



THE LEADER

Vol. 39, No. 29

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July 23, 2004



Red Eagles look toward future

See Pages 2, 8, 12-13

319th Air Refueling Wing ♦ Warriors of the North

Inside:

Weekend weather

Today	71/50	Mostly sunny
Saturday	80/54	Mostly sunny
Sunday	83/55	Mostly sunny
Monday	83/58	Partly sunny



*Weather information courtesy
319th Operations Support Squadron weather flight*

Sound retreat



Page 3

On the other side



Page 8

Fit to fight



Page 18

Teamwork, dedication key ingredients to great day

By Lt. Col. Brad Davis
911th Air Refueling Squadron

It's a new day in the United States Air Force, and especially so at Grand Forks AFB. New missions, new roles, new equipment, new technology, and new doctrine are all coming together to produce the most dynamic operational and strategic environment the Air Force has known since WWII.

Of course, it is always the case that the pace of change increases when we are at war, and our experience during the current Global War on Terror is no exception. However, history tells us that change is not always successfully accomplished and victory is not always the result; indeed, victory is rarely a sure thing.

Victory only comes as a result of not only determination and fortitude, but also a common focus and exceptional teamwork. Without these fundamentals, held together by the glue of core values, even the best teams can lose.

While the Air Force continues its march toward force modernization and network-based warfare, the KC-135 is also undergoing significant change. With new missions seemingly popping

out of the woodwork and new technologies being added to increase tanker capabilities, KC-135 crews and maintainers are being asked to do things previously unheard of in the world of air refueling.

The airlift mission, including passengers, cargo and medical patients, has grown from about 5 percent to 25 percent of the tanker mission over the last three years.

The KC-135 has been retro-fitted with multi-point refueling systems (MPRS—pronounced “mippers”), Roll-On, Beyond-Line-of-Sight Enhancement (ROBE), and most importantly, Global Air Traffic Management (GATM—pronounced “gat-um”) which is described in more detail in today’s paper.

During OIF, tankers were asked to routinely do what had only previously been done in emergencies—fly over enemy territory during hostilities.

As you can see, the tanker force is not only modernizing, but also expanding into new operational environments.

The combination of these new technologies and missions means that now, more than ever, the KC-135 community needs to rely on teamwork and a common focus to get the job done.

New technologies will challenge the way we have traditionally done business in the past, or are doing business today, and we need to be seeking new ideas and solutions before they become a problem. This is because, when we are at war, a “problem” equates directly to an advantage for the enemy and, possibly, lost American lives and battles.

In the flying and maintenance squadrons, these changes cannot be ignored, they are “in our face” 24/7. We are learning these new missions and training with this new equipment, sometimes faster than we would like, but there’s no time for delay.

However, none of this is possible without the active involvement of all 19 squadrons on base.

Only close cooperation and a com-

mon focus on the challenges that confront our future will give us the overwhelming odds of victory that we seek.

We in the 911th Air Refueling Squadron appreciate the support and mission focus of the warriors of Grand Forks AFB, professionals who put the odds so dramatically in our favor.

Without your teamwork and dedication, we would quickly stall in our efforts to provide America with the greatest air mobility capability in the world!

It certainly is a new day in the United States Air Force and, though we are engaged in a Global War on Terror and working hard to stay ahead of potential future adversaries, we are one team, committed to victory. It promises to be a great day.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

Col. Mark Ramsay
319th Air Refueling Wing commander

Action Line

Call 747-4522

The Action Line is your avenue for information about events and activities on and around the base. For questions about current events or rumors, leave a message.

Questions will be answered in the order they are received.

3

Consecutive DWI-free days

Goal is zero DWIs.



THE LEADER



Photo by Airman 1st Class Patrice Clarke

Cover: Capt. Joe Ramsey, 911th Air Refueling Squadron undergoes global air traffic management system flight instruction. This issue of *The Leader* highlights the people of the 911th ARS.

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Photo by Staff Sgt. Monte Volk

Sound retreat!

Military Training Instructors visited the Airman Leadership School July 15 and participated in the retreat ceremony. The MTIs gave the Air Education and Training Command Special Duty Briefing, looking for volunteers interested in becoming part of the elite MTI Corps.

Two DUIs land Airman in confinement

At a Summary Courts-Martial held on July 8, Airman Basic Trevor E. Fletcher of the 319th Maintenance Squadron pled guilty to driving while drunk in violation of Article 111 of the UCMJ, to consuming alcohol while under the legal drinking age on two occasions in violation of Article 92 of the UCMJ, and to failing to go to his appointed place of duty in violation of Article 86 of the UCMJ. Airman Fletcher pled not guilty to a second charge that he drove while drunk. The Summary Court-Martial officer accepted Airman Fletcher's guilty pleas and then heard evidence regarding the second drunk driving charge. He ultimately found Airman Fletcher guilty of the charge. He then sentenced him to be confined for 30 days and to forfeit \$500.

In the early morning hours of June 6, a Security Forces patrolman stopped Airman Fletcher's vehicle in the vicinity of "J" Street and Teak Avenue after he noticed that the operator failed to use his turn signal. When the patrolman approached the vehicle, he identified Airman Fletcher and noticed an odor of

an alcoholic beverage coming from the vehicle. He administered a field sobriety test, which Airman Fletcher failed. Airman Fletcher, who is under the legal drinking age of 21, later submitted to an intoxilyzer test and registered a blood alcohol concentration of 0.14 grams of alcohol per 210 liters of breath, exceeding North Dakota's 0.08 legal limit.

The very next night, Airman Fletcher was stopped again by a Security Forces patrolman who observed Airman Fletcher's vehicle weaving within its lane of traffic. Airman Fletcher failed a field sobriety test. This time, his intoxilyzer test registered a BAC of 0.07.

Although the BAC was below the legal limit, the Summary Court-Martial officer concluded that there was sufficient evidence to conclude, beyond a doubt, that Airman Fletcher was "drunk" as defined by the Manual for Courts-Martial – that is, that Airman Fletcher's intoxication was sufficient to impair the full exercise of his mental and physical faculties.

News

Health officials give researchers access

WASHINGTON (AFP) -- Defense Department health officials are making anonymous data taken from surveys of active-duty servicemembers available to government researchers.

Since 1980, DOD officials have conducted confidential, anonymous surveys among active-duty people through the "Survey of Health-Related Behaviors Among Military Personnel."

Military researchers generally use summaries of the data to develop health promotion and prevention programs for military forces, officials said.

Data from the most recent survey, taken in 2002, has been placed in a public-use file by researchers working on such issues as strategies for decreasing alcohol abuse and tobacco use. Under research rules, DOD officials are required to notify the public this data is being used by researchers.

"This will be the first time that a public-use file for the health-related behaviors survey will be used since the survey series began," according to a DOD health affairs news release.

More than 12,500 randomly selected servicemembers took the 2002 survey. Results were announced in March. Officials stressed all information made available for public use is anonymous and contains no identifying information.

Airman-Soldiers set to move in

By Tech. Sgt. Brian Jones
332nd Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

SOUTHWEST ASIA (AFPN) -- More than 150 Airmen completed the final stages of live-fire convoy training here July 16 before deploying north to Mosul as part of the 494th Air Expeditionary Force Truck Company.

"You will be on the frontlines. You will be facing the enemy everyday in some of the most dangerous areas in Iraq," said Col. Gary Shick, the 732nd Expeditionary Mission Support Group commander who addressed the group when training BEGAN July 14.

After completing the three-week Basic Combat Convoy Course at Lackland Air Force Base and Camp Bullis, Texas, the vehicle operators arrived here for three days of follow-up training. The transporters will replace Airmen deployed to Mosul since February.

The final stages of training covers close-quarters marksmanship where Airmen will fire their M-4s at targets while moving in close proximity to each other. They also receive familiarization training with weapons such as a .50-caliber and Mark-19 weapons.

The training ends with live-fire convoy tactics where the vehicle operators drive a 10-kilometer (6.21-mile) course and encounter various scenarios like sniper attacks and improvised explosive devices.

The training these Airmen are going through has evolved from what the first transporters to deploy into Iraq experienced earlier in the year.

"From our initial training we were able to rely on a lot of lessons learned," said Chief Master Sgt. Michael Taylor, the 732nd EMSG's rear detachment chief enlisted manager and a career vehicle operator. "The original training took about six weeks all in the theater. Now,

most of the training is conducted (in Texas) and the training here has been cut down to less than a week."

The Air Force is training vehicle operators for convoy missions to fill shortfalls the Army has experienced during Operation Iraqi Freedom. The Airmen will be tactically assigned to Army units, and their training before deploying to the combat zone will prepare them to fully incorporate into those units.

"Once they hit Camp Bullis, they start speaking Army," said Maj. Daniel McGee, group's rear detachment commander. "They organize just like the Army, and when they fall into their units in Iraq, they need to be task-organized like the Army and need to speak the lingo."

The new breed of Airman-Soldiers who are currently deployed and those who are preparing to take their place have adapted well to changing the way they normally operate.

"You go through your Air Force career and learn leadership skills, but you're never trained to lead Airmen into combat," Chief Taylor said. "It's a tribute to our Air Force culture. These Airmen can think on their feet and make quick decisions and that hasn't changed in the combat zone."

For many of the Airmen, it has taken some time to adjust to their new procedures.

"I was a little shocked. I had no idea I'd be doing this," said Airman Lee Webber, a vehicle operator deployed from Moody AFB, Ga., who has only been in the Air Force for six months. "Sometimes I wake up and wonder if it's all a dream. Sometimes I don't feel like an Airman, and I don't feel like a Soldier. I just feel military."

"I've been in convoys (before), but never in combat. It's a new experience and eye opener for all of us," said



Photos by Airman 1st Class Heather Norris

Airman 1st Class Gurtavo Corte (left) and Senior Airman Douglas Thompson inspect their .50-caliber machine gun mounted on a Humvee during a live-fire training exercise July 13. More than 150 Airmen completed the final stages of live-fire convoy training at Balad Air Base, Iraq, on July 16 before deploying north to Mosul as part of the 494th Air Expeditionary Force Truck Company.

Senior Airman James Seay, a vehicle operator deployed from Elmendorf AFB, Alaska. "I'm excited and a little scared at the same time. We're all ready to get there and get the job done. We know what we have to do; all that's left now is doing it."

Much of the training has focused on team building and communication, skills that will be critical to mission success in Iraq.

"The most important thing we give them is each other," said Chief Master Sgt. Carl Hunsinger, the truck company's top enlisted Airmen deployed from Yokota Air Base, Japan. "They have to know there is always somebody to talk to. They really have to get to know everything about each other so they can tell when there's a problem and be able to get their heads back into the game."

While the Airmen's greatest concern in the region is each other, some also hope their actions change the way their Air Force specialty is viewed.

"As operators, we're trained to be there on-time, every time. We do that on a daily basis and have never really gotten the recognition," Chief Taylor said. "These guys are now even prouder to be Airmen and vehicle operators."

"In the past, people just saw us as bus drivers," Airman Seay said. "Now, I think we'll gain a lot more respect."

Whether or not these combat Airmen change the way others view their career field, they are definitely breaking new ground for the Air Force.

"You're doing a good thing for the United States of America. You're doing a good thing for the people of Iraq. You're doing a good thing for the world, and you're making Air Force history," Colonel Shick said.

There are about 500 Air Force vehicle operators running convoys in Iraq. About 200 Air Force civil engineers and Airmen specializing in petroleum, lubricants and oil are supporting Army ground units.



A convoy prepares to go on a training mission July 15. More than 150 Airmen participated in the training exercise designed to prepare them for upcoming missions. The Airmen completed the final stages of live-fire convoy training at Balad Air Base, Iraq, on July 16 before deploying north to Mosul as part of the 494th Air Expeditionary Force Truck Company.

DOD developing training to help potential captives

By Donna Miles

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFP) -- Defense Department officials are taking a hard look at the way they train servicemembers to avoid capture and, if they do fall into enemy hands, how to handle themselves.

A new "core captivity curriculum," expected to be completed this summer, is designed to update training currently being provided to servicemembers whose jobs put them at the highest risk of being captured, said Col. Mark Bracich, director of policy, doctrine and training for the Joint Personnel Recovery Agency at Fort Belvoir, Va.

Colonel Bracich said the curriculum is being developed jointly by the services for incorporation into training offered at their survival schools. If validated, key concepts of the new curriculum are expected to be introduced into training for all servicemembers beginning with their initial military training, he said.

The new curriculum is designed to address the "asymmetric" modern-day battlefield -- one without clear-cut front lines or clear distinctions between friend and foe.

It also considers peacekeeping, humanitarian and other noncombat missions today's military carries out. In these situations, Colonel Bracich said, servicemembers are as likely to be taken hostage by a splinter group as they are to be taken prisoner of war by an enemy army.

As the battlefield has changed, so have traditional notions about who is most likely to be captured, he said. For example, during the first days of Operation Iraqi Freedom, it was not combat troops who became the first U.S. prisoners of war, but rather, combat-support Soldiers from the Army Reserve's 507th Maintenance Company.

"More people are being put into more levels of risk in more environments," Colonel Bracich said. "It raises the question: Are we doing the right thing for the right people at the right time? This is something we're working with the services to figure out."

Army Chief Warrant Officer Dave Williams, whose AH-64D Longbow Apache helicopter was shot down over Iraq in March 2003, said his 21 days of captivity reinforced the need for additional training for all servicemembers, regardless of their job specialty.

"When you go into a situation like Iraq, there are no friendly lines," he said. "Everybody is at high risk of capture, regardless of your (specialty)."

As a former member of the Army's 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment, Chief Warrant Officer Williams had gone through the Army's three-week survival school at Fort Bragg, N.C., in 1997.

The course, he said, gave him the tools he needed to evade capture as long as possible, along with his copilot, Chief Warrant Officer Ronald Young Jr. Once they were captured and taken to the Al Rashid prison in Baghdad, Chief Warrant Officer Williams said the course helped him endure the hardships of captivity and, as the senior U.S. prisoner, help his fellow Soldiers.

He said he established a chain of command and "developed a fellowship with the other prisoners," Chief Warrant Officer Young and five Soldiers from the 507th Maintenance Company. Their captivity, he said, included torture and psychological abuse.

Unlike Chief Warrant Officer Williams, the 507th Maintenance Company Soldiers had no training in what to expect or how to behave in a prisoner-of-war situation, he said. Their only training -- and the only training currently provided to the vast majority of service-

members -- was limited to a briefing on the Code of Conduct during basic training.

Army Pfc. Patrick Miller, one of the 507th captives, admitted that he, like most servicemembers who receive this training, did not expect to ever have much use for it. But not surprisingly, Private Miller has since become a big advocate of more training in how to handle oneself if captured. "Everybody needs it," he said.

Servicemembers considered at "moderate" risk of capture receive slightly more training, generally consisting of eight to 10 hours of videos about survival techniques and sometimes field training, Colonel Bracich said.

Only those servicemembers whose duties put them at the highest risk of capture attend their service's survival school. There, they learn fundamentals ranging from what is safe to eat when they are in the field evading capture to how to resist their captor's attempts to exploit them. They also go through realistic scenarios similar to what they might face during captivity.

"Everything I was taught in the course got applied in a real-world situation," Chief Warrant Officer Williams said.

And while acknowledging that "nothing can fully prepare you" for the hardship and loneliness of captivity, Chief Warrant Officer Williams said he is committed to sharing everything he has experienced and learned with his fellow servicemembers in case they fall into a similar situation. He has lectured at military posts around the country and recently became the new officer in charge of the survival school at Fort Rucker, Ala.

Meanwhile, Chief Warrant Officer Williams said he is encouraged by the military's effort to train more servicemembers in how to avoid capture and successfully endure captivity if necessary.

News Briefs

Reimbursement available for R&R leave

WASHINGTON (AFP) -- Servicemembers who traveled on rest and recuperation leave while deployed supporting operations Enduring Freedom or Iraqi Freedom between Sept. 25 and Dec. 18, may be eligible for reimbursement of airline costs.

Reimbursement for airline costs is retroactive for those people who paid for commercial airline tickets from the port they flew into from overseas, such as Baltimore-Washington International Airport, to their final leave destination.

According to records, about 40,000 servicemembers traveled during the period.

More information is available at www.armyg1.army.mil/WellBeing/RRLeave/index.HTM. (Courtesy of U.S. Army Public Affairs)

Airman dies in maintenance accident

CHARLESTON AIR FORCE BASE, S.C. (AFP) -- Tech. Sgt. Joseph Gardner III died early July 18 while performing an inspection on a C-17 Globemaster III.

An investigation is currently under way to determine how he became pinned under the spoiler on the aircraft's wing.

Sergeant Gardner, 37, was an integrated avionics technician with the 437th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron here. He entered the Air Force in August 1988, arrived here in 2002, and was being reassigned to the 723rd Air Mobility Squadron at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, later this month.

Hailing from Eight Mile, Ala.,

Sergeant Gardner was single and is survived by his parents, Joseph and Claudia Gardner, and his sister, Lori, and brother, Kenneth.

Military family housing construction

In preparation for the next construction phase of 144 new housing units, the central part of housing, J Street to Louisiana Street and South Nevada Drive to Redwood Drive, is now enclosed by a new construction fence. A temporary bypass road is open across the street from the Sunflake Chapel to allow direct access to Eielson Elementary School and the Eielson exit gate.

Our goal is to build the highest quality housing units for our people.

Air University earns accreditation

MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, Ala. (AFP) -- After an exhaustive three-year process, Air University has been granted initial accreditation by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools retroactive to Jan. 1.

The commission accredits degree-granting higher-education institutions and entities that meet its administrative and educational requirements.

Dr. Glen Spivey, Air University's chief academic officer, said he hopes this is only the beginning of a long and beneficial relationship with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

It means Air Command and Staff College students can earn a master's degree in military operational art and science.

911th ARS emergency hire provides a look...

Beyond the windowpane

By Staff Sgt. Monte Volk
Public Affairs

Service members. Marines. Military police. Aircrews. Each group falls into a mental cookie cutter image...a perceived stereotype. By stereotyping, most people only get to the windowpane, but most often, people need to see what's on the other side to make a fair judgment.

Nearly everyone in the 911th Air Refueling Squadron is dubbed the stereotype of someone wearing a flight suit. A closer look reveals the Red Eagles patch on the sleeve and a name on the aircrew patch.

"I've always heard the typical stereotype, but I've never experienced it or seen it here," said Aurora Perkins, 911th ARS scheduler who is a civilian emergency hire. "They are very professional people who know they have to get the job done."

The more than 80 Red Eagles are constantly busy. With Red Eagles deployed in support of Operations Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom and Noble Eagle, as well as TDY for training, they stay gone an average of 144 days per year.

In between missions over Iraq and Afghanistan, training missions over the Midwest Plains and family time, the Red Eagles still need their regularly scheduled training such as weapons qualification, Personal Health Assessment, physical fitness test, immuniza-

tions, dental, etc. On top of that, they need aircrew specific training like high risk of capture briefing and the altitude chamber.

"It's like 'Oh my lord,' these folks are gone all the time!" said Mrs. Perkins. "I do all the scheduling (for the 911th ARS), and with their high ops tempo, what I schedule for next week will fluctuate up until the day before, sometimes, even that day."

To get their families through deployments, the Red Eagles rely heavily on camaraderie.

"It's hard to know everyone in larger squadrons with so many people, but here (in the 911th ARS), everyone knows everyone and it's more of a small-town atmosphere," said Staff Sgt. Casey Ham, 911th ARS boom operator.

"If someone needs something personally or professionally, they do what they can to get it done," said Mrs. Perkins. "A while back, a pilot who was deployed, had a flood in his basement here. Within a few minutes, five people volunteered to help his wife and two children out. A couple of the guys hadn't even met (the deployed pilot)."

"I have been here since April and a couple of weeks ago, I finally met everyone in the squadron," said Mrs. Perkins. "I have a much deeper appreciation, respect and understanding for what they do...they are the ultimate professionals."

Wearing flight suits or not, the Red Eagles are one family, striving toward one mission and are committed

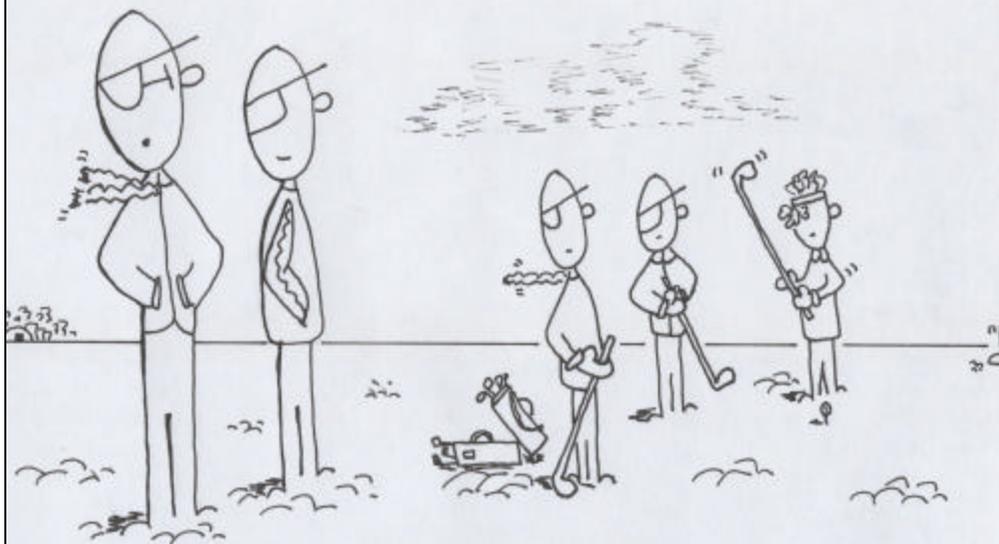


Photo by Staff Sgt. Monte Volk

Aurora Perkins, 911th Air Refueling Squadron scheduler and civilian emergency hire, stands in front of a stained-glass windowpane of the Red Eagles shield.

to excellence, and if people accept someone else's stereotyped image of how they're perceived, people limit their choices and confine themselves to looking at an empty windowpane.

It Could Be Worse...



They play the '40-40' rule...above 40 degrees temperature and below 40 miles per hour wind.

© Steve Edwards Gilby, MD.

Base chapel

CATHOLIC:

Sunday Mass: 9 a.m. Sunflower Chapel

Weekday Mass: 11:30 a.m. Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Sunflower Chapel

Reconciliation: 8:30 to 8:45 a.m. Sunday, Sunflower Chapel, or by appointment by calling 747-5673.

For details on educational programs, call Jane Hutzol at 747-3073.

PROTESTANT:

Traditional Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Sunflower Chapel

Contemporary Worship: 6 p.m. Sunday, Prairie Rose Chapel

Men of the Chapel Bible Study: Noon Monday, Prairie Rose Chapel conference room

Young Adults: 6 p.m. Friday, Chaplain (Capt.) Brian Swain's home. Call 747-4359 for details.

Women's Bible Study: 7 a.m. Monday, Prairie Rose Chapel. Call 594-3916 for details.

JEWISH:

Call Synagogue B'nai Israel at 775-5124.

MUSLIM, BUDDHIST, ORTHODOX, OTHER:

Call 747-5673 for details.

Base theater

Tickets: \$1.50 children, \$3 adults

For details, call 747-3021/6123.



Today, 7 p.m.

Garfield (PG)

This live-action film version of the Jim Davis comic strip features a CGI main character, voiced by Bill Murray, and Breckin Meyer as Jon Arbuckle, Garfield's owner. Jon brings home a cute, lovable doggie named Odie, whom Garfield can't stand, of course. When Odie is kidnapped, Garfield feels guilty and decides to find and return the pup.

Saturday, 3 and 7 p.m.

The Terminal (PG-13)

An Eastern European immigrant in the United States (Tom Hanks) is forced to live permanently at an airport when his war-torn former country's borders are erased — voiding his passport and leaving him with no political home. The refugee meets and falls in love with a flight attendant (Catherine Zeta-Jones), which prompts a bold escape plan.

July 30, 7 p.m.

Two Brothers (PG)

July 31, 7 p.m.

Dodgeball: A true Underdog Story (PG-13)

Global Air Traffic Management system packs ‘em in like sardines

By Airman 1st Class Patrice Clarke
Public affairs

Every week Capt. Chris Hawkins instructs two to four different pilots in global air traffic management systems upgrade training. He has to pack his bags, kiss his wife and kids goodbye and prepare himself for yet another trip to Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii. It's a tough job but someone has to do it.

The KC-135 is constantly undergoing upgrades. The latest in a long list of navigational upgrades is the installation of the GATM system found in almost all commercial aircraft.

Captains Hawkins and James Wilson have the unique responsibility of training the rest of the base pilots in the use of new equipment. GATM computer systems, in short enables the pilots to "talk" to air traffic controllers without a radio.

"There are so many aircraft flying right now that radios are becoming increasingly clogged," said Captain Hawkins.

The remedy, get rid of radios.

GATM is a giant "instant messaging" system. An air traffic controller can now talk to different aircraft all at the same time. Before they could only talk to one aircraft at a time.

The system not only allows controllers and the Tanker Control Center to better communicate with pilots in the air it also helps to control air traffic.

"It's clown shoes [amazing] how the amount of air traffic has increased in recent years," said

Captain Hawkins.

Due to high operations tempos more aircraft are being tasked every day to fly numerous hours. But military aircraft aren't the only ones flying. Commercial aircraft have to fly the same airspace.

"The GATM system helps control and manage that system a little easier," said Captain Hawkins.

"Aircraft need space," he said. "And with increased aircraft means less space for the aircraft to fly in. Since we can't create more space we have to make the distance between aircraft shorter so more aircraft can fit in the same

amount of space. GATM uses computers to regulate and manage the 'closing of the gap.'"

Right now a KC-135 needs a certain amount of air space. With the GATM system the goal is to have two or three aircraft fit into the same amount of space ordinarily occupied by one aircraft.

The upgrade to the GATM system also lends some subtle aesthetic changes to the aircraft.

A GATM aircraft has an extra monitor on the control panel, more computer systems, antennae, a new transmitter fin on the belly of the aircraft and satellite wires on the top of the aircraft.

It also has a new joystick-like controller on the armrest of the pilot and copilot seats.

"This new controller helps us navigate through all the menus the new system has," said Captain Jeff Roper, 911th ARS.

Where do Captain Hawkins and Captain Wilson come in?

Pretty soon all KC-135 assigned to this base will be upgraded to GATM systems, meaning all pilots will need training.

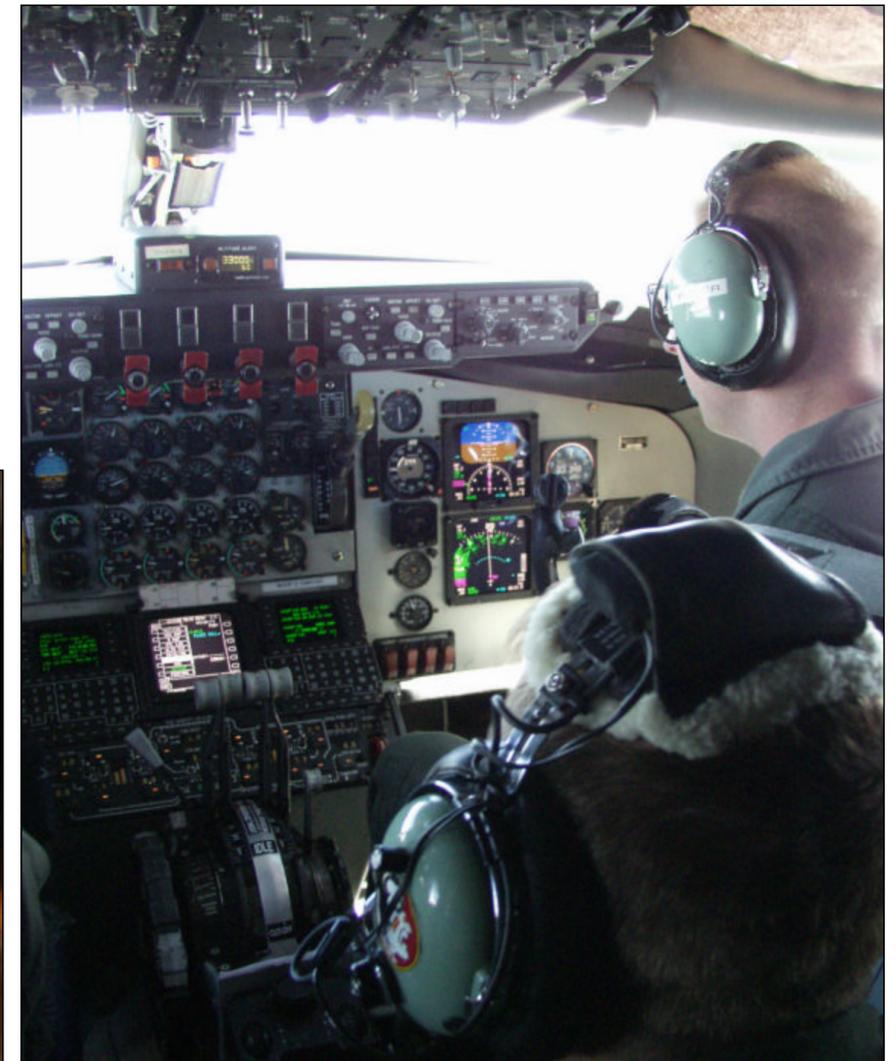
Pilots are required to get numerous ground hours in the GATM simulator here. Along with the simulator hours they must also attain a week of computer based training on the subject. Pilots

have not completed their entire GATM training unless they spend one hour in a data link environment.

A data link environment is an environment where the aircraft reports directly to air traffic control through a data link.

The closest data link environment is in the Pacific and the closest base in the Pacific is Hickam AFB.

"We spend a lot of time in the air going back and forth to Hawaii," said Captain Hawkins. "Soon this system will be in all Air Force aircraft. I'm just glad that I can be a part in bringing everyone up to speed."



Photos by Airman 1st Class Patrice Clarke

(Above) Capt. Chris Hawkins, bottom right, explains the purpose of the extra monitor on the control panel to Captains Jeff Roper, right, and Joe Ramsey, left. The extra monitor is for the Global Air Traffic Management systems already installed in eight KC-135s here. Eventually, GATM will be installed in all military aircraft.

(Left) Captains Roper, Hawkins, and Ramsey thumb through the flight publications on one of the many upgraded computer systems on board the aircraft.

(Top Right) Capt. Hawkins keeps a watchful eye on Capt. Roper during his training flight July 14. Upgrade training consists of numerous simulator hours, a week of computer-based training and one hour of data-link environment training accomplished during the training flight.

(Right) A visible difference on the outside of GATM aircraft is a transmitter fin on the belly of the aircraft.



Base Activities

Saturday

Video Night

Preteen video night tonight for ages 6 to 12 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the youth center. The cost is \$1 for non-members and free for members. Popcorn is included.

Sunday

Sunday brunch

The Northern Lights Club ATWIND



Sunday Brunch is from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The cost is \$11.75 for adults, \$8.25 for children age 5 to 12 and children four and under free. Don't forget the \$3 Members First discount for club members. The next brunch is Aug. 8.

Monday

Candy Bingo

Candy Bingo is tonight for ages 6 to 12 at 6:30 p.m. and ages 13 to 18 at 7:30 p.m. at the youth center. The cost \$1 for non-members and free for members.

Tuesday

Summer reading program

Library: The summer reading program runs through July 27 at the library. Youth in grades first to sixth and families can participate. Programs are:

Wagon Train Around the Library

For every hour of reading time, receive a wagon to add to the wagon train around the library. The goal is to get around the library by the end of summer.

Barnes & Noble Reading Certificates

Every registered child gets a chance to earn a certificate for a free book for every eight books read by or to the child. Each child can earn two certificates.

Lewis & Clark Game

Registered participants get a reading log sheet for the game.

For every landmark accomplished, a prize will be awarded. For every finished game, participants receive a chance at prize drawings at the end of the Summer

Reading Program. Play as many times as you can. For details call the library at 747-3046.

Wednesday

Lake Bronson camping & hiking trip

Date: July 31

Depart: 8 a.m. from outdoor recreation

Return: Sunday evening

Cost: 2 person package \$76, 4 person package \$126, 6 person package \$186

Deadline: July 28

Dollar lunch day

Today is "Dollar" Lunch Day at the Northern Lights Club. This is for Club Members ONLY, non-member will pay the regular price. Today entrée is BBQ!

Fine arts program

Youth, take part in this great program today at the Youth Center. This program is meant to provide Club members with the opportunities to create works of art for display in a local exhibit. The goal is to help youth to uncover their artistic talents and motivate them to develop their

creative skills and possibly explore related career opportunities. Ages 6 – 12 are at 6:30 p.m. and ages 13 – 18 at 8 p.m. A qualified instructor will be present. Cost is \$3 members, \$5 non-members.

Thursday

Fun bus

The Youth Program's Fun Bus will be at Sunflake Circle Playground today from 3 to 5 p.m. Games, arts & crafts, tournaments, and a variety of summer time activities for school-age youth will be offered by the youth programs staff.

Upcoming

Read by mail program

The Summer Read by Mail Program runs



through Aug. 7. Grades K to Second, Third to Fifth and Sixth to Eighth can participate in this program by stopping by the youth center to register online. Youth can read different books, take a test and watch their points go up over the summer. Youth can turn in their points to receive prizes. For details call 747-3150. Receive an ATWIND game piece for registering.

Warriors of the North fit to fight

By Airman First Class Patrice Clarke
Public Affairs

It's apparent that fitness is here to stay. Top Air Force leaders have already completed their initial test and have all shown to be fit to fight. The question is how is Grand Forks Air Force Base doing in the whole scheme of things?

The sports and fitness center here have the answers.

"There has defiantly been an increase in the amount of gym-goers in the past few months," said Staff Sgt. Steven Fry.

Before the start of the Fit to fight campaign the sports and fitness saw an average of 600 patrons a day.

"We see about 2,100 come through here everyday," said Sergeant Fry.

All aspects of the fitness center increased. The core exercises involved in the fitness test – sit-ups, pushups, and the mile and a half run seem to be the main focus of most gym-goers workouts said Sergeant Fry. Total fitness all around is being shown throughout the base member's actions.

Sports are on a rise due to the squadron mandated sports time. Squadrons tend to make it a fun experience not just the usual basic training style workout. Squadrons are moving towards circuit training and sports that focus on cardiovascular exercise.

The gym is packed in the morning, especially Wednesday and Friday mornings when most squadrons exercise.

Sports like indoor soccer and basketball are some sports squadrons take advantage of at the fitness center.

The new fitness trail is also getting a good workout. Since the onset of the warmer weather, more and more groups of people are seen using the outdoor trail.

"Last year around the same time the running trail wasn't complete," said Sergeant Fry. "With the warmer weather here, many squadrons will do their push-ups and sit-ups inside and come outside to run the mile and a half on the running trail," he said.

Step classes and other aerobics classes that are offered for squadrons are also all the rage.

"The actual aerobics classes that are offered at the gym had to be decreased," said Sergeant Fry. "It's not that people aren't exercising, they take the optional time offered them during the day and don't go to classes as much."

Intramural and varsity sports have all seen an increase in participation.

Even though it was the varsity men's basketball's first season, they still had a great turnout in participation said Tech. Sgt. D.J.Lemelle, coach of the Warrior's Varsity Basketball team.

Intramural softball started this season with four more squadron teams then last year.

Airman 1st Class Jennifer Wallen, 319th Communications Squadron, is a member of the squadron softball team and the women's varsity softball team. "I play because I love the sport," said Airman Wallen. "What better way to stay in shape but by doing something I love?"

More people are also participating in fun runs and walks that are sponsored by the 319th Services Squadron.

"This year we had over 140 people participate in the Freedom Fun Run July 7," said Tech Sgt. Peter Bruni. "That's almost doubled from the previous run a month ago," he said.

Whether base members are playing basketball with members of their shops or taking an early morning aerobics class the main point is to get involved and continue working out.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Patrice Clarke

Airman Patrick Holmes, 319th Civil Engineer Squadron lifts weights during his squadron fitness time. The 319th CES has squadron fitness every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday morning.

Sports shorts

Boater safety course

Want to rent a boat? Outdoor recreation requires this free class before you can rent powered watercraft from us.

North Dakota law requires youth ages 12 to 15 to pass an approved boater safety course before they can operate watercraft over ten horsepower, including personal watercraft. Additionally, many insurance companies offer a premium discount to boat owners who complete this course. Sign up at outdoor recreation.
Class Dates: Wednesday from 5:30 to 8 p.m.

Air Force marathon

The 8th Annual Air Force Marathon is Sept. 18, at Wright Patterson Air Force Base. Several new award categories have been added including Top Male and Female major command finisher's and total MAJCOM participation.

The 26.2-mile course traverses histor-

ical places including the USAF Museum, the AF Institute of Technology, Huffman Prairie Flying Field and the Wright Brothers Memorial Monument.

General John W. Handy, Air Mobility Command commander encourages AMC participation in this fit to fight event.

Festivities include a two-day sports exposition, pre-race pasta dinner, race day opening ceremony, and a post-race party.

For more information visit <http://afmarathon.wpafb.af.mil>.

Post player needed

The Men's Varsity Basketball Team is looking for post players for the upcoming season.

If you have high school/college experience playing the 4 or 5 position and interested in playing college level basketball, please call or email Tech Sgt. D.J. Lemelle at 747-3604.



Courtesy photo

Bambino's

The Grand Forks Air Force Base Warriors 10-12 year old baseball team won their finale tournament at the Gerrells Flickertail Division held in Grand Forks June 26. The team came back from two losses the night before to win three straight games. The Warriors beat the Grand Forks White Sox 10-0 in the championship game. Team members SJ Hewitt and Matthew McDonald have been selected for the Grand Forks All Star Team and the state tournament in Dickinson, N.D.