Flying Training Squadron instructor pilot and AFAF unit project officer. "Basically, it's a charity with all the money staying in the Air Force."

Lieutenant Dick said everyone is allowed to contribute, although the targets of each unit's project officer are military members. "If civilians wanted to donate to this charity program, they were also welcome," he said.

Representatives were chosen to contact every 15 people. "Everybody who desired to give was able to," he added.

The decision to give to the AFAF is an individual's voluntary choice.

Lieutenant Dick the con-

tributions showed that people care about each other and want to help others in need.

"It is a way of keeping the

Air Force family strong and for people to make a difference in other peoples' lives," he said.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Christina Rumsey

No more tears ...

Staff Sgt. Tracy Praznik wipes away tears from an Iraqi baby's face as she gives his mother water during a visit in Tallil, Iraq, May 7. The visit supported Operation Reachout, a program started by security forces Airmen to build a friendship with families living around nearby Tallil Air Base. Sergeant Praznik is assigned to the 407th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron.

GTC program benefits from reliable users

Bank gives incentive to bases that pay travel card bills on time

By Tech. Sgt. Anthony Hill
Public affairs

Many military members and civil service employees remember "the days of old" when they had to stand in line at the financial services office for a cash advance before leaving on a temporary duty assignment.

Today, official travel is easier with the government travel card program, which is currently contracted out to Bank of America.

Individuals can make quick reservations for commercial travel and lodging, helping their trip go smoothly.

The convenience of having a travel card is great, and it's a great tool if people are responsible with it, said 1st Lt. Travis Logsdon, 47th Comptroller Flight financial services officer.

Although the card is issued with the individual's name on it, people should not use it as a personal credit card.

The financial services of-

ficer explained there are two things people do when they misuse the travel card ... they buy the wrong thing and buy during the wrong time (when they are not in TDY status).

The card is for official government travel and should be used on the "big three," he said, which includes hotel, airline and rental car.

The lieutenant said that purchasing meals and gas while on official government travel is also authorized, but personal and entertainment-type purchases are not.

The card can also be used while members are doing a permanent change of station move. The same rules apply as for TDY travel.

In addition to misuse of the travel card, there are people who do not pay their government travel card bills on time, which leads to delinquent accounts.

Air Force punishment guidelines exist for military members and civil service employees who have delinquent accounts, but Bank of America

controls the policies that govern the travel card program. They also hold cardholders accountable for being delinquent.

"Bank of America is lending money as the credit company," said Lieutenant Logsdon, "and controls who shows up on the delinquent list and how many days a person is delinquent on the government travel card."

If a person is 30 days delinquent, that's more or less a warning, the lieutenant said.

"Sixty days delinquent is when it starts showing up on our statistics," he said. "But 120 days overdue is the worst category a person can be in."

Bank of America can have a bad credit rating filed against the individual and can cancel the person's card after they've been delinquent 120 days. The financial institution very rarely will reinstate the card, Lieutenant Logsdon said.

Individuals without travel cards must then rely on the cash advance system to fund their TDYs, and problems can occur with that if people are not careful.

"Sometimes people take more of an advance than what



Photo by 1st Lt. Lindsay Logsdon

A traveler checks the split disbursement option while completing a travel voucher. The comptroller flight electronically transfers funds to pay the member's travel card bill.

they need on TDY, and then they owe money back," Lieutenant Logsdon said.

When settling the bill, split disbursement is the best option, the financial services officer said.

Under split disbursement, after the voucher is complete, funds are sent directly to Bank of America to pay off the bill. The remainder goes into the member's bank account.

"Split disbursement is mandatory for all military members and civilian employees," said Lieutenant Logsdon. "When filing travel vouchers after a TDY, some people will check split disbursement and put the wrong amount. And, there's still a balance on the card that the member needs to pay for out of their pocket."

The key for travelers is to split-disburse the correct amount every time, he said.

"If people would do that, it would guard against 99 percent of delinquencies," he added.

Lieutenant Logsdon suggested calling the toll free number on the back of the travel card to get the latest balance.

The Air Force standard is

to have 4.5 percent or less in delinquent government travel cards. Laughlin tallied above that average at about 5 percent during the last quarter, but has improved over the last couple of weeks, according to the lieutenant.

"The more delinquencies we have, it costs us overall because Bank of America gives rebates to bases that pay their government travel card bills in a timely manner," Lieutenant Logsdon said. "If we meet the standard, we get a piece of that rebate."

If Laughlin received some of the rebate, the funds would be used for a variety of projects such as quality of life items, the lieutenant said.

"It's basically up to the wing commander to decide where to use the money, which will be something that benefits the whole base," he said.

Lieutenant Logsdon emphasized that it is important that people always be responsible with the travel card.

"Bank of America is doing us a service with the card," he said. "If we abuse it or act irresponsibly with it, they could pull the contract from us, but we hope it would never come to that."

Sovereignty transfer won't be 'instant,' U.S. official says

By Gerry Gilmore
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — As U.S., coalition, Iraqi and U.N. authorities work to transfer sovereignty to an interim Iraqi government June 30, a senior U.S. official cautioned Monday that it wouldn't be a complete process.

"On June 30, there will not sort of be a light switch turned on or turned off where it's just instant — it's a gradual process," Coalition Provisional Authority chief spokesman Dan Senor noted at a Baghdad news conference.

Additional authority is being turned over to Iraqis each day as the turnover date nears, Mr. Senor told reporters, noting the CPA began establishing Iraqi interim government ministries March 28.

"Iraqis will not assume all

authority" on June 30, Mr. Senor said, but he added that the process of transferring power to an interim Iraqi government continues.

Thus far, he said, Iraqi ministries for education, municipalities and public works, science and technology, culture, agriculture, and displacement and migration have been set up. The ministry of water resources, Senor added, is being established today.

Mr. Senor said the Iraqi ministries of industry and minerals, foreign affairs, and planning and development are to be set up this week. "And we will continue to work every single week between now and June 30 to turn over additional ministries to the Iraqi leadership," he noted.

U.S., coalition and Iraqi forces continued offensive operations across Iraq to establish stability, effect recon-

struction and prepare for the transfer of sovereignty, Army Brig. Gen. Mark Kimmitt noted at the news conference. General Kimmitt, deputy operations director for Combined Joint Task Force 7, accompanied Mr. Senor at the briefing.

Over the past 24 hours, he said, the coalition conducted 1,637 patrols and 17 offensive operations, flew 32 Air Force and Navy sorties, and captured 29 anti-coalition suspects.

Monday, the general noted, senior Marine officers from the 1st Marine Division convoyed into Fallujah to meet with the mayor and other officials to talk about plans to rebuild the battered city. Pro-coalition Iraqi troops, General Kimmitt said, facilitated the Marines' trip into Fallujah, which took place without encountering any hostile fire.

Kimmitt also reported that

1st U.S. Cavalry soldiers used Bradley fighting vehicle, Abrams tank and helicopter fire May 9 to demolish an illegal militia headquarters building in Sadr City that was in the process of being reclaimed. About 35 insurgents were killed in related fighting over the last 24 hours, he noted, and four coalition troops were wounded. The militia is commanded by militant cleric Muqtada al-Sadr, who is wanted by Iraqi authorities for the alleged murder of a fellow cleric last year.

An improvised explosive device detonated near the Four Seasons Hotel in eastern Baghdad May 9, General Kimmitt reported. Two British and two Iraqi citizens were injured in the blast, he said.

General Kimmitt also discussed the May 19 court-martial of Army Spc. Jeremy C. Sivits at the news conference

and during two American morning television news shows. Slated for trial in Baghdad, Sivits allegedly abused detainees at Abu Ghraib prison and faces several charges: conspiracy to maltreat subordinates and detainees; dereliction of duty for negligently failing to protect detainees from abuse, cruelty and maltreatment; and maltreatment of detainees.

Six other U.S. service members, General Kimmitt noted on NBC's "Today" show, have been referred for criminal charges regarding alleged detainee abuse at the Baghdad prison.

The general said he hadn't yet seen the latest photo depicting alleged detainee abuse using guard dogs at Abu Ghraib, nor any videotape, but he said the public should be braced for additional "disturbing" photos.

Brother escorts brother in sister-service convoy

By Airman 1st Class J.G. Buzanowski
Combined Air Operations Center
public affairs

SOUTHWEST ASIA – When Lt. Col. Greg Harbin landed at the airport in Mosul, Iraq, he knew he had to travel to the operational headquarters on the other side of town. He also knew an Army convoy would be escorting him. What he did not know was that his brother would be the convoy commander.

Colonel Harbin was there to talk about precision targeting techniques with Soldiers and Marines. His younger brother, 1st Lt. Eric Harbin, was there as part of the 877th Engineering Battalion of the Alabama National Guard.

“I had never seen my brother in a military light,” Colonel Harbin said. “It was very powerful and emotional for me. Here was my little brother, not only in a convoy in Iraq, but in charge of it.”

The initial meeting was joyous, as the two brothers saw each other for the first time in 10 months.

Soon after they settled in to their armored vehicles, the smiles faded away. Colonel Harbin said, it was “go-time.”

“Those Soldiers were pros,” the colonel said. “We hardly spoke to one another the entire trip. They had weapons ready, scanning the crowded streets for possible threats. (They were) all business.”

Lieutenant Harbin’s unit was deployed for the first time since World War II.

Besides escort duty, the 877th also helped build schools, roads and airfields.

“The actual execution of the mission wasn’t very different from many we had done in the past,” Lieutenant Harbin said. “But, it was a strange feeling to be responsible for getting my brother and his equipment moved through a combat zone in Iraq. We knew the hazards, and we knew what to expect.”

Fortunately, the convoy made it safely, without a single shot fired.

“They stayed together, had great communication, did everything to make themselves a hard target,” Colo-



Courtesy photo

Then Maj. Greg Harbin (right) and his younger brother, Army 1st Lt. Eric Harbin, share a smile before setting off. Lieutenant Harbin escorted his visiting brother through the combat zone to the headquarters in Mosul, Iraq, recently. Lt. Col. Greg Harbin, who was promoted May 1, is deployed from 9th Air Force headquarters at Shaw Air Force Base, S.C. Lieutenant Harbin is a member of the Alabama National Guard.

nel Harbin said. “They were just so professional; I was really impressed and felt safe.”

Once the convoy reached its destination, the Harbin brothers were able to take a few moments to catch up with one another.

“At one point, I was over-

whelmed. I paused and just looked at my brother in action,” Colonel Harbin said. “I realized how big the war on terrorism is, and yet, this personalized it a bit more for me. He and I are on opposite ends of the spectrum, and there we were on the same mission.”

Veterans Affairs reaches out to newest combat veterans

WASHINGTON – The Department of Veterans Affairs is expanding its efforts to reach veterans of combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan to ensure they are aware of benefits they have earned.

Anthony Principi, VA secretary, is sending a letter to more than 150,000 veterans of operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom who have recently separated from the military to thank them for their service. In the letter, he also reminds them of their eligibility for VA health-care and other benefits.

“I want these men and women to know that we are

grateful for their service to our country,” Mr. Principi said. “Those who served in Afghanistan, Iraq and other places around the world have risked their lives to make America more secure. One of the ways the nation shows its gratitude is by ensuring veterans receive the benefits they deserve.”

Mr. Principi’s letter includes brochures and links to the department’s Web pages that contain more details about VA benefits, including an opportunity to apply for benefits online.

As the veterans continue to leave active duty, VA officials said they expect to mail about 10,000 letters each

month. The first letters were sent May 10.

Department officials also regularly mail information packets to all servicemembers separating from the military to remind them of eligibility for basic benefits, such as VA-guaranteed home loans and education benefits. In addition, there are provisions in these programs for reservists and National Guard members.

The additional outreach to those recently deployed to combat areas alerts them to special eligibility that increases their access to health care for two years after separation from the military for illnesses and injuries that may

be the result of military service. For those medical problems, VA waives copayments for inpatient and outpatient care. The VA focuses special attention on those with service-related disabilities, officials said. The department’s goal is a seamless transition from military to VA services, with claims for financial benefits receiving expedited processing.

For seriously wounded people, the VA has counselors working at the bedsides of patients in military hospitals with the largest numbers of casualties to begin benefit applications before they leave the military. The department’s social service

people work at these military facilities to plan health-care coordination as servicemembers move from military to VA care. This helps ensure a smooth transition to a VA hospital or clinic near the veteran’s intended residence for continuing medical care, officials said.

“VA has learned many lessons since the Gulf War in 1991 and other conflicts, which will ensure that this newest generation of war veterans receives the health care and assistance they deserve when they return to civilian life,” Mr. Principi said.

(Courtesy of American Forces Press Service)

Wilford Hall Airmen help warriors get home safely

By 1st Lt. Mike
Chillstrom
59th Medical Wing
public affairs

LACKLAND AIR FORCE BASE, Texas – At an hour when most people are fast asleep, 59th Medical Wing medics from Wilford Hall Medical Center were wide-awake anticipating the return of 14 servicemembers injured in Iraq.

Standing sentinel, a row of 14 ambulances lined the San Antonio International Airport flightline awaiting the arrival of the patients April 29.

Medics watched as the C-141 Starlifter glided onto the San Antonio runway nearly one day after leaving

Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany.

The mission from Germany began with 43 Operation Iraqi Freedom patients, bringing 29 of them to Andrews Air Force Base, Md., before continuing to San Antonio.

Fighting the wind and rain, two critical care air transport teams, some observers and a handful of people from the 59th MDW's aeromedical staging facility moved patients from the C-141 into the ambulances.

All the patients were driven to nearby Brooke Army Medical Center, where they received care mostly for burn and shrapnel injuries.

The medics accompanied four extremely ill patients to the medical center.

“(The) teams were required because four patients needed critical-care ground transport. Our job is to treat patients who need to be continuously monitored,” said Capt. Julia Kiss, CCATT program coordinator and critical-care nurse.

The 59th MDW teams were able to jump in and take over for the team from Germany, ensuring that the critically-ill patients had continuous care.

A CCAT team comprises a critical-care physician, critical-care nurse and respiratory therapist who are able to provide in-transit care for the most severely ill patients. The team essentially forms a mobile intensive care unit any-



Photo by Sue Campbell

Capt. Edwin Maldonado (center) helps move a critically ill Soldier from a C-141 Starlifter into an ambulance at San Antonio International Airport April 29. Captain Maldonado was part of the critical care air transport team of medics from Wilford Hall and Brooke Army medical centers that ensured 14 servicemembers injured in Iraq were moved safely to BAMC.

where it goes.

The San Antonio mission lasted less than two hours,

concluding with the safe arrival of the patients at the medical center.

Bush reiterates coalition Iraq mission, supports Rumsfeld

By Jim Garamone
American Forces Press
Service

WASHINGTON – President Bush reiterated that the United States has “a vital national interest” in Iraq, following a meeting of his national security team at the Pentagon Monday.

Bush met with Vice President Dick Cheney, Secretary of State Colin Powell, National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice, Director of Central Intelligence George Tenet, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld and Joint Chiefs Chairman Air Force Gen. Richard B. Myers.

Bush also received briefings via videoteleconference calls from military commanders in the field.

In a brief statement following the meeting, Bush expressed strong support for Rumsfeld, who some critics have called on to resign in response to the detainee abuse scandal at Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq. “You are a strong secretary of defense, and our nation owes you a debt of gratitude,” the president said.

The president said the leaders discussed the needs of military personnel, current operations and the progress of Iraq toward security and sovereignty. He said it is important to

finish the mission in Iraq. Free institutions in Iraq will give other countries in the region a model to counteract the appeal of terrorism and dictatorships in the region, the president added.

Bush said the way the coalition carries out the mission has changed as the threats have changed. “As we carry out this mission, we are confronting the problems squarely and we are making changes as needed,” he said. “Our priorities, however, remain the same: the protection of our country, the security of our troops and the spread of freedom throughout the world.”

Bush said the United States will take every necessary measure to assure the safety of American and coalition personnel and the security of Iraqi citizens. “We’re on the offensive against the killers and terrorists in that country, and we will stay on the offensive,” the president vowed.

He said coalition forces are maintaining pressure on the Iraqi city of Fallujah. Marines and Iraqis are confronting former regime elements and foreign fighters. “We’re keeping that pressure on to ensure Fallujah ceases to be an enemy sanctuary,” Bush said.

The 1st Marine Expeditionary Force is poised for action in the city, and also is patrolling nearby cities of Ramadi and Habbiniyah, he said.

“We’ve taken every precaution to avoid hurting the innocent as we deliver justice to the guilty,” the president said.

In the Shiia holy city of Najaf, “the military is systematically dismantling an illegal militia that has attempted to incite violence and seize control,” he said. Soldiers from the 2nd Light Cavalry Regiment are locating the enemy, the president added, and others from the 1st Armored Division are “steadily defeating these forces while seeking to protect the people and holy sites.”

The president said he is encouraged that local Iraqis are stepping forward to help solve the problems in Najaf.

Bush said supplying and protecting U.S. forces in Iraq is a long-term responsibility. He has asked Congress to provide an additional \$25 billion for a contingency reserve fund that can be used for ongoing operations in Iraq.

The president said the loss and sacrifice is not over. “We will always remember those who have died, and we will honor their sacrifice by completing the mission,” he said.

Bush stressed how important the transfer of sovereignty is to coalition aims in Iraq. “Decades of oppression destroyed every free institution in Iraq, but not the desire to live in freedom,” he said. “The coalition is fully com-

mitted to Iraqi independence and fully committed to Iraq’s national dignity.”

When sovereignty is returned to the Iraqi people June 30, it will show the world that the coalition means what it says, the president said.

Bush provided assurances the coalition is not running out on Iraq. Troops will remain in the country to guarantee security and stand in as Iraqi security forces stand up and take over the mission in their country, he said.

Bush also promised a full accounting for “the cruel and disgraceful abuse of Iraqi detainees.” He said the conduct is an insult to the Iraqi people and an affront to the most basic standards of morality and decency. “One basic difference between democracies and dictatorships is that free countries confront such abuses openly and directly,” he said.

The president said those responsible for the Abu Ghraib prison abuses have caused harm to the coalition cause throughout the world. “It has given some a reason to question our cause and cast doubt on our motives,” he said. “Yet who can doubt that Iraq is better for being free? Millions of Iraqis are grateful for the chance to live in freedom – a chance made possible by the courage and sacrifice of the United States military.”

Question of the Week?

What did you do for your mom on Mother's Day?



Alex Drotts (5)

"I made her a Mother's Day card. I drew my mommy and hearts on the card."



Jackson Libbin (5)

"I poured my own cereal. She poured the milk. I gave her some of my cereal in a tea pot because I couldn't find any more bowls."



Maya Ayres (5)

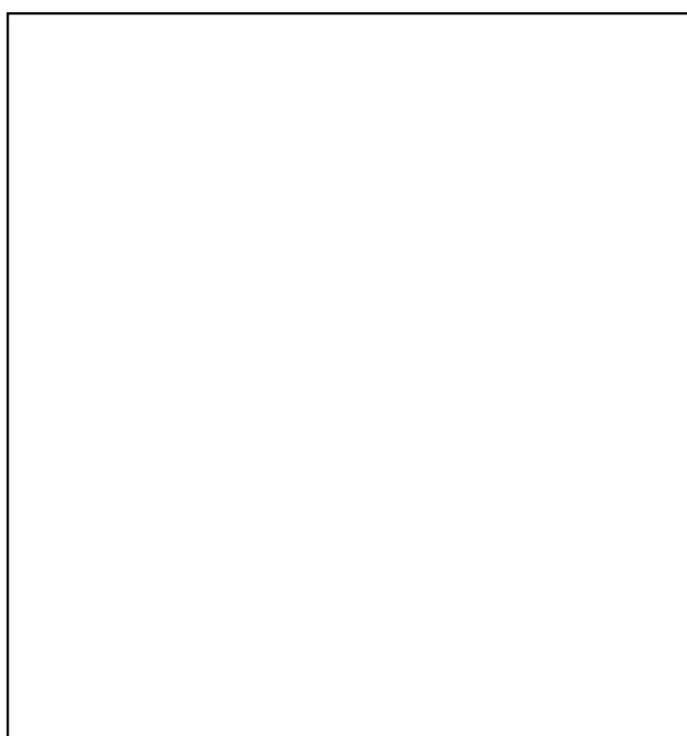
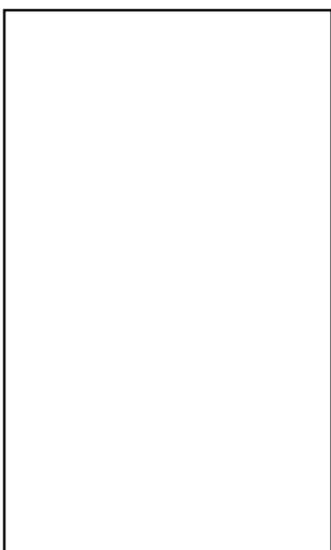
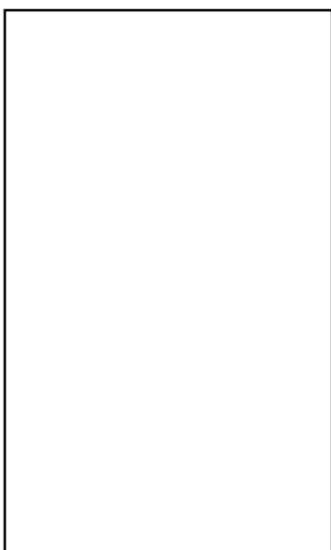
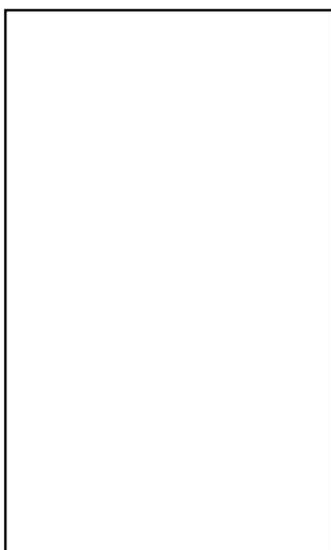
"I picked flowers, red and pink roses and sunflowers. My grandma cooked pancakes. I put the flowers on a tray with the pancake breakfast and took it to my mother."



Photo by Staff Sgt. Elizabeth Concepcion

Load 'em up ...

ALEXANDRIA, La. — Airman 1st Class Anthony Corkew loads a bomb onto an A-10 Thunderbolt II in Alexandria, La. He is assigned to the 717th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron at Barksdale Air Force Base, La.



Chapel information



Catholic

Monday - Friday

- Mass, 12:05 p.m.

Saturday

- Mass, 5 p.m., Reconciliation, 4:15 p.m. or by appointment

Sunday

- Mass, 9:30 a.m., Religious Education, 11 a.m.

Thursday

- Choir: 6 p.m., Rite of Christian Initiation, 7:30 p.m.

Protestant

Wednesday

- Choir, 7 p.m.; Protestant Women of the Chapel Ladies' Bible Study, 9 a.m.

Sunday

- General worship, 11 a.m., Contemporary worship, 9 a.m. in the base theater

Chaplain Staff

Wing chaplain:

Chap. (Lt. Col.) Joseph Lim, Roman Catholic

Senior Protestant:

Chap. (Capt.) Terri Gast, Presbyterian Church, USA

Protestant:

Chap. (Capt.) Alex Jack, Independent Christian Church

Protestant:

Chap. (Capt.) Kenneth Fisher, Evangelical Church Alliance

For more information on other denominations, chapel events or services, call 298-5111. For information on special events, see the Community Calendar on page 16.

The *XLer*

Belia Stewart
86th Flying Training Squadron

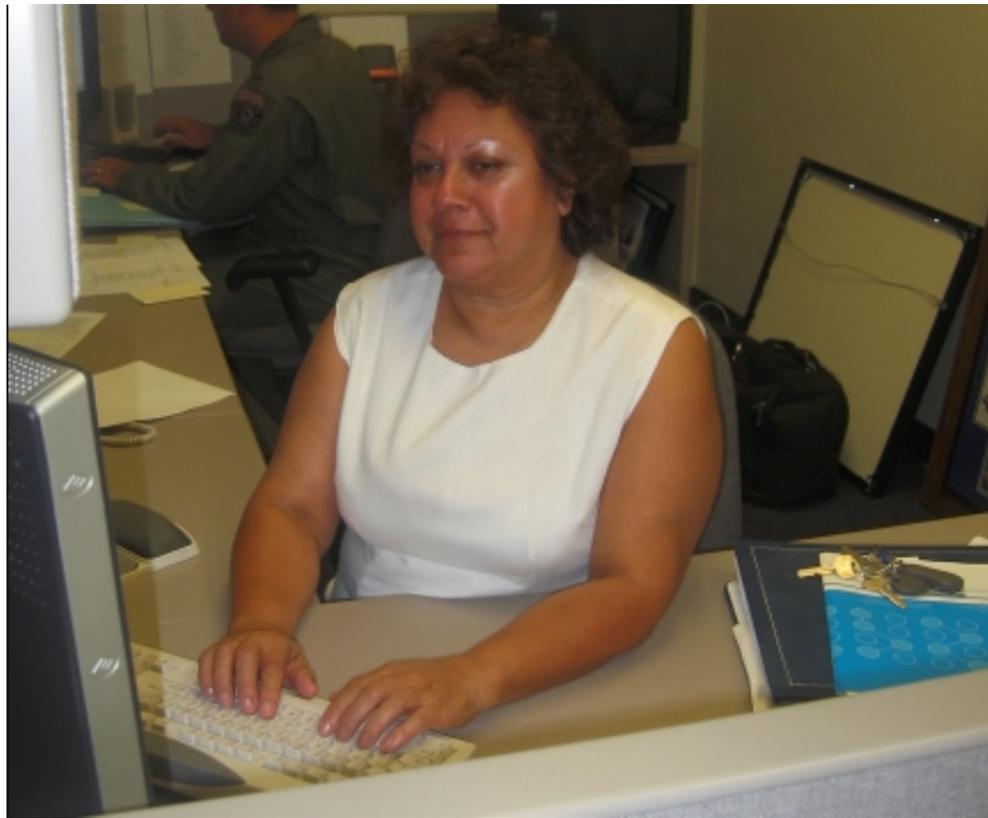


Photo by Senior Airman Timothy J. Stein

Hometown: Del Rio

Family: Two daughters, one son, three granddaughters and a wonderful son-in-law

Time at Laughlin:

23 years

Time in service:

23 years

Greatest accomplishment:

Being a single mom and raising three wonderful voting citizens

Hobbies: Sewing, working with wood, reading, dancing, jogging and spending time outdoors

Bad habit: Not using a

bookmark when reading

Favorite movie:

"The Passion of the Christ"

If you could spend one hour with any person, who would it be and why?

My aunt Tere, she always gave me the best advise



Commander's Access Channel

Tune to
Cable Channel 34
for up-to-date information about
events and activities
at Laughlin.

ONLINE news

Access breaking news at United States Air Force Online News, the official newspaper of the United States Air Force. A simple click to www.af.mil/news/ keeps you informed about events.

Simple rules keep track use enjoyable for all

**Fitness commentary by
Bill Goins**
*47th Aeromedical-Dental
Squadron exercise physiologist*

With the increase in the use of the running track, it has become apparent not everyone is familiar with a few simple rules of etiquette that will make everyone's exercise experience more safe and enjoyable.

■ Never stretch on the track! This is the one that blows me away. Think of the track as a busy highway. You would not stop your car on a busy highway. You would not

wash and wax it in the middle of the highway. Runners should accomplish all stretching techniques in the grass and never on the track itself.

■ Never step onto the track without looking in both directions and yielding the right of way to runners on the track. Again, the track equals a busy highway. You wouldn't cross a busy highway without looking first.

■ Always run or walk in a counter-clockwise direction. This is the universal direction in which people use a track. Always obey this rule.

■ Always use the outside two lanes

for walking or slower jogging. Leave the two inside lanes open for those individuals who are running faster or who may be taking their fitness test.

■ Never run more than two abreast. If you run more than two abreast, it makes it very difficult for others to pass your group.

■ Never place your gear on the track while you run. If you bring a water bottle, jacket, keys, etc. with you to the track, place it on the bleachers or in the grass while you workout.

■ No smoking at the track! Last of all, if you have spectators at the

track while you run, they should not be smoking. I cannot think of anything less courteous (other than stretching on the track) than to be blowing smoke around while others are trying to inhale as much oxygen as they can while they run.

Bottom line is this: If you are using the track, exercise more than just your legs ... exercise some common courtesy.

If you have a question for the exercise physiologist, please send your written question (please print legibly) to 47ADS/SGGZ, Attn: Mr. Bill Goins.

84/85th defeats OSS, 2-0, in volleyball

**By Senior Airman
Timothy J. Stein**
Editor

The combined team of the 84th Flying Training Squadron and 85th FTS defeated the 47th Operations Support Squadron, 2-0, in intramural volleyball action Tuesday night at the XL Fitness Center.

The 85/84th won the first game easily, 25-15, but rallied from behind to win the second game, 26-24.

The 84/85th scored four-straight points to start the first game, three of the points coming off the serve. OSS had problems stopping the serve both games. OSS finally stopped the 84/85th but couldn't capitalize on their

serve. The teams alternated sideouts for several minutes giving the 84/85th a 7-4 lead.

Up by three, the 84/85th combined great serves with excellent volleying skills to take total control of the game. Within minutes they built a 15-7 lead, and didn't allow OSS to get any closer the rest of the game.

OSS regrouped and played much better the second game. They started the game scoring six points, mostly off the serve. The 84/85th couldn't put the ball away when they were able to

stop the serve. Spikes smashed into the net or sailed long. The 84/85th finally got a sideout, but were unable to score on their first serve attempt. They finally scored three points on their next serve to keep the score close at 9-5.

The teams battled back and forth throughout most of the match with OSS always keeping a slight lead. Up 24-23 and serving, OSS needed only one point to send the match to a tiebreaker game. OSS served out of bounds giving the 84/85th a tie and the

serve. They wrapped up the match with two serves OSS couldn't handle.

The win put the 84/85th record at 6-3 and within striking distance of first place in the Eastern Conference. The 87th is currently in first place with a perfect 9-0 record. The loss kept OSS in the division cellar.

The combined team of the 47th Communications and Contracting Squadrons is in first place in the Western Conference with a 9-1 record.

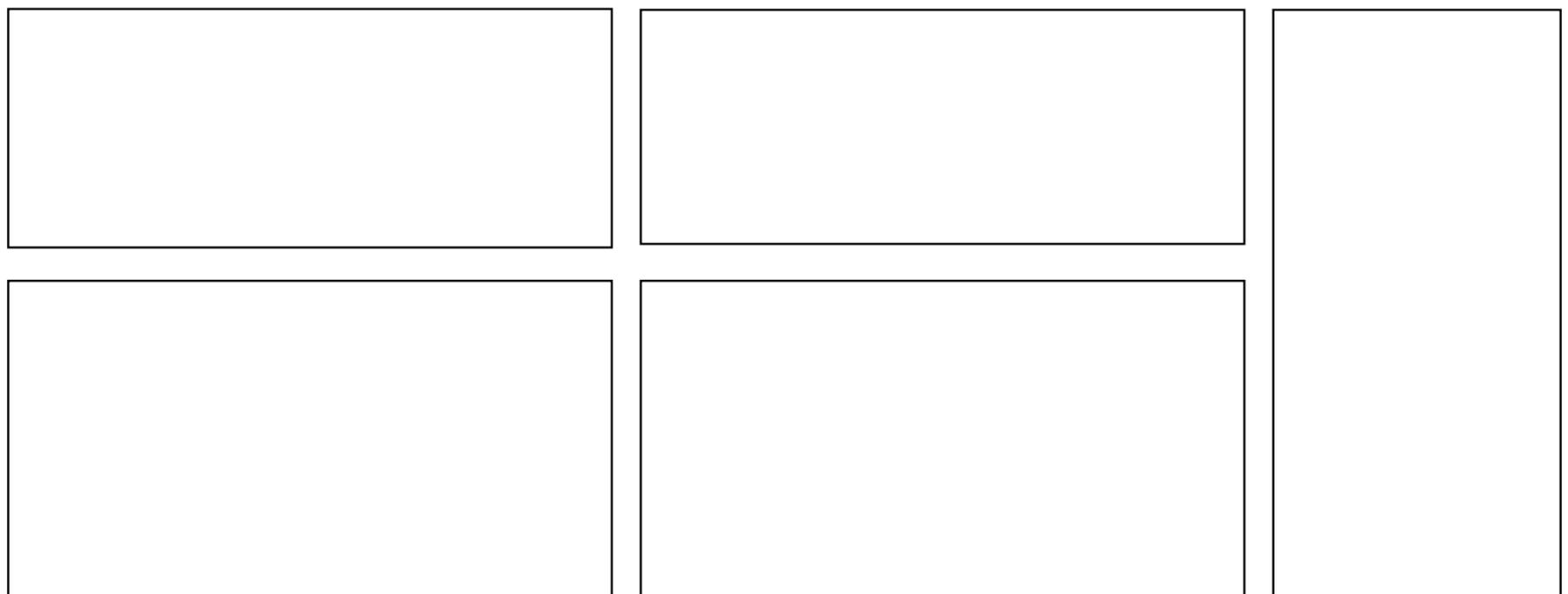




Photo by Senior Airman Matthew Bates

Senior Master Sgt. Daniel Morin (39) takes a shot on goal during one of his team's ice hockey tournament games. He is the 380th Expeditionary Maintenance Operations Squadron's quality assurance superintendent at a forward-deployed location.

Desert ice just as nice for deployed Airman

By Senior Airman
Matthew Bates
380th Air Expeditionary
Wing public affairs

SOUTHWEST ASIA – For the average Airman, the last thing on his or her mind when deploying to the desert is ice hockey. Not so for Senior Master Sgt. Daniel Morin.

As soon as he heard he was being sent to a forward-deployed location as the 380th Expeditionary Maintenance Operations Squadron's quality assurance superintendent, he began searching the Internet to do some research on hockey in the area.

He discovered there were several hockey teams around the base. On an impulse, he packed his skates, gloves and helmet alongside his military gear.

The impulse paid off and, within two weeks of him first stepping off the plane, Sergeant Morin was lacing up his skates and heading out onto the ice with a local hockey team. The team's players, made up of Canadians and one host-nation citizen, said they were impressed with his abili-

ties and asked him to join their league and play with them a few times a week.

"Even though I was hoping to be able to come over here and play, I never really thought it would happen," he said.

The team even asked him to join them in an international tournament they would be playing in locally. He spoke to his chain of command, got the authorization he needed and was added to the team's roster for the tournament.

The tournament consisted of 18 teams from around the region and Europe. Sergeant Morin's team ended up placing third in their division.

While hockey is one of the loves in his life, Sergeant Morin still puts the mission first – a fact that does not go unnoticed by his co-workers in the squadron and the 380th Expeditionary Maintenance Group.

"As much preparation and initiative as he put into being able to play hockey here, he puts double that into performing his job on a day-to-day basis," said Chief Master Sgt. Brian Riddle with the 380th EMG.

Fit to Fight Warrior of the Week

Staff Sgt. Scott Fooshee
47th Operations Support Squadron



Photo by Senior Airman Timothy J. Stein

Fitness philosophy:

Watch my calories and eat right from all the food groups

Favorite healthy treat:

Diet Dr. Pepper, I drink it all the time

Fitness assessment

score: 89

Fitness tip:

Run at least 30 minutes three times a week but make sure you stretch before and after

Fitness goals:

To be in the best physical shape possible

Volleyball standings

(As of Thursday)

Western Conference

Team	W-L
CCS	9-1
MED	7-3
CES	5-5
MSS/Wing	2-8
SFS	0-9

Eastern Conference

Team	W-L
87th	9-0
84/85th	6-3
86th	5-4
OSS	3-6

XL Fitness Center hours

Monday - Thursday:
5 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Friday: 5 a.m. to
8 p.m.

Saturday - Sunday:
7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Holidays: 10 a.m. to
6 p.m.

Fitness Fact:

Did You Know? Every hop, step, jump and stride you take exerts stress on the 26 bones, 33 joints, 107 ligaments and 19 muscles and tendons in your feet. The better you manage your weight, the less stress you will put on these joints.

