

# The MIGHTY EIGHTH VOICE



Published for the members of Eighth Air Force

Vol. III  
Issue 5

8th Air Force  
Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana

June 2003

## Split Disbursement

All military travelers must now select the split disbursement option on their travel voucher claims to directly pay their government travel card expenses, according to finance officials.

Split disbursement requires travelers to tally up their GTC expenses and authorize enough funds to be sent automatically to Bank of America to pay off their charges, said Michael G. Weber, Air Force travel card program manager at the Pentagon. Any remaining travel settlement will still be sent to the traveler's personal account.

"Although this change was mandated by the 2003 National Defense Authorization Act to reduce the number of delinquent travel card accounts, split disbursement really is a win-win for everyone," Weber said. "It simplifies the payment process for travelers, gets the bank their money more quickly and reduces the number of delinquent accounts."

Nearly half of all Air Force travelers already use split disbursement on a regular basis when filing their vouchers because it simplifies the process for them, Weber said.

For more information contact the finance office at ext. 4733.



photo by Master Sgt. Rory Drew

Lieutenant Gen. Bruce Carlson, 8th Air Force commander, escorts Secretary of the Air Force, Dr. James G. Roche upon his arrival here May 28.

## SECAF visits Barksdale

By Master Sgt. Rick DelaHaya  
*8th Air Force Public Affairs*

**BARKSDALE AIR FORCE BASE, La.**—"Spectacular" and "remarkable" were the words of the day as the Air Force's top civilian spoke to a packed house attending a commander's call here May 29.

Secretary of the Air Force, Dr. James G. Roche stopped by to personally thank the troops that took part in Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom, discuss transformation, and the changing role of Eighth Air Force.

Roche visited Barksdale at the request of Lt. Gen. Bruce Carlson, 8th Air Force commander, to call attention to the unique mission of the "Mighty Eighth"

and highlight successes during the war in Iraq. During his two-day visit, the secretary received briefings on the integration of information operations into the numbered air force, mission briefings, and various tours around the base.

"It is my great honor to be here today with you, the men and women of Barksdale Air Force Base," said Roche. "In the past 20 months since our war on terrorism began, the capabilities delivered from Barksdale have been spectacular. You have played a vital and decisive role in our victories in Afghanistan and Iraq and have kept America safe. I applaud each and every one of you."

During his comments to the members

● See **SECAF visit**, page 6



Global Presence...Global Influence...Global Responsibility

# NCO discovers unofficial history of unit ballcaps

By Master Sgt. Rick Corral (retired)

70th Intelligence Wing Public Affairs

Piled neatly on my closet shelf, next to boxes of photographs and sewing supplies, is a stack of more than 50 baseball caps. They don't represent sports teams, but rather military units and media outlets.

In more than 25 years in the Air Force, I never really thought about, or even considered really, why I saved them, but there they sit just the same. I say I didn't think about them, but what I meant was I didn't think about them until walking from the parking lot to the office one morning.

A young Army private first class, looked up at me as we passed and politely asked why I wear a baseball cap in my uniform. For more than a quarter century, I didn't have an answer.

From the time we are assigned to our first Air Force unit, we are given the option of wearing a standard camouflage cap while wearing the Battle Dress uniform or the unit baseball-style cap.

These baseball style caps come in a variety of colors, depending on if you are assigned to a maintenance unit, a civil engineering unit, or one of the many other AF units. My first cap was red with a three inch "FD" centered just above the bill. I couldn't be more proud, for I was an Air Force fire fighter.

But with all the different colored caps adorned with different letters or patches, the driving question still is, "Why?"



photo by (ret) Master Sgt. Rick Corral

A collection of unit baseball caps worn by Air Force members

The young private's question echoed in my head? Why baseball caps? I decided to find the answer!

Who knew it would take more than three years of dead-end research, only to be answered during a recent trip to a local veterans hospital.

I'd made many visits, but this one was the first while dressed in BDUs. As I went from

room to room sharing adventurous stories with the hospitalized vets, I carried my 70th Intelligence Wing ball cap in my hand. Its regulation black color with the wing patch sewn center front and above the bill didn't seem overly attractive, but it immediately caught the attention of 87-year-old John as he rested in his hospital bed.

"I hope you have a few good war stories," said John, who flew as a crewmember in B-25s during World War II, as he sat up in bed. "I saw your hat and didn't realize that the

Air Force still wore baseball caps in uniform."

Shocked at that simple statement, I prodded John for more details and then asked him if he knew why the AF wore baseball caps.

"The ball caps were not issue items," said John.

"Wearing them just happened to be a popular thing to do. We would fly those long

missions over occupied Europe wearing our flight gear. When we got back to the base and got out of the bomber and gear, we just naturally put on our favorite baseball team cap. It was a bit of pride, a connection to home and a way to show a little team spirit."

"Maybe you've seen those old movies where the good guys try to make sure the other guy is a good guy by asking him baseball questions. I don't remember hearing things like that, but we did have our favorite team's ball cap, and that really

meant a lot to us!"

"You could tell right away, by the ball caps, which were the flyers," added David, a B-17 tail gunner who flew more than 10 missions during WWII over Germany.

"The first thing we did when we jumped out of the bomber is put on the ball caps. I had a Yankee's cap that I had for years. Besides my letters, it was my one connection to home. The Army didn't tell us we couldn't wear them, so it kind of became a tradition for the flyers."

So, after years of asking why, it all came down to old war stories from WWII bomber crewmembers and a non-official tradition of the Army Air Corps.

It started out as team spirit for boys and young men who reached out for a bit of home after experiencing the horrors of war and somehow evolved into the 21st century unit cap.

Although my military career is coming to an end, I'll forever remember why, for 25 years, I wore a baseball-style cap as part of my uniform. All because a young Army private asked, "Why?" and a B-25 veteran shared his love of the home team. 🇺🇸

*(Editor's Note: This story is not intended to be an official statement about the history of the unit "ball cap" in the Army Air Corps or United States Air Force, but rather a possible scenario for the caps' tradition. Both John and David are Hospice patients at a local veterans hospital. Both requested their complete name and hospital location not be used due to their health conditions.)*

***"It was a bit of pride, a connection to home, and a way to show a little team spirit."***

--World War II veteran

# New pin honors parents, bolsters support

By Staff Sgt. C. Todd Lopez

*Air Force Print News*

**WASHINGTON** — A new program will help airmen honor those who are often their biggest supporters — their parents.

All uniformed airmen can now sign their parents up to receive a new “Parent” lapel pin. The pins are about three-fourths inch square and feature a silver letter “P” cradled within the Air Force symbol.

A personalized letter to the parents from Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James G. Roche and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper will accompany the pins.

“We could not protect America’s freedom without the incredible people who are willing to carry on the Air Force tradition,” the letter reads. “As the proud parents of one of those airmen, your support continues to be critical to our ongoing efforts and makes a real difference to our country.”

“This is a way to build and maintain public support for the global war on terrorism,” said Brig. Gen. Edward Tonini, director of Your Guardians of Freedom, the Pentagon office responsible for the “Parent” pin effort.

“Demographically, the people most likely to wear the pin with the greatest amount of pride — to church, to Rotary Club meetings or to the grocery store — are our parents.

“By wearing this pin, parents will let you know of the pride they have in you,” Tonini said. “When they wear that pin out, their friends will ask about it. Your parents will tell them about you and your



*photo by Staff Sgt. C. Todd Lopez*

Airmen can now sign up to have a “Parent” pin sent to their parents. A personalized letter from Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James G. Roche and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper will accompany the pin and thank parents for their support.

service, and how proud they are of you.”

Those who would like their parents to receive the “Parent” pin can sign up at the Your Guardians of Freedom Web site at [www.yourguardiansoffreedom.com](http://www.yourguardiansoffreedom.com).

Signing up will require airmen to enter the names and addresses of up to two parents or parental figures, Tonini said. The program is voluntary and comes at no cost to those participating.

The distribution of the “Parent” pin and accompanying letters is the second major effort by the relatively new Your Guardians of Freedom office. The first was the “E” pin campaign, started in November 2002, in which pins featuring an “E” and personalized letters are sent to the civilian employers of Air National guardsmen and reservists.

The pins are a contemporary adaptation of the World War II “E” flags that were used to recognize companies for contributions to the war effort, and they are presented on display cards that explain their lineage.

Letters that are sent with the pins address recipients and airmen by name. They are intended to communicate to the parents the importance of their child’s service to the ongoing war on terrorism, to express sincere gratitude for parents’ continued support, and to convey a sense of partnership between the Air Force and the parents of America’s airmen.

The Your Guardians of Freedom program is designed to continue those traditions by ensuring the continued support of Air Force activities by those who do not wear the blue uniform, but stand behind those who do, Tonini said.

“Your Guardians of Freedom is an outreach program targeted at what we consider the core constituencies that the Air Force requires to do its work,” Tonini said. “If we are going to keep people in the Air Force ... we need programs targeted at their families ... and their extended families. In the case of the Reserve and Guard, that also includes civilian employers.”

The “E” pin program is ongoing, and reservists and guardsmen can still sign their employers up at the Your Guardians of Freedom Web site.

“In the Air Force, we tend to use the term ‘force multiplier,’” Tonini said. “These programs aren’t force multipliers, but rather, support multipliers all around the country.”

## The “Mighty Eighth” Voice

Editorial content of The **Mighty Eighth Voice** is edited, prepared and provided by the 8th Air Force Public Affairs office, Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana. All photographs are official Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated. The contents of The **Mighty Eighth Voice** are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the Air Force. The **Mighty Eighth Voice** is a monthly publication. People may submit suggestions for stories by calling Master Sgt. Rick DelaHaya in the Public Affairs Office, room 112, or call ext. 6-2156 or DSN 781-2156.



**Eighth Air Force Commander**  
Lt. Gen. Bruce Carlson

**Chief, Public Affairs**  
Capt. Denise Kerr

**Deputy Chief, Public Affairs**  
2nd Lt. Jennifer Ferrau

**Editor**  
Master Sgt. Rick DelaHaya  
NCOIC, Public Affairs



photo by Senior Master Sgt. Tom McKenzie

## Hi Dad!

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. — Shuji Gillis, age 3, is overcome by emotion as he welcomed home his father, Capt. Kouji Gillis, on May 7. The captain is assigned to the Georgia Air National Guard's 116th Air Control Wing here. He was also greeted by his wife, Yuki, and 1-year-old daughter, Momoka. The 116th ACS airmen flew here aboard one of the unit's E-8 Joint STARS Surveillance aircraft after supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom in the Middle East.

# AWACS tech named best in Air Force

By Airman K.L. Kimbrell  
552<sup>nd</sup> Air Control Wing Public Affairs

A communication-navigation journeyman from the 552<sup>nd</sup> Aircraft Maintenance Squadron will receive the 2002 Lt. Gen. Leo Marquez Award for best aircraft maintenance technician at an August ceremony at the Pentagon.

Staff Sgt. Diogenes Baez-Cruz was named as the awards' recipient in March after winning the same honor in Eighth Air Force and Air Combat Command.

Sergeant Baez-Cruz was named as the award recipient in March after winning the same honor in Eighth Air Force and Air Combat Command.

Sergeant Baez-Cruz was cited for volunteering for an initial tasking to Operation Enduring Freedom in which he directly contributed to 118 launches with 93.3 percent mission effectiveness and 1,709 flying hours.

The communications-navigation technician performed flawlessly during Operation Anaconda; his efforts supported 33 missions and 457 flight hours flown to support cave-to cave battle against enemy forces and recovery of friendly troops.

Sergeant Baez-Cruz's hard work and dedication helped enable the 552<sup>nd</sup> AMXS support four theaters of operation and 80 major exercises while flying 16,500 mishap-free hours.

The staff sergeant said he was very excited about winning the award. "I'm proud to part of the Air Force," said Sergeant Baez-Cruz. "It's a great personal achievement to have been recognized for all the things that I have accomplished."

"This award labels him as the best aircraft technician in 8th Air Force, ACC and the Air Force," said Master Sgt. William Duncan, 552<sup>nd</sup> AMXS avionics flight chief.

Sergeant Duncan said sergeant Baez-Cruz was singled out as the sharpest, hardest working, most technically apt airman of the 411 people assigned to the squadron. "He is the number one airman in the squadron."

"Sergeant Baez-Cruz won the award



photo by Eddie Edge

Staff Sgt. Diogenes Baez-Cruz will visit the Pentagon in August to receive the 2002 Lt. Gen. Leo Marquez for best aircraft maintenance technician.

because of all the things he has done," said Lt. Col. Frank Heinsohn, 552<sup>nd</sup> AMXS commander. He is above and beyond and a very mission-oriented airman. He realizes a lot of his co-workers have a lot to do with him winning this award."

Sergeant Baez-Cruz also won the ACC Enlisted 2003 National Image, Inc., Meritorious Service Award, which honors the contributions of Hispanics in the military and their community. 🇺🇸

**Aerospace Warrior Attitude**



**Staff Sgt. Becky A. Studniski**  
552nd Air Control Wing  
Tinker Air Force Base, Okla.

**Years of service:** 4 Years

**Hometown:** St. Joseph, Minn.

**Family:** 5 sisters and 4 brothers

**Job title:** Financial management information manager

**Primary duties and responsibilities:** Work Group Manager, administrative support for 552 ACW/FMA and Web page administrator.

**Most rewarding job aspect:** I like being able to help other's out by fixing their computer problems.

**Goals:** To finish my degree and lots of self-improvement.

**Hobbies:** Reading, four-wheeling, baking, arts and crafts, and working out in the gym.

**What motivates your winning attitude:** My office, family and friends. They all encourage and support me.

**I'm most proud of:** My family and who I have become.

**Favorite aspects of Tinker:** How well everyone works together, and the support we receive from the community.



*photo by Staff Sgt. Denise Rayder*

**Retreat**

Lt. Gen. Bruce Carlson, 8th Air Force commander, watches as the Honor Guard secured the flag at the May 14 retreat ceremony. Members from 8th AF Headquarters took part in the retreat.

**Eighth Air Force Salutes!**

**Headquarters Airman of the Month**



**Congratulations to the Headquarters Airman of the Month for May**

●Senior Airman Talia Galindo  
608th Air Intelligence Squadron

**Welcome to the "Mighty Eighth"**

*The following people joined the Headquarters 8th Air Force team in May:*

- ◆Airman 1st Class Nathon Grafton  
608th Air Communications Squadron
- ◆Senior Airman Orlando Dawson  
608th Combat Plans Squadron
- ◆Senior Airman Ashley Taylor  
608th Combat Operations Squadron



# Welcome Home!



photo by Airman K.L. Kimbrell

TINKER AIR FORCE BASE, Okla. (AFPN) — Five E-3 Sentry airborne warning and control system aircraft receive a traditional hosing-down upon returning here April 28. The aircraft carried approximately 180 members from the 552nd Air Control Wing — the wing's Canadian component—and 513th Air Control Group reservists. The units were deployed supporting Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom.

## ● SECAF visit, from page 1

of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Bomb Wing, the 917<sup>th</sup> Wing and 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force, Roche highlighted some of their accomplishments since September 11 and said that they were nothing short of “spectacular.” He pointed to the high deployment rates, flying hours, sorties flown and numbers of munitions dropped, and mission capable rates as proof their commitment to excellence.

“You really have been at the forefront on the war on terrorism,” he said. “Your service to this country and the Air Force has been remarkable and you have been a key part of America’s protection forces. And you have done this while supporting the mission at home, providing first-class support to the space shuttle recovery efforts and winning more than 40 organizational awards.”

The secretary also briefly touched on transformation, saying that it’s a buzzword he likes to use sparingly. Transformation, he said, is actually taking systems you already have and using them in interesting and unique ways. The B-52, for example, is one weapons platform whose mission and



photo by Airman Trina R. Flanagan

Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James G. Roche briefs Barksdale airman during breakfast while visiting Barksdale Air Force Base, La.

combat role has been changing, especially since the war on terrorism began.

“You are doing this with the toys of your fathers,” he said jokingly. “The platform is old, but the thinking is advanced. You keep coming up with firsts, whether it be adding a new mission such as close air support, using the Litening II targeting pod and time sensitive targeting, you are proving what we could only hope for and that is truly remarkable.”

Secretary Roche also received briefings on the changing face of 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force and how information operations are integrating into the combat air forces. During the war in Iraq, for example, 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force played a huge role in the success of the campaign, he said. This was due to how well platforms such as AWACS, Joint Stars, the U-2 and Compass Call were integrated into the overall battle plan. He highlighted this by describing how well different systems were tied together during a particular troop movement.

“When the Iraqis started moving a mechanized unit, we had no advanced knowledge of this, but had a Joint Stars in the area,” he explained. “They passed along the information to the Combined Air Operations Center and was later targeted by a pair of B-52’s. We were able to pick this all up at night and through a sandstorm. Needless to say it was the last time they (the Iraqis) tried to move units at night. And this was all attributed to how well all these different assets and systems were integrated together.”

# B-52 still a force to be reckoned with

By Senior Master Sgt.  
Rick Burnham

Air Force Print News

**WASHINGTON**—More than 50 years after the first B-52 bomber rolled off a Boeing assembly line, the aging *Stratofortress* is still making believers out of those who would oppose the United States.

The latest convert? Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

The B-52H has topped 100 missions flown in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, ranging from strategic attack to close-air support, and often times flown by aircrews who were still in diapers when he strong-armed his way into middle eastern power in 1979.

Capt. John, along with Capt. Joe and Ray, 2nd Lt. Ryan and Maj. Ed, combined to fly the 100th B-52 mission of OIF April 10, pounding regime fortifications in undisclosed areas north of Baghdad. The aircrew conducted an interview with Pentagon reporters via telephone April 14. They asked that their full names not be used.

John, aircraft commander of the crew, said the conditions in Iraq are fluid and call for flexibility on the part of the aircraft and its crew.

“Targets can be communicated from command nodes as well as coalition ground forces, and can be attacked using any of a variety of weapon systems, ranging from precision-guided munitions to ‘dumb bombs,’” he said. “Targets run the gamut, from fixed facilities to enemy ground troops.”

Those missions involving coalition ground troops who are in dire need of support are among the most satisfying, said Ed, a B-52H electronic warfare officer.

“We will have some guy on the ground saying, ‘I am being shot at.’ And by the time we get done, he is saying, ‘I am not being shot at,’” the major said. “That is really a rewarding experience to know that I directly helped somebody and probably saved his life.”

Joe, who served as co-pilot on the historic flight, said the aircraft’s immense communications systems enhance the plane’s CAS capability.

“Because we have so many radios on board, we are always in communication with someone,” he said. “We are often able to talk with the guys on the ground, and they tell us exactly where they need our munitions. So we can roll in and put our bombs exactly where they need (them) so that they are not threatened any more.”

Raymond, a B-52H radar navigator, said the duration of such missions makes them even more rewarding. Typical B-52H flights originate at a deployed site outside the Gulf region, and take as many as 17 hours to complete. Briefings



photo by Tech. Sgt. Richard Freeland

A 40th Expeditionary Bomb Squadron co-pilot carefully guides his B-52 *Stratofortress* into position behind a KC-135 Stratotanker during an air-refueling mission April 11. The B-52 has topped 100 missions flown in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, ranging from strategic attack to close-air support.

before and after each flight can stretch the mission to as many as 24 hours, he said.

“The most satisfying thing is taking off, flying as far as we do, getting to the area, and being able to make life somewhat easier for the guys on the ground,” he said. “It is a real satisfying mission overall.”

Those missions cannot happen without a tremendous level of support from a variety of different sources, John said.

“There are hundreds and hundreds of people who support each mission,” he said. “When we take off, we feel all of their support, and take all of those efforts and turn them into successful results — in this case, changing a dictatorial regime and freeing the Iraqi people.”

Ryan, the youngest of the group, agreed, giving specific

credit to the maintainers and munitions specialists who prep the jets before each mission.

“Our crew chiefs are extremely talented,” he said. “They and the munitions people make it easy for us to hop in the jets and put the bombs on target, and then get home safe.”

Each crewmember also gave credit to the people who have contributed to the upgrade of the B-52 over the years since it first took to the skies in 1951. In short, this is not your grandpa’s B-52, Ed said.

“It may be over 50 years old, but it has gone through extensive modifications and upgrades over the years,” he said. “So, it is not the same airplane that came off the assembly line in the early ‘60s. It continues to hold its own, and it does a fine job.”



Courtesy photo

The U-2 *Dragon Lady* still reigns supreme as the leader among manned intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance systems. Over the past few years, the 48-year-old aircraft has received upgrades to avionics, data-links, fiber-optic electronics, new engines and is slated for all-glass cockpits for the entire fleet.

## Improved *Dragon Lady* still seeks, finds today's prey

By Sue Baker

Aeronautical Systems Center  
Public Affairs

**WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio (AFPN)** — The 48-year-old U-2 *Dragon Lady* still reigns supreme as the leader among manned intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance systems.

Even with newer, unmanned aerial vehicles like Global Hawk and Predator — welcomed by increasing numbers of warfighters, and now joining the U-2 in ISR missions during Operation Iraqi Freedom — the *Dragon Lady* remains unique among Department of Defense manned systems.

“The airframe is definitely

not the same one flown by Francis Gary Powers over Russia in the 1960's,” said Col. Joe Chang, director of the intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance directorate for the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center at Robins Air Force Base, Ga.

“It's 40 percent larger, has modern avionics, improved data-links, better fiber-optic electronics, and new General Electric F-118-101 engine, with all-glass cockpit slated for installation on the entire fleet.” Today's U-2 also has improved electro-optical, infrared and radar sensors, Chang said.

Traditionally the U-2 has been known for its ability to capture crystal-clear film images of potential enemy areas of in-

terest, which are brought back after missions then processed, developed, analyzed and interpreted by intelligence specialists, Chang said.

“That capability still exists, but has been augmented by the additional, upgraded sensors — plus the U-2's ability to download data in real time via satellite to multiple ground stations located around the world, which transmit the data directly to warfighters,” he said.

“The last 10 years have really been the critical time in the life of the U-2,” said Maj. Michael Glaccum, U-2 program manager at Air Combat Command headquarters at Langley AFB, Va. His office is responsible for monitoring system assets and funding improvements

for the 34-airplane U-2 fleet.

“When OPERATION Desert Storm kicked off, the U-2 still was primarily a Cold War platform doing some tactical work,” Glaccum said. “But then it gained exposure as a tactical, integrated platform that worked closely with aircraft engaged in ground operations, as well as providing significant amounts of battlefield imagery to the Army and others on the ground.”

Aeronautical Systems Center's U-2 program office here also provides research and development for future improvements to U-2 systems, said Lt. Col. Bruce Giesige, development systems officer.

A new Dual Data Link System will allow the U-2 to simultaneously ‘feed’ two ground-based, airborne or space-based sites with data, Giesige said. “It will probably be a year or two before we field this capability, but we think the future of the U-2 program depends on this new ability to beam critical information straight to another platform out there, to dramatically shorten the warfighter's kill chain,” he said.

Another significant improvement to the U-2 is network-centric collaborative targeting, where battlefield information from various ISR sensors will be captured and managed at a central location, Glaccum said.

“Ultimately, we want to be included with a feed to the (future Multi-Sensor Command and Control Aircraft) platform, re-designated the E-10,” Glaccum said.

“Imagine a battlefield area, with ground units, lower-flying fighters, strike-type airplanes, and ISR platforms...ringing the

● See U-2, page 9

● **U-2, from page 8**

battlefield in various places. Then above it all, you have the U-2, which is able to feed air-to-air platforms and ground stations simultaneously for maximum interoperability.”

Development of direct threat warning for other, nearby aircraft is another U-2 program goal, according to Glaccum.

“We’re working to enable our ground stations to broadcast threat warnings to airplanes in theater that may be within the U-2’s high-altitude line of sight, but not within LOS of another command/control platform or ground station,” he said.

According to Bob Becker, U-2 acquisition program manager at ASC, the program office will soon be fielding an advanced defensive system that will improve situational awareness for U-2 pilots. Another new capability will transmit threat informa-



*Courtesy photo*

Upgraded with more than \$1.7 billion in new avionics, engines and sensors at regular intervals throughout its 48-year lifetime, the U-2 *Dragon Lady* today still reigns supreme.

tion directly to the cockpit, Glaccum said.

The new glass cockpit is a “complete

entire fleet will have glass cockpits by about

2008, he said. 🇺🇸

replacement” of the 1960’s-vintage cockpit instruments with three, multi-function, full-color displays, Glaccum said.

“These displays put all flight information - plus current status of the engine, avionics, sensors and moving map - right in front of the pilot, which makes it a lot easier to avoid information overload.”

The first glass cockpit-equipped U-2 was delivered to the 9th Reconnaissance Wing at Beale AFB, Calif., in April 2002, Glaccum said. The

## Jamming squadron accomplishes mission

**OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM (AFP)** — After more than 220 sorties, almost 2,000 combat flying hours and more than 6,000 jammed enemy signals in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, the airmen of the 41st Expeditionary Electronic Combat Squadron can call it a day.

As part of the 64th Air Expeditionary Wing deployed to Southwest Asia, the 41st EECS played a key role during the war by disrupting Iraqi military communications to support many operations.

The 41st flies the EC-130H Compass Call aircraft, and its mission is to jam unfriendly communications, making it difficult for an enemy to command and control its forces, said Lt. Col. Don Bacon, the 41st EECS commander.

“We were involved with almost every major operation that went on in Iraq,” the commander said. “It was very demanding.”

Flying over Iraq took the

squadron’s maintenance crews to new levels.

“I think the guys found new limits in themselves because they got pushed beyond the exhaustion point,” said Master Sgt. Daniel Johnson, the night-shift production supervisor. “We worked 45 or 50 12-hour shifts in a row with no days off, and everybody held up really well.”

The airmen held up, but maintaining some of the equipment was a challenge.

“It just seemed odd that we were changing so many parts,” said Senior Airman David Pazak, an aircraft propulsion craftsman.

“We started thinking about it and looking at the hours we were generating. We did six months of maintenance in a four-week period.”

During the war, the unit worked 24-hour operations launching an aircraft approximately every eight hours, said Maj. Steven Weld, the mainte-



*photo by Master Sgt. Luis Drummond*

An EC-130H Compass Call aircraft from the 41st Expeditionary Electronic Combat Squadron refuels while flying a mission over Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Squadron airmen will return home soon to Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz.

nance flight commander.

Maintainers turned the planes over to the aircrews who then ventured into the not so friendly skies.

“We typically fly (on) the friendly side, jamming deep into the enemy side,” Bacon said. “Here we flew way forward, and that was a little bit stressful.

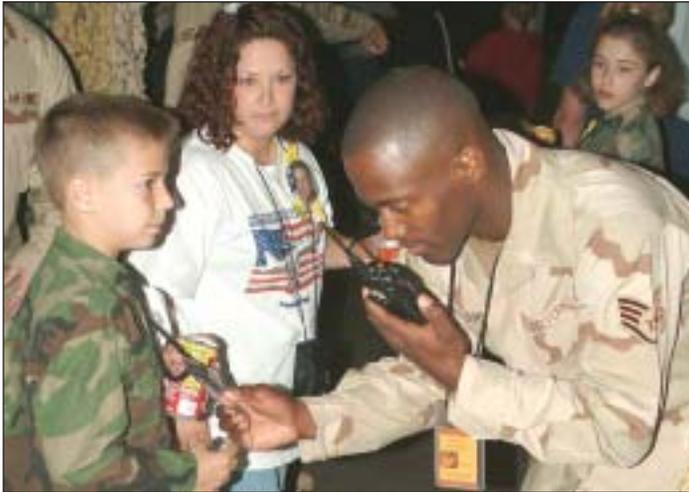
“We were seeing unguided missiles flying by ... and that’s not something we’re used to.”

After a nearly six-month deployment that started in November, airmen from the 41st EECS are proud of their accomplishments and are happy to be returning home to Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz. 🇺🇸

## Operation K.U.D.O.S

# Kids Understanding Deployment Operations

The family support center at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla., hosted the first Operation K.U.D.O.S. May 3. The event was designed to help children of military members better understand deployments and the steps involved. 🐾



*photos by Airman K.L. Kimbrell*

Above: Staff Sgt. Norman Williams, 752nd Computer Systems Squadron, checks the ID card of Zach Harlow, son of Senior Master Sgt. Mike Harlow, 963rd Airborne Air Control Squadron, before he is allowed access to Base X.

Below: Trevor Pelletier, son of 1st Lt. Chad Pelletier, 552nd Training Squadron, tries on a gas mask as he tours Base X.



Melissa Dehart, daughter of 1st Lt. Michael Dehart, 552nd Training Squadron, and Kyle Dale, son of 1st Lt. Jeffrey Dale, 552nd Training Squadron, walk across the flightline to their next stop - a tour of an E-3 Sentry Airborne Warning and Control System aircraft.



Ian Houston, son of Capt. Chauncey Houston, 960th Airborne Air Control Squadron, holds up his name placard so he can have his picture taken for his ID card.



Joseph Brown, son of Tech. Sgt. John Brown, 72nd Security Forces Squadron, takes a break from the rigors of living on Base X.

# Mighty Eighth spikes 2nd MG for base title

## Nine straight points to end game seals team's championship

By Staff Sgt. Jeremy Larlee

*2nd Bomb Wing Public Affairs*

BARKSDALE AIR FORCE BASE, La.—The “Mighty Eighth” scored the last nine points in the match-deciding set to defeat the 2nd Medical Group here and claim the base intramural volleyball championship May 13 at the sports and fitness center.

Matt Bartos scored the final point for 8th AF on a spike to end a long volley between the teams

“It’s satisfying getting in any shot in there, but to score the game-winning shot is extra special,” said Bartos.

The Mighty Eighth’s trip to the championship game was not easy, as they had to battle through the loser’s bracket. They defeated the 2nd MG in two straight sets

by the scores of 15-10 and 16-14 to force the final best of three match up.

The Mighty Eighth started off the first set like they were going to continue to run over the 2nd MG by scoring the first four points of the set. The 2nd MG bounced back though, and scored six straight points.

The 2nd MG was able to hold onto the lead for the rest of the game and won with a 15-11 score.

The Mighty Eighth came back strong in the second game and took a commanding 11-1 lead. They did not let the 2nd MG back into the game this time and won the set 15-7.

In the third game it was the 2nd MG’s turn to bounce back and they did just that by taking a commanding 10-2 lead. They further extended it

to 14-7 and started to celebrate like the championship was theirs. They would never score that final point though as 8th AF scored nine straight points to take the match and base championship from the shocked 2nd MG team.

The 2nd MG coach said his team started making errors that could have been avoided.

“We started messing up

on our serves, said coach Bob Toner. “We really just dropped the ball there at the end.”

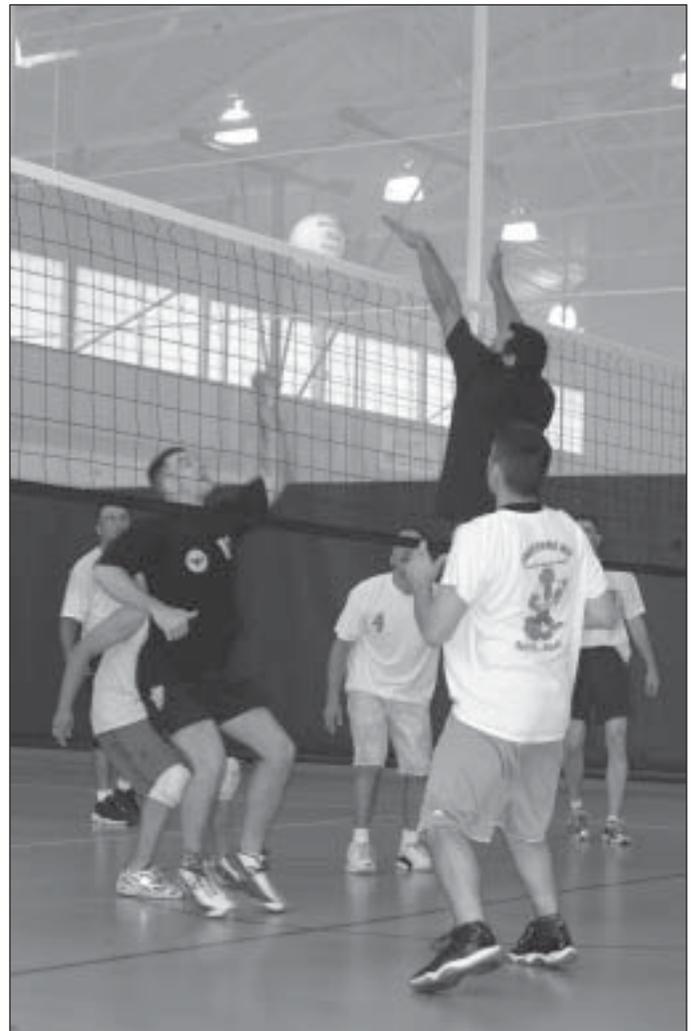
The 8th AF coach said the victory ended years of frustration for her squad.

“It’s a big victory for us,” said coach Ivonne Viniard. “It’s the fifth year in a row we have been in the championship game and the first year that we have won it.” 🏆



*photos by Staff Sgt. Jeremy Larlee*

Christian Rodriguez, 8th Air Force, attempts to set a teammate for a spike, as Joseph DiBiasio, far left, and Juan Rodriguez-Estrada look on.



Juan Alvarez, 2nd Medical Group, tries to spike the ball past Matt Bartos, 8th Air Force during the championship game May 13. The “Mighty Eighth” captured the trophy by one point.