

Associate PRESS

446th Airlift Wing, Air Force Reserve
McChord Air Force Base, Washington
<http://www.mcchord.af.mil/446aw>

Vol. 22, No. 4 ♦ The Home Team ♦ August 2000

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Photo by Senior Airman Greg Davis

A C-141 Starlifter turns night into day as the aircrew shoots off flares. The C-141 force, nearing nine million flying hours, has a proven reliability and long-range capability. In addition to training, worldwide airlift and combat support, the C-141 has amassed a laudatory record in response to humanitarian crises.

Change of Command ceremony on Aug. 27

The 446th Airlift Wing Change of Command from Col. Alan Mitchell to Col. Thomas Gisler will be held Aug. 27, at 2 p.m. at Bldg. 1166. Brig. Gen. James Czekanski, 4th Air Force commander, will host the event.

The ceremony will be a formation only. Uniform will be short sleeve blue shirt with flight caps. Females will wear slacks with

low quarters.

The three groups will be represented by two squadrons each. Each squadron will have 50 personnel for a total of 100 personnel per group and 300 for the wing.

Mitchell's farewell dinner will be Aug. 26 from 6 to 9 p.m. at Bldg. 1166. Cost is \$20 per person. Dress is Northwest casual. Contact unit first sergeants for tickets.

DOD slows down production of the anthrax vaccine

By Capt. James Bishop

♦ AFRC Public Affairs

The Department of Defense is temporarily slowing its anthrax immunization efforts, Secretary of Defense William Cohen said July 10. The slowdown affects more than 700 members of the 446th Airlift Wing, nearly 11,000 Air Force Reservists and about 363,000 service members.

Cohen cited two reasons for the slowdown. Doses of the anthrax vaccine are dwindling and the sole manufacturer, BioPort Corp. of Lansing, Mich., has yet to receive Food and Drug Administration approval for its new manufacturing plant.

Most of the remaining vaccine will be used to immunize military people in 10 high-threat areas, said Marine Corps Maj. Gen. Randall West, a senior Pentagon adviser on chemical and biological protection. The 10 areas the Pentagon has determined to be high-threat are Korea, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Jordan, Qatar, Oman, Yemen, United Arab Emirates and Israel.

"I think, given the amount of supply that we have and after consultation, we believe the prudent policy is to return to the 30-day policy," said Rudy De Leon, assistant secretary of defense.

De Leon explained that the policy mandated anthrax vaccinations for troops in high-threat areas for 30 days or longer.

About 750 members of the 446th Airlift Wing have started the six-shot series, according to Chief Master Sgt. Sonja Smith,

▲ ANTHRAX continued on Page 5

446th Associate Press

Volume 22, No. 4
August 2000

Friday, Aug. 25 is the deadline for articles in the September 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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All photos are Air Force unless otherwise indicated.

Mitchell takes a look back, says goodbye

By Col. Alan Mitchell

◆ Wing Commander

Greetings. It doesn't seem possible but here I am, writing my "retirement" column. Excited as I am about traveling, finishing projects I started in college (and moved all over with me during the last 32-and-a-half years), and seeing family, I must say I know I'll miss the close association with my teammates in the profession and cause I love — our Nation's defense.

When I was asked if I would be interested in commanding the 446th Airlift Wing nearly three years ago, it was a dream come true, I answered "yes" immediately and haven't regretted it since.

In just these short two-and-a-half years, you have accomplished so many exciting, outstanding and valuable things for our country. At risk of accidentally overlooking some and with humble apologies to them, here are a few:

- ◆ Rodeo '98 with seven trophies including the 446th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron's "clean sweep" and the 446th Security Forces Squadron's Best Security Forces Team award;

- ◆ An impromptu successful rescue assist of a downed light-plane pilot;

- ◆ An Operational Readiness Inspection with an "excellent" score in Ability To Survive and Operate exercise — unheard-of in AMC;

- ◆ The C-17 arrival and smooth conversion while placing every C-141 person so desiring;

- ◆ Our 446th Services Mortuary Affairs team being called on three times to do such an emotionally difficult yet such an important task for those who have given the ultimate sacrifice for their country;

- ◆ Our *Associate Press* newspaper winning "Best in DOD" once and then runner-up;

- ◆ A smooth stand-up of Associate Family Readiness;

- ◆ An AFRC Unit Compliance Inspection resulting in the most laudatories and fewest findings of any unit to date;

- ◆ A Local Access Network that continually is recognized as AFRC's best running;

- ◆ Nearly 30,000 accident-free flying hours on both the oldest and newest airlifters in the



Mitchell

inventory (while not being manned as a dual-weapon-system wing);

▼ Commander's Hotline

1. 2 5 3. 9 8 4. 9 1 3 3



Your comments, suggestions and concerns are important to me to address. Call the Commander's Hotline at 1-253-984-9133 or fill out an Immediate Action Worksheet (in the insert of the 446th Associate Press) and I'll have an answer for you in the next newspaper.

◆ Col. Alan Mitchell, commander

- ◆ The 86th Aerial Port Squadron's super job in the first-ever IGX ORI;

- ◆ Finally Rodeo 2000 tops it all off with our first C-17 entries being winners just for being prepared in such a short time and the C-141 teams winning the "Best C-141 Wing" trophy.

Our combat readiness is high, our manning is above 100 percent; recruiting and retention are doing well; all this during tough economic times. Talk about retiring at the top.

Notice that these aren't accomplishments of mine in the wing command section (although I'm also proud of them), but are the results of the efforts of you, our leaders and citizen-airmen who believe in and practice our core values of Integrity, Service Before Self, and Excellence In All We Do.

All of this is made possible through the empowerment of your families and your employers. I am proud to pass command of this great wing to my good friend Col. Thomas Gisler and have confidence in both you and him that our reputation of excellence will continue.

Each of you and your spouse are invited to attend our dinner Aug. 26 for an opportunity to socialize with each other and give us a chance to say goodbye. Cathy and I look forward to enjoying more time here in the beautiful Northwest and wish you all the best in your future.

Recruiters host contest to personalize recruiting effort

By Master Sgt. Bud McKay

◆ Wing Public Affairs

The 446th Airlift Wing recruiters are sponsoring an essay contest, "Why I Serve in the 446th Airlift Wing."

The ultimate reason for the essay is to show a variety of material written by the 446th AW members themselves to potential recruits of the wing.

The 446th AW contest will mirror that of the successful *Citizen Airmen* magazine's "Why I Serve" contest that attracted more than 200 entries. Master Sgt. Aaron Maness, with the 446th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, was one of three winners selected throughout the Air Force Reserve Command.

The essay should be no more than 275 words. The deadline to submit essays is Sept. 18. Like the *Citizen Airmen* contest, the top three essays will earn prizes and will be printed in the October issue of the *Associate Press*.

"We'll have some prizes to giveaway to the winners," said Chief Master Sgt. Tim Balas, senior recruiter for the 446th AW. "We just thought this would be a very good tool to show recruits, when they come

◆ AFRC winning essay

'Why I serve' in the Air Force Reserve

By Master Sgt. Aaron Maness

◆ 446th Aeromedical Evac. Squadron

I serve for a young Chinese girl whom I once saw dragged back across the border into communist China from Macao. Her crime was having escaped and wanting to be free. Her terrified eyes looked back at me and said, "Never forget me; always remember what you saw here." I serve because I have never forgotten. I do remember.

I serve for a schoolteacher in Burma who once asked me to tell her of the world and the happenings in it, for in her oppressed country she had neither the freedom nor the means to know. And I did, and she should have.

I serve for Peter, 17 years old, and

for the old woman who heard his dying cries. She brought flowers daily to his white cross at the Berlin Wall a few feet from where he lay shot, trying to reach freedom.

I serve for an old man I met in Moscow's Alexander Park, at the base of the Kremlin walls. With haunting eyes and a tormented heart, but an indomitable soul, he told me of the Siberian prisons and his sufferings there. And then he said, "Thank you, America, for hope, for freedom and the fulfillment of it. I am an old man now, and I will soon die, but I will die free."

Any of these are reason and honor enough to serve. All are an obligation. I serve because I am American, I am free, and they might have been and should be.

into our office, why people serve in the 446th."

Send your essay to:

446 AW/RS

1205 12th ST NE, Suite 102W

McChord AFB WA 98438-1326

Air Force team repatriates remains of 12 Korean War MIAs

United Nations Honor Guard members slowly carried 12 flag-covered caskets into Hangar 15 at Yokota Air Base, Japan, July 22. The caskets contained the remains of what are believed to be U.S. servicemembers missing in action since the Korean War.

A C-17 aircrew from McChord flew into Pyongyang, North Korea, July 22 and picked up the remains and U.S. Army's Central Identification Laboratory team members and transported them to Yokota for the repatriation ceremony.

According to identification laboratory records, this is the largest number of remains any team has found during a recovery operation since 1998 when a team had located nine sets of remains.

A joint U.S.-North Korean team had been conducting recovery operations 60 miles north of Pyongyang, in Unsan and Kujang counties since June 25. These regions included areas where the U.S. Army's 1st Cavalry Division and 2nd and 25th In-

fantry Divisions fought in battles with Communist Chinese forces in November 1950.

The environment that recovery teams work in can be different each time, according to Lt. Col. Dan Baughman of the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office.

"The last returns were done in bad weather," he said. "You have fewer days where you can actually do 'good' operations when it gets in late October or very early November. Some of the summer months you have fewer days because heavy monsoons."

Host country assistance is also important to how well a recovery team will do.

"I think the host country tries pretty hard to go out and help us find where these individuals are, and there's a cooperative effort out there," Baughman said. "We take the historical record, we tell them where we want to go ... and they make an effort to try and get us out there to speak to witnesses."

These particular remains were discovered while the North Koreans were performing land reclamation projects, rerouting the

soil and digging canals to irrigate rice paddies. When the remains were found, they left them as they were and brought the recovery team there for the first operation.

◆ JUST THE BEGINNING

This recovery operation is the first of five scheduled for this year. Between 1996 and 1999, 12 other operations were conducted, recovering the remains believed to be those of 42 American soldiers. So far, five have been positively identified, with approximately 10 others in the final stages of identification.

"Our office deals with the families of the missing directly," said Baughman. "We see first hand the frustration they have and the longing and need for closure. When we make a recovery like this, we know that it's going to cause closure for someone."

Following the ceremony the remains were transported to the laboratory in Hawaii, for positive identification.

◆ Air Force News Service

Gren 'survives' two separate votes, makes the finals

▲ 86th Aerial Port Squadron member among leaders at Noncommissioned Officer Academy

By Master Sgt. Bud McKay
◆ Wing Public Affairs

It wasn't like he was on a deserted island with a dozen or more people voting each other off the island like the CBS mega hit "Survivor;" but it was close.

Tech. Sgt. Chris Gren and the other 89 students at the Forrest Vosler Noncommissioned Officers Academy at Peterson Field, Colo., voted for the one person in their class who they believe has the most leadership potential for the Commandant's Trophy. When the votes were tallied, the 86th Aerial Port Squadron member was one of the final three people selected.



The key is simply making myself available for the squadron. There are plenty of opportunities for me to make a difference.

Chris Gren

But he wasn't too disappointed when he wasn't selected as the winner at his July 7 graduation — he was still trying to come down to earth after being selected as one of four distinguished graduates for the six-week long class. What a better way to celebrate his 38th birthday.

"Winning the distinguished graduate was a complete surprise," Gren said. "I

have never had that many quality of people around me before. The level of intellect was incredible. When they called my name, I was shocked. I was simply not expecting any award."

The first thing Gren did when he returned to his job at the Air Terminal Operations Center was thank the people who encouraged him to attend the NCO Academy rather than take the course in correspondence. In fact, only Gren and five other members from the 446th AW attended the academy this year while more than 250 enrolled by correspondence.

Senior Master Sgt. James Reece III, 86th APS first sergeant, was one of those people who persuaded Gren to attend the academy. Reece knew that the former Marine had the tools to excel through the challenging course.

"He's disappointed sometimes because

you just can't give him enough work to do," Reece said. "I think him going to that class woke him up on how big the Air Force really is. Lots of our people think that the Air Force, and the military, start and begin inside the walls of the aerial port facility. Going to these classes, meeting other people from all over the country, really help with the big picture of the Air Force and the military."



Photo by Master Sgt. Bud McKay

Tech. Sgt. Chris Gren, 86th Aerial Port Squadron, looks over the McChord flightline from the Air Terminal Operations Center's window to track taxiing aircraft.

Gren will be the first to confess that he had that same picture before attending the academy.

"Back in April, I had a very small view of what my role was as an NCO in the Air Force," Gren said. "To be honest, I didn't see the opportunities that were available to me at the squadron. Now, obviously, I was

in an environment for learning, but it opened my eyes on missed opportunities."

Thanks to the Senior NCO Academy, Gren said, he doesn't plan on missing anything else.

"I have to say, attending the course is among the top-five, life changing experiences I've had," Gren said. "It's right up there with the birth of my two daughters (Katie and Lauren) and winning my first mountain bike race. The instructors were first class, and the material was good stuff — not 'foo-foo' stuff — that we can use every day.

"The key is simply making myself available for the squadron. There are plenty of opportunities for me to make a difference."

Forrest Vosler NCO Academy named after true 'survivor'

The Forrest Vosler Noncommissioned Officers Academy is named in honor of Tech. Sgt. Forrest Vosler, a Medal of Honor hero.

After bombing a German target in 1943, Vosler's aircraft was severely damaged by antiaircraft fire. Twenty-mm cannon shells wounded Vosler, a radio operator, in the legs, chest and face.

Pieces of metal lodged in both eyes,

Vosler could only distinguish blurred shapes. Taking over for the injured tail gunner, after sending out a distress call over the radio, Vosler kept firing and declined first-aid treatment.

When the aircraft ditched, Vosler managed to get on the wing by himself and hold the wounded tail gunner from slipping off until the other crew members could help them into the dinghy.

ANTHRAX

▼ Continued from Page 1

chief of health services for the 446th Aerospace Medicine Squadron. Eight have completed the entire series, Smith said.

In the Air Force Reserve Command, 11,557 people have begun the anthrax immunization as of July 12. Of those, 461 people have finished all six shots, and an average of 142 reservists are deployed to high-risk areas at any given time, leaving about 10,954 reservists who will defer their final shots.

DOD-wide, approximately 455,378 troops have started the series; 56,725 have received all six shots. About 36,000 people are currently serving in the high-risk areas, leaving about 363,000 people who will not be continuing the series at this time.

"We're disappointed," West said. "We wish we were vaccinating the whole force now."

West said those with fewer than six shots are partially protected, but they lack the full protection provided by the complete series.

West said DOD plans to defer immunizations for people returning from high-threat areas who have begun the series of six shots.

After the stock of vaccine is resupplied, people do not have to start again but can begin the schedule where they left off, said Dr. Jarrett Clinton, first assistant to the assistant secretary of defense for health affairs. If members have had one shot and more than two years has elapsed, they will begin the series again. If they have had two or more shots, they will pick up the series at the point they left off, no matter how much time has elapsed, according to Dr. Sue Bailey of the assistant secretary of defense for health affairs.

"As soon as a sufficient and safe supply of vaccine is available, we will expand the program, ultimately vaccinating all members of the active and reserve force," Cohen said.

If the usage rate continues at about 14,000 doses per month, the stockpiled vaccine — 165,000 doses — would last six to 10 months, West said. He emphasized that the current supply of anthrax vaccine is certified safe and effective and has passed FDA standards for purity, sterility and potency.

Some vaccine located at units in more than 2,000 places will be shipped to the high-threat areas to be used during the slow-down period, West said. He said DOD guidance allows for local commanders' discre-

tion, so, for example, rotating troops might still get shots because the 10-dose vaccine vials must be used or discarded once opened.

As of July 21, the 446th AW has six vials — representing 60 shots — for shipment to those areas but has yet to be directed to send them, according to Smith.

DOD-wide, out of 1.8 million shots, 848 adverse reports have been filed with the Anthrax Vaccine Expert Committee as of July 5. Of those, 163 people have missed at least one day of work because of an adverse reaction, and 38 have been hospitalized.

Since the anthrax program began in April 1999, the 446th AW has given out 6,476 shots.

"Eleven people have reported severe reactions to us," Smith said. "Most of those were pain and swelling at the injection site. But none of the 11 required hospitalization."

At the McChord active-duty clinic, Senior Airman Melissa Fields, an allergy/immunization technician, said that out of 3,029 shots giving since April 1999, they've reported 10 adverse reactions.

The anthrax threat is real, DOD officials emphasize. Highly lethal anthrax spores can be produced cheaply in mass quantity, stored for years, and be spread by missiles, artillery, sprayers and other methods. In aerosol form, anthrax is odorless, colorless, tasteless and capable of being carried on wind streams. Releasing 100 kilograms of anthrax spores upwind of the Washington, D.C., area could result in between 130,000 and 3 million deaths, according to a 1993 report by the U.S. Congressional Office of Technology Assessment.

In the early 1990s, weapons inspectors discovered Iraq produced 8,000 liters of anthrax spores, and intelligence sources verified in 1992 that the former Soviet Union maintained a capability that dwarfed Iraq's, according to the Army Surgeon General's Anthrax Vaccine Immunization Program Agency, which administers the DOD program.

West emphasized that the nation is less at risk now than in 1998 because more than 455,000 people have some level of protection from anthrax, "but we're less protected than we want to be," he said.

"We put safety first when we started this program two years ago," Cohen said. "I'm putting safety first again today. We will put safety first when we expand the program, when the vaccine is once again being manufactured."

◆ AFRC News Service

▼ Anthrax vaccine websites



▲ **Journal of American Medical Association**

<http://jama.ama-assn.org/issues/v281n18/full/jst80027.html>



▲ **The Mayo Clinic**

<http://www.mayohealth.org/mayo/9802/html/anthrax.htm>



▲ **Intelihealth**

<http://www.intelihealth.com/IH/ihI1H/WSIHW000/408/408.html>



▲ **New Scientist**

<http://www.newscientist.com/nsplus/insight/bioterrorism/allfall.html>



▲ **University of Wisconsin Dept of Bacteriology**

<http://www.bact.wisc.edu/Bact330/lectureanthrax>



▲ **Testimony of Dr. Kathryn Zoon, FDA**

<http://www.fda.gov/ola/anthraxvaccine.html>



▲ **Virtual Flight Surgeons, Inc**

<http://www.aviationmedicine.com/>



▲ **Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research**

<http://www.fda.gov/cber/vaers/vaers.htm>



▲ **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**

http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dbmd/diseaseinfo/anthrax_g.htm



▲ **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**

<http://www.cdc.gov/nip/vacsafe/>



▲ **Department of Defense**

<http://www.anthrax.osd.mil/>

Reservists come to the rescue in 'The Perfect Storm'

In recent years, the Air Force has become more involved in supporting major Hollywood film productions. Movies like "Air Force One," "Armageddon" and "Tomorrow Never Dies" are just a few.

The latest big-screen venture is "The Perfect Storm," released June 30 in theaters nationwide.

In a scene from "The Perfect Storm," members of the Air Force Reserve Command's 305th Rescue Squadron, Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz., and the Air National Guard's 129th Rescue Wing, Moffett Field, Calif., simulated the rescue of stranded fishermen off the coast of New England.

"The Perfect Storm" is actually about three storms that came together in October 1991 to form 100-foot waves.

Before filming began, members of the cast and crew attended a one-week pararescue training camp in Arizona. They learned the purposes of the helicopter's dials and switches, flew on a helicopter during a simulated rescue mission, were hauled from a lake by harness into a hovering helicopter and took part in night-vision goggle training.

Two each HH-60G helicopters from the 305th RQS and the 129th RQW, along with associated aircrew members, pararescue specialists and aircraft maintainers, flew to California to participate in the filming. Their portion of the filming was conducted at Channel Island ANG Base, Calif., in August 1999, with additional work on sound stages at Warner Brothers Studios.

Another Air Force Reserve Command unit contributed to the movie. Researchers and writers spoke to officials from the 403rd Wing, Keesler AFB, Miss., several times via telephone to learn how the "Hurricane Hunters" track tropical storms and hurricanes.

◆ AFRC News Service

Dental program expands coverage to include family members of reservists

Starting in February, traditional reservists and their families may enroll in an expanded U.S. government dental program if the reservists express an intent to remain in the Reserve for at least 12 consecutive months.

Reservists are currently eligible for the TRICARE Selected Reserve Dental Program, which offers limited dental care for reservists only. Members of a reservist's family are not eligible for the TRICARE Family Member Dental Plan unless the reservist is on extended active duty for at least 24 months.

The maximum benefit coverage will increase from \$1,000 per enrollee per contract year to \$1,200. Reservists and their families will also qualify for orthodontic care – \$1,500 per enrollee per lifetime.

Premium costs will vary depending on the number of enrollees and the type of plan.

A single enrollment will cover one beneficiary – a reservist or a family member of a reservist in the Selected Reserve or Individual Ready Reserve, or an active-duty family member. Family enrollment will cover two or more eligible family members whose sponsor is a member of the active force, Selected Reserve or IRR. A reservist may enroll independently of his or her family members and will not have to enroll in order for his or her eligible dependents to enroll.

◆ THE COST TO RESERVISTS

There will be two types of plans – premium sharing and full premium.

Under premium sharing, the enrollee will cover 40 percent of the monthly premium and the government will pay the rest. The premium-sharing monthly premium for single coverage will be \$7.63, with the government paying \$11.45.

Under family coverage, the enrollee will pay \$19.08 each month. The government share will be \$28.61. Members of the Selected Reserve, reservists in the IRR Activation Authority, families of reservists who are on active duty for more than 30 days, and active-duty family members will be eligible for the premium sharing plan.

The service member will be responsible for paying all of the monthly premiums under the full premium plan. This plan will cover members of the IRR and dependents

What the dental program covers and how much

Under the current Reserve dental program, the government pays all the charges for diagnostic, preventive and emergency services. For restorative services, the government picks up 90 percent of the bill for E-1s through E-4s and 80 percent for E-5s and above. The government covers 70 percent of an oral surgery bill for E-1s to E-4s and 60 percent of the tab for E-5s and above.

Reservists and their families will now qualify for the same services under the new TRICARE Dental Program; however, the government will pay a flat 80 percent for basic restorative coverage. The program will also cover the following services with the government picking up a percentage of the bill:

- ◆ Sealants, consultations, office visits and postsurgical services – 80 percent;
- ◆ Endodontic and periodontic (for reservists E-1 to E-4) – 70 percent;
- ◆ Endodontic and periodontic (for reservists E-5 and above), and general anesthesia – 60 percent; and
- ◆ Prosthodontic, orthodontia, medications, intravenous sedations and other restorative services – 50 percent.

These services will include athletic mouthpieces, pulp vitality tests, porcelain veneers and bleaching on anterior teeth.

◆ AFRC News Service

of Selected Reserve or IRR members when the reservist is not on active duty for more than 30 days. Single coverage will be \$19.08 per month, and family coverage will be \$47.69.

Air Force Reserve Command officials at Robins AFB Ga., will provide more information about the new dental program when it becomes available.

◆ AFRC News Service

▼ Winning spin



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Lance Cheung

Competitors race around a local track during the 20th National Veterans Wheelchair Games held here recently. More than 600 disabled veterans went head to head in track and field, swimming, basketball, weight lifting, softball, air guns, quad rugby, billiards, bowling, table tennis, archery and wheelchair slalom competitions. Special exhibitions such as hand cycling and Super G wheelchair slalom also took place.

Support group looking for new deputy commander

The 446th Support Group is soliciting resumes for the deputy commander position. Interested lieutenant colonels, need to submit a resume before the October "B" unit training assembly along with a cover letter .

The start date position is Jan 1, 2001.

Submit applications through mail, e-mail, or fax.

E-mail:Linda.McCalvin@tcm.afrc.af.mil

Mail: 446 SPTG/CC,
1205 12th Street NE,
Suite 102W,
McChord AFB WA
98438-1326

Fax: 253-984-5103

AMC launches new version of GI Mail 2000

GI Mail 2000 is the command's updated Internet based e-mail system. It offers the same features as most commercially provided e-mail services



but adds additional convenience and security features.

Here's a quick rundown on GI Mail 2000:

- ◆ Service members can access their e-mail through any Internet connection or service provider.

- ◆ GI Mail 2000 is protected by using computer firewalls to block possible hacker attempts

- ◆ E-mail delivery speed is increased and annoying commercial advertisements are eliminated

You can login at <https://www.gimail.af.mil>.

- ◆ AMC News Service

Promotions

Lieutenant Colonel

Kathleen Zygowicz, 446th ASTS

Major

Christine Boyce, 446th AES
Eric Brandes, 446th LSS
Jeffrey Drake, 728th AS
Vicente Farinas, 446th AMDS
Krista Kortum, 446th MSS
Michael Martin, 86th APS
Bruce Neely, 446th AMDS
Howard Olson, 728th AS
Christopher Wallington, 313th AS
Kenneth Winslow, 446th AES

First Lieutenant

Bryan Parker, 97th AS

Senior Master Sergeant

Eugenia Hamilton, 446th LSS

Master Sergeant

Anthony Locke, 86th APS
Balinda Fuller, 446th AGS
Christopher Dietz, 86th APS
Ladonna Couthran, 446th MXS
Robert Gulley, 86th APS
William Brandt, 86th APS
William Harris, 446th MXS
William Smith, 446th CES

Technical Sergeant

Andrew Greaves, 446th CES
Bruce Carter, 36th APS
David Gilmore, 86th APS
Douglas Jones, 446th AGS
Grant Lakey, 86th APS
Laura Elliott, 446th OSF
Lloyd Runquist, 446th AGS
Mark Cherrix, 446th AGS
Michael Mendoza, 86th APS
Michael Morin, 97th AS
Michael Raaymakers, 86th APS
Morgan Brodt, 446th AGS
Patrick Nimeskern, 86th APS
Raymond Alu, 446th AGS
Robert Dutra, 446th OSF
Robert Rockwell, 446th MXS
Shawn Saylor, 446th LSS
Vincent Storm, 446th MXS
William Cyrier, 36th APS

Staff Sergeant

Alvin Cox, 446th MXS
Daniel Baker, 446th MXS
David Shartzter, 446th AGS
Elizabeth Haynes, 446th AW
Elizabeth Hutchinson, 446th CES
Erin Pepperman, 446th ASTS
Jonathan Lisc, 446th OSF
Michael Demorato, 446th SFS
Michael Petzold, 446th CES
Michael Reed, 446th SFS
Neal Lightle, 97th AS
Roby Campbell, 446th ASTS
Shannon Sharp, 446th MXS
Stephanie Place, 86th APS

Senior Airman

Corrine Price, 446th AGS
Sondra Smith, 446th ASTS

Airman First Class

Amber Sibbett, 446th ASTS
Marcus Pitts, 446th ASTS
Vincent Amell, 446th CES

Newcomers

Captain

Christopher Logan, 97th AS
Kevin Dill, 97th AS
Mary Kunzie, 97th AS
Stephen Logan, 97th AS

Master Sergeant

Anthony Mendiola, 36th APS

Technical Sergeant

Cheryl Torem, 446th MSS

Staff Sergeant

Christie Bright, 446th AMDS
Dale Rapp, 446th CES
David McCarroll, 446th LG
Dereck Senter, 446th MSS
Eric Hanson, 446th AMDS
Jeffrey Hunt, 86th APS
Malisa Sharp, 446th AMDS

Senior Airman

Peter Reeves, 313th AS
Nicholas Wetzel, 446th AGS
Dawn Anderson, 446th SFS
Justin Boardley, 446th AGS
David Oliver, 446th SFS

Airman First Class

Aaron Forderer, 446th CES
Aaron Stanke, 446th AGS
Elizabeth Smith, 446th AMDS
John Smith, 446th MXS
Steven Means, 446th AGS

Airman

John Wentworth, 446th AGS

Airman Basic

Anthony Rector, 446th ASTS
Courtney Lalla, 446th ASTS

DID YOU KNOW

On Aug. 2, 1909, the Army accepts its first airplane, bought from the Wright Brothers for \$25,000, plus \$5,000 bonus because the machine exceeds 40 mph.

◆ A 30-hour walk **Keiko starts eating, swimming, 'walking' like a whale**

An important component of preparing for Keiko's possible reintroduction into the wild was accomplished in July as the final tracking device to monitor Keiko has been fabricated and tested.

Following Keiko's historic first "walk" May 25, Ocean Futures' reintroduction team has taken Keiko through the bay net gate a number of times to continue to familiarize him with this procedure.

Through these walks, Keiko has now been exposed to approximately 70 percent of the coastal waters of the island of Vestmannaeyjar, as well as some of the waters up to six nautical miles offshore.

Things continue to get more interesting, as a satellite system to track Keiko was recently completed, and he got ever closer to his first contact with wild whales.

On June 14, Keiko took an ocean walk that lasted roughly 30 hours. The intent of this walk was to see if Keiko would interact with other wild whales.

Research boats were out early, along with aerial surveillance, looking for pods of whales. They were able to get Keiko close to two mothers and two calves.

Keiko came close to the group, and then the four



Courtesy photo by Steven Sinelli

Keiko swims away from his barrier net, his old home, for the first time as he starts the first of his ocean walks.

wild whales went in one direction and Keiko went in the other.

On Sept. 9, 1998, Master Sgt. David Kidd, 86th Aerial Port Squadron, and Master Sgt. Earl Davis, 36th Aerial Port Squadron,

loaded Keiko, of "Free Willy" fame, into a C-17 in Newport, Ore., for his journey home to Iceland. Kidd flew on the nine-hour flight to Iceland to help offload Keiko.

◆ Ocean Futures

On June 14, Keiko took an ocean walk that lasted roughly 30 hours. The intent of this walk was to see if Keiko would interact with other wild whales.

the open ocean environment. These "walks" — where Keiko follows a designated boat out to sea — are an essential part of the plan for his potential reintroduction to the wild.

446th Associate Press



The 446th Associate Press is printed for associates like Matthew Bradley, left, one-month-old son of Senior Airman Tim Bradley, 446th Airlift Wing

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