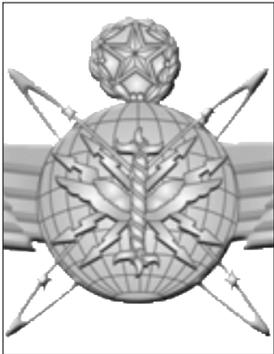


## In this week's Kukini



■ Air Force officials propose cutting-edge cyberspace career fields and training **A3**

## News Notes

**Kuntz Gate construction update** — Due to on-going construction for bollard installation, Kuntz gate will be restricted to a single lane open for incoming traffic. The right lane (lane to search pit) will be closed. Access to the search pit will be available and marked after the construction zone. Please heed all construction signs. Construction is scheduled to continue through early next month. During this period, traffic in the outbound lane will not be affected. For more information, call Master Sgt. Daniel Clark at 448-2803.

**Enlisted call** — The next 15th Airlift Wing enlisted call is 10 a.m. this morning at the Tradewinds Enlisted Club. This is a mandatory meeting for all 15th Airlift Wing enlisted personnel. For more information, call 449-1503.

**Use of dormitory pavilions** — Hickam AFB dormitory pavilions need to be reserved for official unit functions by letter to the dorm management office. For more information, call the Consolidated Dormitory Management Office at 448-2007.

**Hickam clinic closure notice** — The Hickam clinic will be closed on Tuesday from 7:30 a.m. to noon for a group change of command ceremony, and on Thursday from 2:30 to 5 p.m. for training. During these closure periods, sick call will not be held. If you have a medical emergency during these periods, call 911 or go to the Tripler Army Medical Center emergency room. For more information, call Capt. Eder at 449-2068.

**Air Force Ball Golf Tournament is today** — The Hawaii Top III is playing host to a golf tournament today at Mamala Bay with guest speaker, Maj. Gen. Hostage, PACAF vice commander. Ticket prices are as follows: \$65 for E-1 to E-4 and GS 1-3; \$75 for E-5 to O-3 and GS 4 to GS 8; \$80 for O-4, GS 9 and non-AF DOD civilians; and \$100 for Non-DOD civilians. Players will have a chance to win a Harley Fat Boy and Land Rover SUV with a hole in one on pre-determined holes. Cash prizes for 1st 2nd and 3rd places. For more information, call Master Sgt. Liles at 449-8417 or Senior Master Sgt. Richards at 449-0516.

**Services** B2  
**Crossword** B3  
**Sudoku** B3  
**Hickam History** B3  
**Movies** B4  
**Classifieds** B5-8

# 613 AOC 'connects' RIMPAC

By Master Sgt. Chris Vadnais  
 Air Force Print News

For the first time ever, Hickam's 613th Air and Space Operations Center is serving as the central hub for data and voice communications in a RIMPAC exercise. Exercise RIMPAC (Rim of the Pacific) 2008, the 21st in a series of significant international military exercises scheduled biennially by U.S. Pacific Fleet, is running now through the end of the month. RIMPAC is designed to increase the tactical proficiency of participating units in a wide array of combined operations at sea. By enhancing interoperability—joint and coalition cooperation—RIMPAC promotes stability in the

Pacific Rim region. The 613th AOC is equipped to ensure the flow of communication between all the exercise's players. "Having the 613th AOC as the hub of the RIMPAC exercise is not going to make the exercise different; it's just going to make it better," said Lt. Gen. Loyd "Chip" Utterback, 13th Air Force commander. "What we do when we exercise is we train, and having multiple nations and all our services together at the same time in the place where we would normally do the command and control [in a real-world contingency] enhances our training and makes us even better as



U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Shane A. Cuomo

Airmen and Sailors work along side each other at the Pacific Air Operations Center during the Rim of the Pacific exercise two years ago at the former Kenney Headquarters on Hickam. This year, for the first time in the biennial exercise's history, Airmen with the 613th Air and Space Operations Center will work with their Navy counterparts to make the facility the central hub for data and voice communications during RIMPAC 2008.

See RIMPAC, A4

# Team Hickam medical staffers support USNS Mercy mission

By Senior Master Sgt. Deborah VanNierop  
 PACAF Public Affairs

Twenty-eight Air Force medical personnel from across the Pacific region are currently spending some time on the open sea as they participate in Pacific Partnership 2008. Alongside other public health/preventive medicine professionals from the U.S. Navy, U.S. Army, U.S. Public Health Service, Military Sealift Command and the U.S. Navy Seabees (construction battalions) the troops boarded the USNS Mercy for a four-month humanitarian civic assistance mission.

Once all of the participants are picked up from various regions throughout the Pacific, the crew will total around 800, said Capt. Robert Wiley, the ship's master. "Mercy is a fully functioning, fully equipped, fully staffed hospital that we can



U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Mark Logico

**Air Force Tech. Sgt. Angela Custer, 15th Medical Group, and Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Francis Asuncion, Pacific Fleet, give candy to Filipino children here May 31. The two were part of a medical team sent to the district of Matanog, Maguindanao, Philippines, giving free medical and dental care to people in need.**

take just about anywhere in the world anytime it's needed," he said. "One of the most remarkable things about the Mercy is how it allows so many different organizations and groups to come together and work. I

think that's the theme of this mission — civic partnership." According to Capt. W.A. Kearns III, USNS Mercy commander, the ship will travel to the Philippines, Vietnam, Timor-Leste, Papua New

Guinea and Micronesia. Preparing for Pacific Partnership 2008 took the efforts of individuals from all of the services and across the Pacific to ensure nothing was overlooked. "My office provided the Air Force piece to the joint planning and coordinated the sourcing of individual requirements. We also facilitated the base-level support for individual deployment preparation," said Maj. Randall Ivall, 13th Air Force Chief, Contingency Operations and Plans at Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii.

The floating hospital is equipped with 100 patient beds, three operating rooms, one emergency room, a four-bed intensive care unit and an isolations ward for this mission which will conclude in September.

"We want to help out those countries in medically underserved regions...and we want to be a good neighbor," said Captain Kearns.



U.S. Air Force photo by Duncan Wood

**In his first visit to an Air Force base, Acting Secretary of the Air Force Michael B. Donley outlined three perspectives for the audience: jointness, support to the war on terror and the welfare of Airmen.**

# Acting SECAF talks to Airmen

By Ed White  
 Air Force Space Command Public Affairs

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. (AFP) — The U.S. Air Force core values of integrity first, service before self and excellence in all we do will remain in place, said Acting Secretary of the Air Force Michael B. Donley during a July 1 visit here.

In his first visit to an Air Force base since being named to the position, Secretary Donley held a candid town-hall style meeting with members of Air Force Space Command.

"We are working through the issues confronting the Air Force," he said, referring to the nuclear enterprise issues and others that caused his predecessor to resign. "We need to build back inner confidence in our Air Force and we need to rebuild our credibility."

Secretary Donley outlined three perspectives he brings to this position based on his previous experience. "The first thing you will

# Brothers in arms prepare for RIMPAC



Photo by Jackie Hites

More than 1,200 guests from all U.S. military branches, as well as members of Hawaii's Korean community, took part in a July 3 reception for RIMPAC 2008 participants held on board the Republic of Korea Navy vessel Munmu the Great docked in Pearl Harbor Naval Station. RIMPAC '08, which kicked off earlier this week and is scheduled to run through the end of the month, features military participants from several key U.S. allies in the Pacific Region. Pictured at the event (from left): Col. Dean Wolford, 15th Airlift Wing vice commander; Col. Giovanni Tuck, 15AW/CC; Chief Master Sgt. Tom Westermeyer, 15AW/CCC; Commander Heedong Choi, commanding officer, USS Chafee (DDG 90); ROK Navy Capt. Ulsoo Kim, ROK Navy; and Capt. Bumjin Park, ROK Navy.

See SECAF, A4

# ACTION LINE

## Respect for the flag

**Comment:** On Friday afternoon at about 4 p.m., I was playing tennis on court one at the Hickam Tennis Court. Over on Court 4, there were two young men and an older gentleman. When the 'Star Spangled Banner' was played my opponent and I stopped and stood at attention and paid the proper respect. However, the players on court 4 continued to play right through the national anthem.

When it was over I walked over and had some words with them regarding respect for the flag which they totally ignored because when I walked away, they continued to play. I told them they needed to get off the court and again was totally ignored.

I would appreciate it if something could be done about respect. Thank you very much.

**Response:** I understand and totally agree with your patriotism, as I'm sure most of us are. However, there are those few, like the ones you have identified, who obviously don't feel the same way we do about paying the proper respect to the flag.

In the military are trained from day one that any time the 'Star Spangled Banner' is played, whether indoors or outdoors, we render the proper salute. However, there is nothing that mandates individuals to stop what they are doing and pay the proper respect to the flag.

Unfortunately the individuals in question were either not aware (which I find hard to believe) or just blatantly chose to ignore the music. You did the right thing by informing them of their responsibilities and also by avoiding any further confrontation.

Occasionally, all of us need to be reeducated regarding "customs and courtesies."

Thank you for your patriotism.

*The Action Line is your direct link to me so we can work as a team to make Hickam a better community. I urge you to use the normal chain of command first. If you have done this and are still not satisfied, give my commander's Action Line a call. If you would like me to get back to you, leave your name and number, state your issue, tell me who you have talked to and why you were not satisfied with their response. I'll work your issue and respond verbally or in writing. The Action Line number is 449-2996. Messages may also be sent by e-mail to 15aw.pal@hickam.af.mil.*

## Diamond Tips

**Tapes on uniforms** – On the BDU, center the U.S. Air Force tape immediately above the left breast pocket. Center the name tag immediately above the right breast pocket. Cut off or fold tapes to match pocket width.

Questions? Contact your First Sergeant



## Got Good News?

Why not share it? Email your story idea or press release for Hickam Kukini to:

[hickam.kukini@hickam.af.mil](mailto:hickam.kukini@hickam.af.mil)



Deadline for article submission is end of day Monday for Friday's issue. Copy must be typed, double-spaced 12-point type, 300-500 words in length, and e-mailed to [hickam.kukini@hickam.af.mil](mailto:hickam.kukini@hickam.af.mil).

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 Military Family Abuse Shelter ..... 533-7125  
 SARF Hotline ..... 449-7272

**Kukini:** Meaning swift and valued messenger, the Kukini in ancient times took news from one Hawaiian leader to another.

# Never forget: Freedom is not free

By Col. Andrew M. Hockman  
 15th Operations Group commander

Most of us have heard the phrase "Freedom isn't Free." Usually it is in reference to the cost of blood and sacrifice of those who have fallen in combat — both in today's wars and for those that have gone before us—who sacrificed their lives or suffered wounds to protect our freedoms here at home. For those who have made those sacrifices, the thanks of a grateful nation can never quite fill the void for a lost loved one ... or the veteran's lost limb, lost eyesight or lost mobility ... but most can take faith in the fact that it is their love of freedom, paid forward for the next generation.

While reflecting on the Independence Day weekend we just celebrated, our freedoms have come at a tremendous cost throughout our nation's history. In addition to the costs in blood and lives, many others have struggled for their cause to further the freedoms that our Constitution embodies and codifies, whether that be civil rights, voting rights, the right to bear arms, the right to drink that cold beverage of your choice at the club ... yep, there are some amendments regarding even that. All of those freedoms have come at a cost.

When many of us expeditionary Airmen travel around the world, we look at the societies that we pass through and say, "nice place to visit, but I wouldn't want to live there" or maybe — for some that are not so nice — "there's no place like home."

Some of these societies we look at and wonder if they will ever get it right. I would suggest that until those societies grasp the notion that "freedom is not free," and come to recognize the concept of "with

great freedom comes great responsibility," they will struggle to figure it out. That "great responsibility" includes living to a common code of law and accepting as the norm even those codes that they may not necessarily agree with — and holding others up those laws. That is the "opportunity cost" for living in a free society.



Col. Andrew M. Hockman

So, what does that mean to me? What does this freedom cost me? Well, maybe I don't have the ability to drive 95 mph on the H-1, even though 95 would get me where I want to be faster and save my precious time. Maybe I don't have that second beer or glass of wine because it is going to take me over the legal limit to operate a motor vehicle ... I could "take my chances," but I have the responsibility that comes with my freedom to drive, to make it home without driving my car into someone else's. Better yet, I have the responsibility to my car's occupants to be able to react to those drivers that don't have that same judgment.

Thinking about some of the places you've heard of or seen with your own eyes overseas — where road warrior drivers play a daily game of "street anarchy" — can help you visualize this.

Taking that to the next level, in the microcosm that we live and work in at Hickam, our Pearl of the Pacific, maybe I don't drive 35 in a 25 — even when I know Security Forces is busy in an exercise and not running radar. Maybe I don't toss my trash or flick my cigarette butt out the window of my car, but rather stop and pick up the box top that trash guys left in

the street Friday morning, or that plastic bag blowing down the sidewalk while I'm walking to my next meeting. Maybe I begin to stop my vehicle early when I see a pedestrian getting close to a crosswalk, and let them proceed rather than blow through the crossing. It all adds up to another good rule of thumb to remember: responsibility is about doing the right thing whether someone is watching you or not.

In our latest push to get back to basics in the Air Force and do a better job of following standards, it is probably healthy for each of us to recognize where we've let things slide a little, rationalizing that our work was "good enough" and that we need to push on to that next task. But what have you left in your wake? Have you left the next shift incomplete work that they have to finish before they can pass it on? Have you left the shared bathroom in your house or dorm room a mess for the one who will use it next? Or even worse, on signing out, have you left it trashed for the next occupant?

While we all share many freedoms in this great land, to keep those freedoms, we all share a responsibility to do our part—no matter how big or small. While, as a service member you've signed on the line to die for your fellow countrymen and generations of Americans to come, I pray that you won't have to pay it forward.

However, for each of us, there is a price to our freedom, and we have to do the best we can each day to make this country one where each does their part to live up to our laws, standards and responsibilities that keep this country, and our service, great — whether someone's watching or not. That is the opportunity cost for living in this great land — please pay that forward and teach that to our next generation, because our enduring freedom is not free.

# Show proper respect to nation's flag

By Maj. Kelli A. Molter  
 Air Force Services Combat Operations Division

As people all over the country marked the 232nd birthday of our nation by displaying the American flag throughout the Fourth of July weekend as a celebration of our independence — some of them did so incorrectly.

Independence Day reminds me of growing up with a proud, passionately patriotic father — an Army and Berlin Airlift veteran — who vigorously coached me and my sisters in proper flag handling, including keeping the flag from touching the ground and the consequences of having to burn it should we fall short in that duty.

This rule has always occurred to me as drastic, so I checked the Federal Flag Code (Public Law 94-344) to corroborate it and discovered it wasn't necessarily so.

What I did find was the following:

- The flag should never touch anything beneath it, such as the ground, floor or water.

- The flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning.

I read on and found more code my dad and others might find surprising and useful — particularly as we display the stars and stripes throughout neighborhoods, parks and parades during holidays.

Check out these codes here:

- It is universal custom to display the flag only from sunrise to sunset on buildings and on stationary flag staffs in the open. However, when a patriotic effect is desired, the flag may be displayed 24 hours a day if properly illuminated during hours of darkness.

- When the flag is displayed from a staff projecting from a window sill, balcony or front of a building, the union of the flag should be placed at the peak of the staff unless the flag is at half-staff.

- When displayed either horizontally or vertically against a wall, the union should be uppermost and to the flag's own right — that is, to the observer's left. When displayed in a window, the flag should be displayed in the same way, with the union or blue field to the left of the observer in the street.

- When used on a speaker's platform, the flag — if displayed flat — should be displayed above and behind the speaker. When displayed from a staff in a church or public auditorium, the U.S. flag should hold the position of superior prominence, in advance of the audience, and in the position of honor at the clergyman or speaker's right as he faces the audience. Any other flag so displayed should be placed on the left of the clergyman or speaker or to the right of the audience.

- The flag, when carried in a procession with another flag or flags, should be either on the marching right (i.e. the

flag's own right) or, if there is a line of other flags, in front of the center of that line.

- The flag should not be displayed on a float in a parade except from a staff.

- When the flag is displayed over the middle of the street, it should be suspended vertically with the union to the north in an east and west street or to the east in a north and south street.

- The U.S. flag should be at the center and at the highest point of the group when a number of flags of states or localities or pennants of societies are grouped and displayed from staffs.

- The flag should never be used as wearing apparel, bedding or drapery. It should never be festooned, drawn back, nor up in folds, but always allowed to fall free. Bunting of blue, white and red, always arranged with the blue above, the white in the middle and the red below, should be used for covering a speaker's desk, draping the front of the platform and for decoration in general.

Whether you call it the stars and stripes, old glory or "The Star-Spangled Banner," the flag has protocol that remains consistent and the Federal Flag Code is there to guide us and protect its honor.

To reference the Federal Flag Code in its entirety, visit the following U.S. State Department Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov/infousa/life/symbceleb/flagcode.html>.



## Heritage meets horizon above Alaskan skies

Maj. Max Moga, F-22A Raptor Demonstration Team pilot, flies next to P-51 pilot Steve Hinton during the heritage flight of the Arctic Thunder 2008 June 29. This year's Arctic Thunder consisted of three days of events which kicked off Alaska's "We're In" weekend celebrating the 50th anniversary of statehood.

U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class David Carbaljal

# Air Force proposes cyberspace career fields, training paths, specialty badge

By Karen Pettit

Air Force Cyber Command  
(Provisional) Public Affairs

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill. (AFP) — Air Force officials recently proposed a plan to develop its enlisted and officer corps into Airmen who specialize in establishing, controlling and fighting in the cyberspace domain.

That's according to Maj. Gen. William T. Lord, the Air Force Cyber Command (Provisional) commander who referenced AFCYBER's force development intent during a recent cyberspace symposium held in Marlborough, Mass.

"We've created a roadmap that outlines our efforts to establish cyberspace operators, specialists, analysts and developers who grow from a basic understanding of cyberspace doctrine to experts in their respective fields," he said. "Along with outlining specific career fields that can be

used throughout our Air Force, we also looked at how we can deliberately manage their career to grow cyberspace warriors, leaders and future visionaries."

Cyber warriors will be identified as operators — officer and enlisted members who plan, direct and execute offensive and defensive actions; specialists — enlisted communications and information personnel who specialize in technical aspects of cyberspace; analysts — officer and enlisted intelligence personnel with the technical foundations to support cyberspace operations; and developers — primarily officers and enlisted with advanced skills for designing and modifying software and hardware packages.

This roadmap provides details about cyberspace operators and specialists. Particulars for analysts and developers are expected to be outlined later this year. These changes will affect approximately 30,000

active-duty members and about 2,000 Guard and Reserve forces currently performing cyber-related duties.

Maj. Timothy Franz, the AFCYBER (Provisional) chief of force development, said numerous teams will be meeting throughout the coming year to fine tune the changes.

"We have a lot of work ahead of us still, but we know the direction we're headed," Major Franz said. "We're now working on an implementation plan that will define specific goals, objectives and tasks to make this vision a reality. Some of these tasks can be worked quickly and others will take a few more years."

Along with identifying career specialties, the roadmap also outlines education and training paths. Professional development for the approximately 30,000 civilians in cyberspace is still under review, but they will also be fully integrated into the implementation plan.



U.S. Department of Defense photo/illustration

**Air Force officials have announced plans to develop its enlisted and officer corps into Airmen who specialize in establishing, controlling and fighting in the cyberspace domain. These new career fields will offer Airmen the opportunity to participate in developing the nation's ability to maintain command and control over the full range of its military capability while fostering the potential to disrupt those same abilities brought to bear by enemy nations.**

**RIMPAC**, From A1

warfighters," he said.

While working closely with other services and allied nations can be tough work, most leaders say it's rewarding.

"We learn an awful lot from working with our joint and coalition partners," said Col. Randy Moser, the Deputy Chief of Combat Operations in the 613th Air & Space

Operations Center.

"This is a great opportunity for us to work and build those relationships too, so that in a time of crisis or any particular operation we know and understand how each of the various components work," he said.

RIMPAC 2008 brings units from Australia, Canada, Chile, Japan, Netherlands, Peru,

Republic of Korea, Singapore, United Kingdom and the U.S. to participate, while India, Colombia, Mexico and Russia are scheduled to send observers.

The exercise employs 35 ships, six submarines, more than 150 aircraft and 20,000 Sailors, Airmen, Marines, Soldiers and Coastguardsmen.

**SECAF**, From A1

get from me is 'jointness,'" he said. "The Air Force is one part of a big team."

He outlined some of the ways the Air Force contributes to the ongoing joint fight in Iraq, Afghanistan and the war on terrorism both in the United States and around the world.

"I know the Air Force is contributing lots of mission sets and capabilities, and it is an impressive array, I can tell you," the acting secretary said.

A related theme is the support to the war on terrorism.

"This is a priority for this Air Force," he said. "We have more than 30,000 Airmen deployed around the world engaged in the war on terrorism in Iraq and Afghanistan."

One of Secretary Donley's first acts upon appointment was to visit Walter Reed

Hospital and speak with wounded Airmen. From this visit he gained an appreciation of their sacrifices and inspiration from them as well, as these warfighters all expressed their desire to heal quickly and get back in the fight. He also recognized those who stand behind and support the people on the pointed end of the spear.

His third theme is the welfare of Airmen. The acting secretary said the Air Force is a technology-driven service, but its most important asset is the knowledge, experience and commitment of the people who make it all work to support the warfighter.

"The welfare of our Airmen is very important to me, and I will try to strike the best balance in the Air Force budget between equipment needs and our people," the secretary

said.

After addressing his overall concerns, he spoke to the issue closest to Air Force Space Command members right now.

"The Air Force's credibility has been tarnished, and we need to rebuild it," he said. "The Air Force leadership needs to develop a roadmap for the nuclear enterprise to put us on the right track for stewardship of the nuclear mission that the defense establishment and the American people expect from us.

"There is no quicker route to recovery than the power of tens of thousands of Airmen and civilians rededicating themselves to the high standards of excellence that have always been the hallmark of the world's best Air Force," he said.

**Crime Scene****Damage to personal property**

A military family member/child of an active-duty Sailor assigned to Pearl Harbor reported damage to personal property at the Auto Resale Lot. The case is currently under investigation.

**Damage to personal property**

An active-duty AFOSI agent assigned to Hickam reported damage to personal property on Challenger Loop. The case is currently under investigation.

**Theft of unsecured personal property**

An E-3 assigned to the US Army reported theft of personal property at Bldg 1805/Mathies

Hall. The case is currently under investigation.

**Domestic assault**

A military family member spouse of an active-duty Soldier reported a domestic assault on Challenger Loop. The case is currently under investigation.

**Shoplifting**

Army Air Force Exchange Service store detectives observed a military family member/child of a retired Air Force member attempting to remove merchandise totaling \$43.90 without rendering payment. The individual will have his/her AAFES privileges revoked for one year and is awaiting for a juvenile magistrate hearing.

**DUI**

An active-duty Soldier was arrested by Security Forces at the Hickam Main Gate for Operating a Vehicle Under

the Influence of an Intoxicant. The individual submitted to and failed the breath test, which resulted in a Blood Alcohol Content of .207 percent. The Soldier's driving privileges were revoked from Hickam for one year, and he/she is currently awaiting civil court proceedings.

**Speeding**

A civilian was cited for driving 36 mph over the speed limit in a Hickam housing area.

**Speeding**

A civilian was cited for driving 27 mph over the speed limit in a Hickam housing area.

**Citation total for the week**

8 Civilian traffic citations  
33 Moving traffic citations  
14 Non-moving traffic citations  
5 Abandoned vehicle notices.



## Evacuation system continues improving to get troops home

**SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill. (AFPN)** — Since October 2001, more than 48,000 Soldiers, Marines, Sailors and Airmen have been aeromedically evacuated in support of the war on terrorism for both battle and nonbattle injuries.

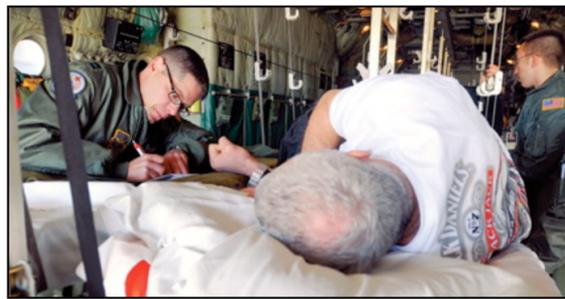
Air Mobility Command's Aeromedical Evacuation system provides the critical medical care from the front lines and contingencies around the

world.

"The AMC mission begins when our aeromedical evacuation teams are tasked for patient movement," said Maj. Sarah Coors-Davidson, the 618th Tanker Airlift Control Center aeromedical evacuation mission support branch chief. "Flights are arranged in designated theater areas to take the patients to the appropriate echelon of care, which often results in an en route stop in Ramstein (Air Base), Germany."

Deployed aeromedical evacuation teams work to evacuate patients from combat theaters to hospitals close to their home

## Making sure heroes get home



U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Maurice Hessel

**Capt. Kirk Smith records medication provided to a patient during a medical evacuation flight. Captain Smith is a 375th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron flight nurse from Scott Air Force Base, Ill.**

of record where further care will be provided, if necessary. These often lengthy airlift transports are when the aeromedical evacuation teams must be the most vigilant.

Air Mobility Command aircraft transport patients with an aeromedical evacuation crew on board, typically consisting of two flight nurses and three medical technicians. The aeromedical evacuation crew is responsible for caring for and monitoring each warfighter by helping alleviate pain, administering medications and providing nursing care during the transport. (By Capt. Jonathan

Stock, Air Mobility Command Public Affairs)

## SECAF delays global wing organizational structure changes

**WASHINGTON (AFPN)** — Last Week, acting Secretary of the Air Force Michael B. Donley directed the delay of the global wing organizational structure implementation.

The global wing structure is designed to realign fighter, bomber and rescue aircraft maintenance units into flying

**Continued on A6**

Continued from A5 squadrons.

The initiative would also rename all maintenance groups as materiel groups composed of logistics readiness squadrons, aerial port squadrons, maintenance squadrons and other maintenance functions not transferring with the AMUs.

Units across the Air Force had been directed to implement these changes between now and Nov. 30, 2008.

Secretary Donley directed the delay in order to have an

opportunity to discuss the appropriateness and timeliness of these changes with Air Force senior leaders.

A final implementation decision will not be made until after the secretary has conducted these discussions.

### Air Force seeks more efficient fuel practices to conserve energy

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill. (AFPN) — As oil

prices continue to soar, Air Mobility Command officials here are looking for ways to lower the amount of aviation fuel used by the command's fleet of airlifters and tankers.

An Air Force study using 2006 data revealed aviation fuel accounts for 82 percent of the Air Force's total energy consumption, with AMC accounting for 27 percent of that total.

The command's airlifters and tankers consumed 675 million gallons of jet fuel in 2006 at a total cost of \$1.5 billion. That was when a gallon of jet fuel cost \$2.27.

Now, as jet fuel prices have climbed above \$4 a gallon, AMC officials are searching for additional cost-saving initiatives to add to two major ones the command has instituted in recent years.

After studying fuel conservation methods used by commer-

cial airlines, AMC officials now put only enough fuel on its aircraft for them to complete their assigned missions, instead of a standard (or set) fuel load. (By Capt. Jonathan Stock, Air Mobility Command Public Affairs)

### AF Space Command sends six nominees to astronaut candidate selection board

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — Six AFSPC officers have been selected by an Air Force board to have a shot at a Mission Specialist berth with NASA for the astronaut class of 2009.

The nominees are: Maj. James E. Smith, Air Force Element, Buckley Air Force Base (AFELM); Maj. Jay A. Orson, AFELM; Capt.

Matthew R. Allen, AFELM; Maj. William J. Christopher, Global Positioning System Wing; Maj. James P. Lake, GPS Squadron; and Maj. David J. Laird, 1st Space Launch Squadron.

"I was happy to be nominated," said Major Christopher. "I have wanted to be an astronaut since I was in high school. That is why I went to the Air Force Academy. However, I also applied for the astronaut class of 2004 and was not selected, so I am taking a wait-and-see attitude."

This selection is one step in a very long and often complex process. It is a huge milestone for these potential astronaut candidates. According to Howard Peterson, the point of contact for the Air Force screening board, there were 213 Air Force nominees for this astronaut class. One hundred

forty-five were sent forward to NASA for medical screening, where 31 were dropped from consideration for medical reasons. The total sent forward by the Air Force is 114 for this class; 66 are for the Mission Specialist jobs.

These candidates are a diverse group.

"What they can bring to the NASA table will determine what they do for NASA," Mr. Peterson said.

Typically NASA gets about 3,000 to 4,000 applicants for an astronaut class, although they may receive as many as 6,000 for this one. Of these applicants, about 120 are chosen for interviews, and the normal class selected is 10 to 12 individuals, although some have been larger, dependent on NASA's needs. (By Ed White, Air Force Space Command Public Affairs)

## An out-of-this-world opportunity



U.S. Air Force photo

Six AFSPC officers have been selected by an Air Force board to have a shot at a Mission Specialist berth with NASA for the astronaut class of 2009. The six were winnowed down from an original list of 145 candidates sent forward to NASA.