

Associate PRESS

446th Airlift Wing, Air Force Reserve
McChord Air Force Base, Washington
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Vol. 21, No. 6 ♦ The Home Team ♦ June 1999

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Stop-Loss keeps needed reservists from changing status

▲ Operation Allied Force in the Balkans becomes driving force behind this Stop-Loss

An Air Force-wide Stop-Loss went into effect June 15, temporarily keeping active-duty people, unit reservists and individual mobilization augmentees in critical career fields from moving to inactive status.

▼ How it works

The Stop-Loss affects the following:

- ♦ Expiration term of service;
- ♦ Mandatory separation date, including age 60;
- ♦ Reassignment to a lower category of availability;
- ♦ Assignment to the Retired Reserve, awaiting pay at age 60;
- ♦ Assignment to retired status at age 60; and
- ♦ All separations before expiration term of service, that are for the convenience of the member.

Secretary of the Air Force Whitten Peters and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Michael Ryan announced their decision to implement the program May 26. They emphasized that the plan is to keep disruption of lives of Air Force men and

According to Chief Master Sgt. Janice Hansen, chief of personnel programs, six members of the wing will be affected by Stop-Loss in June and another six in July. If Stop-Loss continues through the rest of the year, more than 75 members of the wing, who were planning on separating from the Air Force Reserve, will be impacted.

Overall, some 35,000 members of the Selected Reserve are potentially affected by this action.



C-141 aircrew members are just some of the 35,000 Air Force Reservists affected by Stop-Loss.

U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Stan Parker

▼ BY THE NUMBERS

In all, there are more than 1,500 members of the 446th Airlift Wing in "critical skills" under the Stop-Loss program. If Stop-Loss continues up to 2000, more than 75 members of the wing who were scheduled to leave or retire from the Air Force Reserve will be impacted.

MONTH	PEOPLE
June	6
July	6
August	7
September	1
October	17
November	37
December	3

women to a minimum.

"We take Stop-Loss seriously and are working hard to ensure the lives of our Air Force members, their families and the civilian employers are not disrupted any longer than is necessary to meet our national commitments," Ryan said. "It is important that all of these people understand how seriously we take this program and how much we appreciate the individual sacrifices that will be made because of it."

The driving force behind the decision is

the ongoing air campaign in the Balkans.

In Air Force Reserve Command, the Stop-Loss temporarily blocks changes of reservists' status that would allow them to leave units or programs at risk for call-up.

Reserve personnel officials said loss or reassignment actions projected on or after June 15 will be canceled and rescheduled after the Stop-Loss ends. Reservists affected by the Stop-Loss will receive written notice of their status from their unit commander. When the Stop-Loss is revoked, military personnel flights or program managers will work with affected reservists to establish a separation or retirement date.

Personnel officials suggest that affected reservists review their dependents' identification cards to ensure they do not expire and ensure their dependents are correctly registered in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System database. To determine proper DEERS enrollment or to renew ID cards that will expire soon, reservists should contact the nearest MPF or their program manager.

Commanders and program managers can temporarily waive participation require-

446th Associate Press

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June 1999

Friday, June 25 is the deadline for articles in the July issue of the **446th Associate Press**.

All articles and photographs must be turned in to the 446th Public Affairs office, Bldg. 1205, Room 210 by 4 p.m.

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Our freedom has been a blessing, not free

By Col. Alan Mitchell
◆ Wing Commander

Greetings to all. I'm sure you are all looking forward to Independence Day weekend. Our freedom is certainly a blessing and it's certainly not free or to be taken for granted.

We are especially mindful of our troops, regardless of service or component, who are deployed — many of whom are in harm's way this summer.

We all owe our families a big "thank you" for all they do to support our program. Did you know that the Air Force Reserve provides 21 percent of the total Air Force combat capability for only 3 percent of the cost? It's true and it's only possible through your continued efforts.

Please come out and enjoy the Family Day activities planned by your squadrons this summer. We'd like to get better acquainted with you and are sure you'll have a good time, learn a little about family readiness and have a good meal, too.

On the front page of the *446th Associate Press*, you read about the "Stop-Loss" policy we are under as our nation draws on our expertise to get through the current



Col. Alan Mitchell

Commander's Hotline
1. 2 5 3. 9 8 4. 9 1 3 3



Your comments, suggestions and concerns are important for me to address. Call the Commander's Hotline at 253-984-9133 or fill out an Immediate Action Worksheet (on the insert of the Associate Press), and I'll have an answer for you in the next newspaper.

◆ Col. Alan Mitchell, commander

crisis in Kosovo.

Please feel free to call our Action Line if there are any questions left unanswered.

Think "Safety" in all your summer activities.

See you at the unit training assembly.

Honor guard duty: showing respect to deserving

By Chief Master Sgt. Billy Blackburn
◆ Air Force Reserve Command
Command Chief Master Sergeant

Paying proper respect to those who have served our country is a very important part of military life, both for active and reserve personnel.

Reservists have a great opportunity to participate in military funeral honors and assure active-duty members, reservists, retirees and veterans receive an appropriate ceremony.

With the closure of many military bases and the downsizing of the active force, the Department of Defense is looking to reserve commands and the National Guard to augment the active force to provide these ceremonies.

Air Force Reserve Command wing com-

manders are encouraged to solicit volunteers from their units to join the active-duty honor guard that is responsible for the geographic region where they are located. Military personnel appropriation funds pay for the training and the performance of military funeral honors. The unit must pay for the uniform requirements.

This is an excellent opportunity to participate for pay and retirement and ensure those who have served their country receive the respect they truly deserve.

◆ AFRC News Service

Editor's note: Members of the 446th Airlift Wing who would like to see about the possibility of having our own honor guard can contact Senior Master Sgt. Steve Badowski, 446th Services Flight at 984-2464.

◆ Facing off

'Top doc' answers questions about the Anthrax vaccine

Editor's note: The recent decision to administer the Anthrax vaccination to military personnel has prompted many questions and also many rumors.

1st. Lt. Tamara Lewis, a member of the 446th Airlift Wing Public Affairs office talked with Col. (Dr.) Mike Jones, commander of the 446th Medical Group to get some answers on the subject.

Q Why does there seem to be such a concern with this vaccination?

A My first thought is that you have to get the shot so often. There are six shots, administered over an 18-month period, and then a booster every year after. This is new...all the other vaccinations have been there forever.

That might account for some of the concern. There is also a lot of misinformation out there, and that's what fuels the hysteria.

Q So, in your opinion, is the vaccine safe?

A Yes, it has an amazing safety record. Of more than 400,000 doses given throughout DOD only about 1 percent of military people reported minor

side effects. It's one of the safest vaccines we have.

There are many more serious reactions to Polio vaccines than there have been to the Anthrax vaccine.

Q Why, all of a sudden, is it imperative that military members receive the vaccine?

A It's a serious threat now. We learned in Desert Storm, and through inspections in that area, that the threat was real. We need to be prepared.

Q Many people believe the Anthrax vaccine has not been approved for use by the Federal Drug Administration. Is that true?

A Absolutely not. The vaccine has been approved for more than 25 years and has been used routinely by veterinarians, laboratory workers and livestock workers. There has never been a report of anyone having serious adverse effects.

The confusion about approval came about during Desert Storm. The vaccine has FDA approval. However, each lot produced - just like the majority of pharmaceutical drugs - has to be quality

controlled and approved. During Desert Storm, because of the urgency of getting the vaccine over there, there may have been a lot that went over that was not quality inspected. The vaccine is approved by the FDA and has been for years.

Q A well known doctor, Dr. Leonard Horowitz, recommends that you not take the vaccine.

A Dr. Horowitz also recommends against immunizing infants from hepatitis B and believes that many of the vaccines we've used for years are not necessary and may cause harm.

In general, his stance is no different than usual. It's just because the Anthrax vaccine has been in the news a lot, that his stance has received a lot of attention.

Q What happens if I refuse to take the immunization?

A That's not a medical issue - it's a commander's issue. To do our job we must have a safe and protected deployable force. If you are not immunized...you are not deployable. If you are not deployable...you can't do your job and could be discharged.

STOP-LOSS

Continued from Page 1

ments for reservists experiencing personal hardship during the Stop-Loss. Reservists who have extreme personal hardship may apply for separation under provisions of Air Force Instruction 36-3209, Separations and Retirement Procedures for Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve Members.

By law, a Stop-Loss may be used only to suspend temporarily voluntary separations, including discharges and resignations; retirements; and promotions for members of the armed forces. The Stop-Loss will last indefinitely, pending further reviews in the coming months or the termination of the presidential call-up for Kosovo.

Reservists involuntarily called to active duty cannot be kept on extended active duty

because of Stop-Loss. Under the Presidential Selected Reserve Call-up authority, they may be retained on active duty for up to 270 days. After that period, they cannot be extended unless the president authorizes a partial mobilization - the next level of mobilization - which allows members of the Ready Reserve to be involuntarily called to active duty for up to 24 months.

As of May 26, the Reserve had mobilized 1,138 reservists and identified 854 others for call-up. The call-up so far has mainly affected KC-135 air refueling, E-3 airborne warning and control system, and rescue units, plus 128 IMAs.

The Air Force has identified 23 percent of the Air Force specialty codes as critical skills needed to perform the mission. The Reserve has members serving in most but

not all of the AFSCs identified for Stop-Loss.

Major exemptions from the Stop-Loss are C-130 "slick" transport pilots and navigators, who are not undergraduate flying training instructors, and C-130 airlift flight engineers and loadmasters. Others not affected by the Stop Loss are EA-6B, VC-25, C-32, C-135 and C-137 pilots and navigators, and pilots in C-9, C-12, C-20 and C-37 aircraft.

Of special interest to the Reserve is the C-130 airlifter exception because command C-130 units have flown tons of humanitarian goods to help Kosovo refugees under Operation Shining Hope since April 16. C-9 pilots have also volunteered service to support operations in the Balkans.

◆ AFRC News Service

◆ Award winner

AES nurse selected Tacoma/Pierce County citizen-soldier of the year

By Master Sgt. Bud McKay
◆ Wing Public Affairs

Capt. Faith Mueller gets a lot of satisfaction from her work. She just has to remind herself what job it is she is doing at the time.

She is a flight nurse with the 446th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron as well as a lieutenant for the Tacoma Fire Department. But that's just the start of it.



Mueller



I just like to keep myself busy. I'm very goal oriented and rarely miss anything that my kids do.

Faith Mueller

It's this military and civilian commitment and dedication that convinced the Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber of Commerce to name Mueller as its Howard O. Scott Citizen-Soldier of the Year during a ceremony at the Tacoma Sheraton Hotel in her honor April 20. The Tacoma Kiwanis officials, who host the annual award presentation, decided that Mueller's contribution warranted a second award. The Kiwanis presented Mueller with the Everyday Hero award at the ceremony as well.

◆ THE AWARD

The Howard O. Scott award recognizes a Pierce County resident who is a member of a military reserve component, who excels at their military job as well as someone who dedicates time and energy to their local community.

Mueller was the 446th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron's team chief for the Rodeo 98. Mueller and the rest of the team swept their competition, winning all four aeromedical events they competed in —



Photo by Master Sgt. Bud McKay

Capt. Faith Mueller, left, and Capt. Lori Mapes, both with the 446th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, go through emergency medical treatment.

The 446th Airlift Wing's winning tradition continues

Capt. Faith Mueller, 446th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, is the fourth person from the 446th Airlift Wing to earn the Howard O. Scott Citizen-Soldier of the Year award over the last five years.

Past winners are:

◆ Master Sgt. Scott Alexander, 446th Medical Squadron, in 1995.

◆ Master Sgt. Lawrence Grace, 446th AGS, in 1996;

◆ Senior Master Sgt. Lori Riveira, 446th Aircraft Generation Squadron, in 1997;

In 1998, an outsider, Army Reserve Lt. Col. Jack Nevin, from the 70th Regional Support Command, at nearby Camp Murray, won the award.

Best Overall Aeromedical Evacuation Team, Best C-141 Configuration/Enplaning Team, Best C-141 Equipment Preflight Team, and Best Medical Emergency Team.

The only pat on the back she gives herself is for her "phenomenal time management skills." The rest, she likes her actions to speak for her.

"I just like to keep myself busy," Mueller said. "I'm very goal oriented and rarely miss anything that my kids do."

For Mueller to say that she is just keeping busy is a huge understatement. But to her, it goes beyond that.

"Firefighting is the greatest job in the world — I love it," she said. "I love the Air Force, too. I get a great deal of satisfaction serving my country. I have deep-rooted patriotic feelings."

"It's an honor to be recognized by the



Photo by Master Sgt. Bud McKay

The 446th Airlift Wing's Aeromedical Evacuation Team: from left to right — Capt. Ken Winslow, Capt. Faith Mueller, Master Sgt. Saudia McVea, Staff Sgt. Jeffery McManos and Capt. Kathleen Flarity. Not pictured, Staff Sgt. Bryan Harris.

chamber," Mueller said. "I have an incredible supportive extended family. I guess I'm just very lucky — everything, no matter what, just seems to work out."

McChord reservist claims services ART of the year award

By Capt Krista Kortum
◆ 446th Services Flight

Senior Master Sgt. Steve Badowski, 446th Mission Support Squadron, was named the Air Force Reserve Command's Services Air Reserve Technician of the Year. The announcement came at this year's Air Force Reserve Command Conference April 11-16 at Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station, New York.

"This is wonderful, well deserved and long overdue," said Maj Chuck Duffy, the former officer in charge of the 446th Services Flight. "Steve is competent, consistent, informed, and constantly working to improve the unit. He is the best services ART I have ever worked with."

Before Badowski was given the news about his award, he joined the other services reservists and civilians from across the country to learn about current services and Prime-Readiness In Base Services — lodging, mortuary services, dining facilities, honor guard, marketing and training.

Other special topics included recent updates regarding the Air Expeditionary Forces and a straight-from-the-field briefing by the mayor of "tent city" in support of Operation Allied Force.

But soon, the attention would focus on Badowski. Badowski has a long list of noteworthy accomplishments this past year. He directed the deployment of two Reserve port mortuary teams from McChord to Dover AFB, Del., on two separate occasions, assisting with processing remains from the African embassy bombings and the crash of two Army Blackhawk helicopters at Nellis AFB, Nev.

The McChord unit was the first to re-



Photo by Master Sgt. Bud McKay
Senior Master Sgt. Steve Badowski, 446th Mission Support Squadron, gets a little help on his work from his 13-year-old daughter, Carolyn.

spond to these taskings as a team, and received accolades from Maj. Gen. David Smith, Air Force Reserve Command's vice commander for the professionalism and dignified manner in which they carried out their responsibilities.

"Setting up and scheduling deployments is the most satisfying part of my job," said Badowski, who was also selected as the 446th Airlift Wing Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Quarter for the first quarter of 1999. "Especially when I hear compliments from the active-duty bases on the fine job our services team does for them."

Among other things, Badowski was one of the first services specialists to incorporate Critical Incident Stress Management into the training. Around McChord, Badowski has consistently played a major role in developing a strong working relationship with the 62nd Services Squadron.

Badowski represented the 446th AW on the 62nd Services Squadron Menu Planning

Board to resolve food service conflicts that come up during unit training assembly weekends. On a larger scale, Badowski coordinated the augmentation of Reserve personnel for the dining hall during the joint Operational Readiness Inspection.

He also participated in the planning for the "Fam-O-Rama," McChord's Morale Welfare and Recreation's family fitness day.

His day-to-day duties include serving as the unit deployment manager for eight deployment teams in the 446th Mission Support Squadron, the 446th Support Group, and the 446th Airlift Wing. Additionally he serves as the resource advisor for Col. Tom Blank, 446th Support Group commander.

"Setting up annual tour deployments involves considerable planning and coordination," Badowski said. "I get the chance to find out information about other bases, meet new people, and work out interesting challenges that always arise when you deploy personnel overseas."

In June, Badowski is putting that planning to the test as he and three other 446th Services Flight members work at Royal Air Force Croughton, about one-and-a-half-hours from London.

"The base's mission is to provide communication support, and things are really busy," Badowski said. "They have also been tasked to provide housing for some of the personnel who have been deployed to support current events. This has dramatically increased the requirements for services support on base."

So it will come as no surprise to anyone that, once again, Badowski's team will return from a busy assignment with the praise and thanks from those they helped.

Wing staff agencies earn awards from AFRC and 4th Air Force

By 1st Lt Tamara Lewis
◆ Wing Public Affairs

The 446th Legal office and the 446th Airlift Wing Military Equal Opportunity office — formerly social actions — both earned high honors for their performance during 1998.

The military equal opportunity office was named Air Force Reserve Command's Military Equal Opportunity Office of the Year for 1998. They competed against other MEO offices from Minneapolis St. Paul Air Re-

serve Station, Minn., Scott AFB, Ill., and General Mitchell Field ARS, Wis.

Nominations are submitted for this award which recognizes overall effectiveness of the office and incorporates past inspection results as well.

"They look at things like equal opportunity training completion levels in the wing, staff education and civilian experience," said Lt. Col. John Lundgren, of the chief, military equal opportunity office. "I think we figured out between all our staff members, we had 68 years of experience in the field."

Maj. Rainie Myr, MEO officer, agreed adding that the staff has dealt with almost every kind of problem. And because of their civilian networks, they can certainly refer people to the right place if something out of the ordinary pops up.

In addition to experience, being proactive is another area looked at during the selection process.

"They want to know what we are doing to be proactive," said Myr. "Are we address-

▲ AWARDS continued on Page 6

Air Force names 13th chief master sergeant of the Air Force

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Michael Ryan has named Chief Master Sgt. Frederick "Jim" Finch to serve as the 13th chief master sergeant of the Air Force. Finch is currently the command chief master sergeant for Air Combat Command.

Finch replaces Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Eric Benken, who will retire July 30 after more than 29 years of service to the Air Force.



Finch

"Chief Benken has been a tremendous advocate for the enlisted corps," Ryan said.

"Chief Finch joins the Air Force's senior leadership at a time of change for the Air Force. We are finishing the transition of the force from a Cold War posture to the expeditionary aerospace concept. Chief Finch has been deeply involved in this transition and understands the challenges."

Finch joined the Air Force in 1974. His career includes various assignments in missile maintenance and several positions in professional military education, including commandant of the Pacific Air Forces Non-commissioned Officers Academy. He also has two assignments as a command chief master sergeant.

Finch has had several stateside tours, as well as overseas tours in Alaska and the United Kingdom. Prior to his July 1995 appointment with Air Combat Command, Finch was the senior enlisted advisor to the commander, 11th Air Force, Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska.

◆ Air Force Print News



Air Force photo

The U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds will take to the air during the 1999 McChord Air Expo June 26.

Thunderbirds back to wild blue yonder

▲ Demonstration team takes time off to go back to the basics

The Air Force Thunderbirds, grounded since May 29, resumed their 1999 demonstration schedule June 2. They'll be the main attraction at the 1999 McChord Air Expo June 26-28.

The Thunderbirds returned to the air show circuit following Maj. Gen. Glen Moorhead's decision to suspend the show schedule and recall the team back to Nellis AFB, Nev., for training. Moorhead is the Air Warfare Center commander there.

The team had canceled demonstrations through May 29 following an incident that occurred during an air show at Patrick Air Force Base, Fla., in April. That's when two of the red, white and blue F-16s touched on takeoff. There was only minor damage to the aircraft, and both pilots landed safely.

The Thunderbirds continued with their schedule during a weekend stop in

Mankato, Minn., June 5-6.

"For the past month, we've been training hard and reviewing our practices and procedures," said Lt. Col. Brian Bishop, Thunderbirds commander and leader. "Safety is paramount for us. The entire squadron has been working hard to ensure we are going to put on the safest and most professional show possible."

"I can't say enough about how the squadron pulled together this past month," Bishop added. "We are looking forward to returning to the skies and showing the American people what the 360,000 men and women in the Air Force are doing for them every day."

A Thunderbirds' aerial demonstration is a mix of formation flying and solo routines. The pilots perform approximately 30 maneuvers in a demonstration.

◆ Air Force Print News

AWARD

Continued from Page 5

ing complaints and resolving them at the lowest level? Are we working on the prevention of problems before they happen? Are we promoting more effective communication?"

One proactive program the staff has been recognized for is the Brown Bag Luncheon. This quarterly program brings people together to talk about issues of today.

"The topics are not always equal oppor-

tunity issues," said Myr. "We've had speakers on how to deal with difficult people, and family communications. It's a forum for sharing ideas. We don't just get up there and lecture."

While the equal opportunity staff was delighted with their award, the legal office was surprised by theirs. They were named 4th Air Force Outstanding Legal Office of the Year for 1998.

"This is not something we submitted ourselves for," said Master Sgt. Tyler Edwards,

law office manager. "It just showed up."

The award is given by 4th Air Force to recognize overall performance of a legal office according to Lt. Col. Mark Pope, deputy staff judge advocate, 4th AF.

"There are 11 offices considered throughout 4th Air Force," Pope said. "We look at the effectiveness of the organization and staffing. Also the complexity of projects worked on within the office, as well as issues addressed and legal documents and briefs prepared."

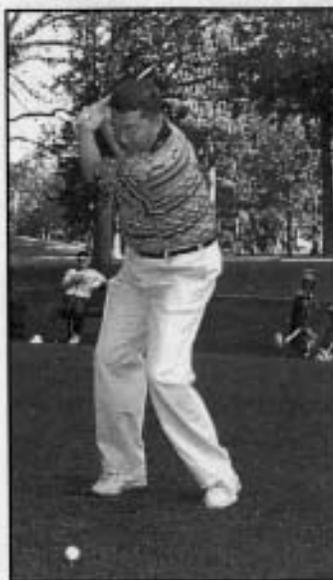


Photo by Master Sgt. Bud McKay
Brian Thomas, 446th Logistics Support Squadron, tees off in the 1999 Care and Share Golf Extravaganza.

Care and Share golf tourney raises \$880

This year's Care and Share Golf Extravaganza grossed \$880 dollars. Approximately 16 teams — combined A and B unit training assembly weekends — turned out for fun in the sun.

Two teams, the 446th Security Forces Squadron and a team from the 446th Maintenance Squadron's orderly room, had the lowest score with a one-under-par 35 for the nine-hole tournament.

John Leimbach, from the 446th Security Forces Squadron, blasted the longest drive while teammate Steve Salmon won closest to the pin.

In September, Care and Share will have its "One Pitch" softball tournament. Teams consist of 10-12 persons for a donation of \$50 dollars. Call Staff Sgt. Kimberley Hagerty at 984-3645 for more details.

◆ Care and Share is a non-profit organization operated by 446th Airlift Wing Reservists for the benefit of all wing Reservists and their families. For more information, call Master Sgt. Tom Henry at 984-2309 or Senior Master Sgt. Cheri Lewis at 984-9107 for information.

An extra benefit — commissary visits double for Reservists

Two Commissary Privilege Cards will be issued to Air Force Reservists this year. The two cards will allow them to visit military commissaries 24 times per year.

The change from 12 visits to 24 visits was announced in 1998. However, the specifics of how the visits would be documented, was still being discussed at that time.

A change on the orders form may also effect commissary shopping privileges. Air Force Form 938, previously had a block which contained spouse's name. The block is not on the current form.

If you will be on orders away from home and your spouse wishes to use the commissary while you are gone, you must ensure your orders clerk adds your spouse's name in the remarks section of your orders.

Department of Defense plans to have a single 24-visit Commissary Privilege card available in the latter part of 1999.

The McChord Commissary hours are 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday - Saturday and 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sundays.

Family readiness has new toll-free number

The 446th Airlift Wing Family Readiness and Support Services has a new toll-free phone number. The number is 1-888-984-6724.

They have a new email address as well: familyreadiness@tcm.afrc.af.mil.

This program provides a key role in providing information, assistance, social and emotional support to the 446th Airlift Wing families.

The staff provides support and services to include: information on military and community resources, specialized support groups, crisis management, problem analysis, and referrals for

financial issues and other services.

728th Airlift Squadron says farewell to C-141

The 728th Airlift Squadron will have a C-141 Farewell Celebration July 24 at 2 p.m. starting at Memorial Grove, across the street from the McChord Officers Club.

Following the ceremony, there will be a picnic at American Lake. Cost is \$5 per person.

The 728th AS is the first 446th Airlift Wing squadron to fly the C-17 Globemaster III. The first of the Air Force's newest cargo jets officially arrives July 30.

Family Day picnic set for July 24 at Holiday Park

The 446th Airlift Wing headquarters staff, along with the 446th Support Group and the 446th Mission Support Squadron will have a combined Family Day July 24 beginning at 11:30 a.m. at Holiday Park.

The cost for families is \$30 for officers, \$20 for senior non-commissioned officers and \$10 for airman basics through technical sergeants.

To order your tickets, call the Chief Master Sgt. Bettie Williamson at 984-5434.

McChord hosts JOLDS 'Working Together'

The Junior Officers Leadership Development Seminar, "Working Together," will be held Aug. 5-8 at the Chapel Annex (Bldg. 746) at McChord for officers from 2nd lieutenant to captain. The registration fee is \$75.

To register, or for more information, call 1st Lt. C.J. Johnson at 984-3838 or via email at cj.johnson@ibm.net.

Promotions

Senior Master Sergeant

Christopher Ross, 313th AS
 Brian Zar, 728th AS

Technical Sergeant

Patrick Anderson, 36th APS

Senior Airman

Ronald Fallarme, 446th AES
 Steven Marcil, 446th AGS

Airman

Robert Jimenez, 313th AS

Newcomers

Captain

Steven Carpenter, 446th ASTS
 David Denney, 728th AS
 Bradley Holmgren, 446th AW
 Michael Moore, 728th AS

Second Lieutenant

Cory Peppard, 446th AES

Staff Sergeant

Scott Snyder, 446th AGS
 Anthony Mayor, 446th MXS
 Richard Smisek, 446th AGS

Senior Airman

Joshua Blevins, 446th AES
 Richard Cardenas, 446th ASTS
 Larry Kohlman, 313th AS
 Brandon Payne, 446th OSF
 Aaron Pierce, 446th ASTS
 Shandric Seagroves, 446th AGS
 Kevin Wingart, 446th MSS
 Neil Woodruff, 446th ASTS

Airman First Class

Nichole Banerdt, 86th APS
 Jody Barnes, 446th MDS
 Angela Julian, 86th APS
 Martin Kundrat, 86th APS
 Loretta Lawton, 446th OSF
 Steven Marcil, 446th AGS
 Keven Meyers, 313th AS

DID YOU KNOW

Gates open at 10 a.m. for the 1999 McChord Air Expo. The Air Expo is free and open to the public. A full day of fun, flying, demonstrations and food are in the works.

◆ 'For a good cause'

McChord grapplers don't let injuries keep them down

By Master Sgt. Bud McKay
◆ Wing Public Affairs

Ken Skeie got screwed — twice — at the Cardiac X Classic wrestling tournament at North Mason High School recently.



My momentum was going backward and so did I, but the foot didn't. It was just a freak thing that just happens.

Ken Skeie

It wasn't from the referees' bad calls. It wasn't from the tournament directors or any of Skeie's heavyweight-division opponents in the fund-raising tournament for the high school and two youth wrestling programs in Belfair.

Doctors at Madigan Army Hospital used two screws to reattach two bones that separated in Skeie's right ankle to go along with a broken right fibula. Skeie, a 6-foot-2, 246-pound, active-duty master sergeant assigned to the 62nd Aircraft Generation Squadron and two-time Air Force wrestling champion, received his injuries during the warm-up session

minutes before the start of the "old timers" tournament.

"I knew right when it happened it was broken, and to show you how stupid I was, I thought if I could tape it up, I could still wrestle — I love wrestling," said Skeie, during a telephone interview from his home. "But as soon as I stood up and put weight on it...oh, man."

With a concerned eye, Eddie Soto knelt next to Skeie, trying to offer any help he could. Soto, a 5-foot-5, 167-pound chief master sergeant with the 446th Airlift Wing, is the one who broke Skeie's leg.

"I felt terrible," Soto said. "It was just one of those things."

Skeie agreed.

"The chief got behind me and pulled me back, and the toe of my right shoe dug into the mat and stayed," Skeie said. "My momentum was going backward and so did I, but the foot didn't. It was just a freak thing that just happens."

Soto went on to take second place in the 170-pound division at the tournament; his first

wrestling action since his freshman high school days at Olmsted Falls, Ohio, more than 25 years ago.

"I have to remind myself that it's for a good cause," Soto said as he sat in the bleachers with an ice pack over his left eye while his wife and three children admired the 6-inch by 3-inch mat burn on his right arm.

Skeie, who placed 2nd in the heavyweight division in the same tournament last year, went on to drive himself to Madigan Army Hospital, an hour away, instead of going to a local hospital.

"I didn't want to have to deal with all of the paperwork," he said about why he didn't want to go to a civilian hospital.

Skeie spent two weeks at home on convalescent leave and another six weeks in a cast. Although he didn't take one for the team, as the cliché goes, he knows he took one for the kids.

"Oh yeah, these tournaments are all for the kids," he said. "They (the tournament directors) offered to give me my \$20 entrance fee back, but I told them I'd split it with them."

While his contribution will help the young wrestlers participate in the action, Skeie thinks there is a good chance he won't step on the mat as a competitor again.

"I've been in wrestling as a coach as well as a competitor for more than 20 years." Skeie said. "I love the sport — it really teaches you individualism as well as responsibility and teamwork. But I really think my wrestling career is over now."

Soto isn't sure if he's going to try wrestling again either.

"I was expecting a different level of competition," Soto said with a laugh. "It says 'old timers' on the flyer they put out, but just about every 'old timer' out there was a high school coach who still wrestles freestyle competitively. I wasn't expecting these guys to be professionals."

"I don't know if I want to do this again. I was in good shape, but I'll have to practice wrestling if there is a next time. Who knows, maybe I'll give Skeie his rematch."

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