

THUNDERBOLT

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Mentoring: A forgotten art that makes a difference

by Maj. Patrick Steen

387th Expeditionary Security Forces commander

SOUTHWEST ASIA (AFNS) — In today's age of technology and invention, we have a tendency of focusing more resources on bigger and better gadgets. And in the Air Force, our gadgets are pretty magnificent works of art. They dwarf our nearest competitors.

Specifically, I am referring to aircraft such as the F-22 Raptor and the C-17 Globemaster III, the latest in communications technology or the state of the art lasers of tomorrow. Our aircraft, for instance, are on the cutting edge of technology and one of the primary reasons our enemies fear and respect us as an airpower.

But in our tremendous drive to push toward the heavens with new machinery, we as a community push aside our basic combatant training. In the last several years, we have begun the transition of getting back to our combatant roots with the establishment of Combat Skills Training, robust enlisted War-

rior Week training and various upgraded regional training centers.

This much needed and timely training is a step in the right direction, but we should continue to raise the bar and challenge today's Airmen.

The training I'm referring to can only be accomplished by the leader or supervisor serving next to us every day. Unlike combat skills and Warrior Week, the biggest benefit of this training is it doesn't cost a thing.

I'm talking about the art of mentoring. Mentor has a plethora of definitions: trainer, teacher, experienced advisor or supporter, to name a few. A mentor can personalize the training experience, inspire the junior Airman and be the living example an Airman needs to press ahead in his or her career.

The Air Force will always be in search of more teachers, mentors or trainers, and each Airman should strive to become a great mentor to the Airmen around them. We all have friends in our workcenters, but how many mentors are there? How many Airmen can you turn to for professional advice about

your career or simply to inspire and challenge you to be a better Airman?

I propose a challenge. This challenge is very unique and simple, but we all unknowingly take it without exception across the course of our careers and lives. I challenge each and every one of you to be a good mentor.

At some point, we are all teachers or mentors in every sense of the word. Every action we choose to take in the workplace or off duty influences the Airman serving with us in some way.

The critical piece is being cognizant of your actions and asking yourself, "Will I be a positive or negative influence?" Do my actions reflect the Air Force's core values?

Every action we choose to make will influence those around you to some degree. My challenge is one we must all take if we are to master the art of mentoring and become that positive influence in someone else's life.

With every senior Airman mentoring the junior Airman next to them, we will achieve heights never before seen in the Air Force.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Patrice Clarke

AMC vice visits

Lt. Gen. Vern "Rusty" Findley, Air Mobility Command vice commander, shakes hands with Airman Samuel Blair, 6th Maintenance Squadron aerospace ground equipment apprentice, at the MacDill Dining Facility Oct. 31. General Findley had breakfast with several MacDill junior enlisted members to hear and answer some of their questions concerning AMC and the Air Force.

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MacDill Thunderbolt

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Calendar, chapel, more

Honoring our veterans – past, present and future

by Gen. Arthur J. Lichte

Commander, Air Mobility Command

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill. – Each Veteran’s Day, Americans have the opportunity to reflect upon and honor the sacrifices of noble men and women who have served in defense of our great nation and its freedoms. We also take this time to express our deepest gratitude for those serving today. Through daily mission accomplishments, we extend the legacy of those who served before us and underpin our nation’s values to inspire tomorrow’s heroes.

Mobility warriors continue to epitomize our rich heritage and proud legacy. Mobility Airmen share in the proud legacy of our nation’s defense throughout the history of manned flight. Through air mobility, our nation can extend an out-stretched hand of compassion to those in need, or a clenched fist to those who threaten our freedom. The air mobility legacy is visible all around us -- from the Air Force’s first challenge 60 years ago, the Berlin Airlift, to the relief efforts after natural disasters in our country and around the world, to today’s daily engagement in the Global War on Terror.

We willingly accept the responsibility of continuing this great legacy and, by doing so, honor the Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors, Marines and Coast Guardsmen who came before us, and those who serve as



Gen. Arthur J. Lichte

our partners today. We are a more capable force because we stand on the shoulders of those who came before us.

As you observe Veteran’s Day, please take a moment to recognize the contributions of our veterans, and commit yourself to meeting the challenges that await us.

I am proud to serve with you, and I thank you and your families for your dedication and sacrifice to our missions.

Airmen ‘get to know’ the AMC vice commander

by Airman 1st Class Katherine B. Holt
6th Air Mobility Wing Public Affairs

Fifteen junior enlisted members from around MacDill Air Force Base had the privilege of sharing breakfast and getting to know Lt. Gen. Vern M. “Rusty” Findley II, Air Mobility Command Vice Commander, Oct. 31 at the Dining Facility here.

General Findley took time out of his two-day visit to meet with Airmen and gave them a chance to inquire about ongoing MacDill and Air Force issues.

“I have done this at a couple of places I

have been,” General Findley told the Airmen. “The best session has always been this one because you guys have the toughest questions. So don’t hold back.”

General Findley discussed his background and 33-year Air Force career. He served two tours at MacDill. His first tour was in the mid 90’s when he was Commander, 6th Operations Group here and his second tour here was at Headquarters U.S. Central Command as the Director, Strategy, Plans and Policy.

“I am happy to be back in Air Mobility Command; this is where my roots are,” said General Findley. “After coming back to AMC

after serving at a joint command, I couldn’t be prouder of what we are doing in the command during very difficult and key times in our nation’s history.”

General Findley focused on the Air Force’s role in a deployed environment.

“Our Air Force is ‘all in’ over there,” he said. “There are great young men and women, our Airmen, that are over there making key and critical contributions to what is happening in the area of responsibility.”

General Findley answered many questions from the Airmen.



Veterans Day Holiday Hours

MacDill Services	Tues 11 Nov
6th Services Squadron	
E' Club Sports Bar & Grill	1100-2100
Child Development Centers	Closed
Family Child Care	Closed
Human Resources	Closed
Fitness Center	0800-2000
Golf Course	0630 - 1730
Main Golf Course Snack Bar	0630 - 1400
Grill	0630 - 1400
Bowling Center	Closed
Information, Tickets & Travel	Closed
Tickets Only	Closed
Library	Closed
Officers' Club	
Swamp	Closed
Buffet	Closed
Brunch	Closed
Dinner	Closed
SeaScapes	Closed
Diner's Reef	
Brunch	0730 - 1300
Dinner	1600 - 1800
Midnight Meal	2200 - 2300
Veterinary Clinic	Closed
Outdoor Recreation	
Marina	Closed
Building 60	1000-1800
Skeet Range	Closed
Pool	Closed
Youth Center	
Preteen	Closed
Teen	Closed
School Age	Closed
Arts & Craft	
Framing & Engraving Shops	Closed
Auto Shop	Closed
Wood Shop	Closed

AAFES/DeCA Facilities	
Base Exchange (main store)	0900-1700
Armed Forces Bank	0900-1700
Class Six	Closed
Military Clothing Sales	Closed
Furniture Store	Closed
Charley's	1100-1600
Anthony's Pizza	1100-1600
Car Care Center	24 hrs
Service Bays	Closed
Burger King	1100-1700
Subway	Closed
Taco Bell	Closed
Robin Hood	Closed
Baskin Robbins	Closed
SOCOM snack bar	Closed
CENTCOM snack bar	Closed
Hospital American Eatery	Closed
Optical Center	Closed
Optometry Care	Closed
GNC	1000-1600
Beauty Salon	Closed
Petals & Blooms	Closed
Barber Shop (BX)	1000-1600
Barber Shop Bldg. 17	Closed
The Cleaners (BX)	Closed
The Cleaners Bldg. 17	Closed
Alteration Shop	Closed
Dunkin Donuts	1000-1700
Enterprise	Closed
Commissary	0900-1600
Security Forces	
Visitor Reception Facility	Closed
Port Tampa Gate	0530-1000
Police Services	Closed
Security Forces Administration	Closed
Military Personnel Flight	Closed
Civilian Personnel Flight	Closed
Base Education Office	Closed
Family Support Center	Closed

SPORTS NEWS



Pickup ball

(Above) Noah Lewis, goes up for the pass during a pick-up game between the shirts and skins at the base football field Sunday. Airmen living in the dorms get together every Sunday to battle it out on the field. (Right) Zachary Davis and Edward Riley line up on offense in the game. Davis and the shirts went on to win 35 to 14.





Photos by Senior Airman David L. Minor

Talent on stage

The MacDill Youth Center held a Family and Teen Talent Show Oct. 30. Twelve children participating. (Above) Members of Pungie Sticks play. Pungie Sticks won the Preteen group category. (Center) Katherina Delarea participated in teen single group, while Abbygale Chua-Root sings in the pre-teen singles category.



FINDLEY

From Page 3

Airman 1st Class Joseph Fears, 6th Communications Squadron, voice network systems apprentice, asked General Findley about his thoughts on the new Airman's Creed.

"I think it is something that maybe is a little overdue," responded General Findley. "I think the essence of it for me is reading and understanding those words and then living those words."

He added that knowing what the words meant for Airmen and the team, the United States Air Force, during a time of war was essential. General Findley encouraged the

Airmen to not just memorize, but to understand and really soak in the meaning of the Airman's Creed and the Oath of Enlistment.

General Findley wrapped up with his thoughts on the Air Force and its great Airmen.

"I know that the Air Force will continue to be in great hands because of the great men and women that are making sacrifices required to stand up for the stars and stripes and all the flag stands for," said General Findley.

He thanked the Airmen for all they have

done and have yet to do. He told them that it [the work] wouldn't be easy, but encouraged them to do their very best and work their hardest at the task they are given.

"As you look back in the history of our nation, it's times like this that have always come up, that are never easy, but it is great young folks like you all that stand up and do what is required to make sure our freedoms are secured," said General Findley.

General Findley ended his tour with a lunch with the company grade officers, a unit mission brief, a base windshield tour and of-



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BRIEFS



Monday closures

The Military Personnel Flight to include I.D. Cards/DEERS will be closed. For emergencies, please contact Staff Sgt. Aeisha Blyden at (813) 924-5951. The 6th Communications Help Desk will be closed Staff Sgt. Latanya Denmon at (813) 507-5528.

Enlisted Spouses' Club November meeting

The Enlisted Spouses' Club will meet at 7 p.m. Nov. 11, at the Base Chapel. This month's meeting will include a make-it-take-it card workshop. For more information, please contact Samantha Wolf at 813-610-0061 or via email at macdillese@yahoo.com. The ESC is open to all branches of the military. Spouses of enlisted service members or the civilian equivalents are invited to become members. Dual military spouses are also eligible.

Officers Spouses' Club November meeting

The Officers Spouses' Club will meet at 11 a.m. for social time and 11:30 for lunch, Nov. 20, at the MacDill AFB Officers' Club. This month's meeting will be in honor of the Warrior Care Program. For more information, please contact Renee Brunelle at 850-445-4447 or via email at reneebrunelle@hotmail.com.

The 6th Mission Support Squadron

Beginning at 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., Nov 14, the following 6th Mission Support Squadron offices will be closed for an official function: Education and Training Center, Airman and Family Readiness Center, Civilian Personnel, Manpower & Organization Flight, and Military Personnel Flight to include the ID card section. For details, please contact 828-4151.

Commissary Hours

The MacDill AFB Commissary is now open at 6 a.m., Monday through Friday using self-check out register only. The Deli and Bakery will also be available during that time. For details please contact the commissary at 828-3361.

Retiree Appreciation Day

In honor of retirees dedicated service and sacrifices, MacDill AFB Legal Office will be offering a "walk-in" will service Nov. 22 from 8 a.m. till noon. This service is provided to retirees at no cost and it's our way of saying "Thank You". Due to the number of retirees in our community, there could be a two to three hour wait. An assortment of snacks, along with coffee or juice, will be offered. For details please contact the legal office at (813) 828-4421.



Joining, training, deploying: Immigrant Airman comes ‘full circle’

by Staff Sgt. Paul R. Evans

U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center

FORT DIX, N.J. — Senior Airman Bassel Noori is deployed for the first time to Ali Air Base, Iraq. In a way, he says it's like coming full circle with his origins.

“This is the first time I have taken a trip outside the United States, other than Canada, since I immigrated in 1995,” Airman Noori said. “From where my life began to coming here - it has been a complete turnaround.”

Airman Noori, from the 6th Mission Support Group at MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., is a Lebanese immigrant from Lagos, Nigeria, a Muslim and a contingency skills-trained Airman fighting in the Global War on Terrorism. He is, as he stated from Iraq, “Happy to be here, proud to serve!”

His life has had many twists and turns. Airman Noori immigrated to the United States in August 1995 with his Afghani father, Lebanese mother and younger sister and settled in Grand Rapids, Mich. For Airman Noori, he recalled it as “huge culture shock,” but has overcome one thing after another.

“My biggest struggle was with education,” Airman Noori said. “As a sophomore in high school, I didn't have a language barrier -- I could speak English. The struggle was with the attitude that American students have with their education -- some took it seriously, and others didn't, and to me that was shocking. As a Muslim, the Quran teaches us that education is extremely important because Allah (God) wants us to be able to read and interpret the Quran and write in our native Arabic language. Therefore, education was taught with a certain

strictness that isn't the same in America.”

In his junior year of high school, Airman Noori said he was more comfortable with the American way of life and became very active in extra-curricular activities such as the French, Spanish and Drama clubs. On Sept. 11, 2001, he was studying at Western Michigan University when the terrorist attacks took place. He remembers the time vividly and the fear that came with it.

“My father got a lot of flak at work for being Muslim,” Airman Noori recalls. “They called him a variety of derogatory names for being Middle Eastern. It was very hard for him but he encouraged me to continue on.”

The fear generated from the attacks created stereotypical beliefs about Middle Eastern people, Airman Noori said. But he believed it was

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Shirt takes family on whirlwind ride for charity

by Staff Sgt. Patrice Clarke
6th Air Mobility Wing Public
Affairs

What do you consider a good workout? Is it running a couple of miles on Bayshore, or spending an hour lifting at the gym? Master Sgt. Craig Neri, 6th Air Mobility Wing Staff first sergeant, and first sergeant to several squadrons in the 6th Mission Support Group, thinks a nice, leisurely 135-mile bike ride from Tampa to Daytona

Beach, Fla. will be a "good workout."

"The original intent was just to say we did it, you know, for the challenge," said Sergeant Neri.

Sergeant Neri won't be taking this trek alone, his wife Donna Neri and father Michael Neri, will also be riding the cross-state course for which they've been preparing for months.

"We've been riding four to five days per week for the last couple of months," said Sergeant Neri. "On the

weekends we try and put in some decent distances to better prepare us for the six to seven hours we'll be in the saddle. The key is riding as much as possible."

To him, 135 miles isn't that long of a ride.

"There are organized 100 mile rides all the time," said Sergeant Neri. "This isn't a major feat as it relates to distance but when you consider we're doing it as a family and for a good cause, it takes on a much different meaning."

The good cause Sergeant Neri speaks of, none other, than to raise money for the MacDill First Sergeant's Association.

"The first sergeants support many different morale and welfare programs on base to include quarterly and annual awards banquets, Harvest Share, Warm Heart and many other programs," said Sergeant Neri.

Mrs. Neri also had good things to say about the First Sergeants Associa-



Photo by Staff Sgt. Patrice Clarke

Master Sgt. Craig Neri, first sergeant, right, with his wife Donna and father Michael. The family is biking to Daytona to raise money for good causes supported by the MacDill First Sergeant's Association.

tion.

"I know the programs that the first sergeants support touch the whole family not just the active duty member; I've seen it first hand," she said. "This is my opportunity to give back to those other family members who may be in need."

Helping out wasn't the only reason she wanted to be a part of this landmark ride.

"I love a challenge," said

Mrs. Neri. "I am not only getting the benefits of a good workout and quality family time, I am getting the satisfaction of knowing that Airmen and their spouses will benefit from my efforts to do something I've never done before."

Team MacDill members who want to donate to this fundraiser should contact their first sergeant or contact Sergeant Neri directly at craig.neri@macdill.af.mil or 828-4153.

IMMIGRANTS

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important to change those beliefs.

“It was more important for me to show that not all Muslims or Middle Easterners are terrorists -- I had to set a good example to others like me,” Airman Noori said.

Despite receiving harassment from classmates, hearing negative reports and stereotypes from the media and general public, Basel Noori committed to his decision to continue the process for U.S. citizenship. In May 2002, he exchanged his Lebanese citizenship and swore his allegiance to the United States as a new American.

Airman Noori said his patriotism and love for the United States further spawned a desire to give back to his country and that was when

he decided to join the Air Force in 2005. He talked about his parents’ reaction to him becoming an Airman.

“My parents were apprehensive at first,” Airman Noori said. “They are now in full support of my decision because the Air Force has allowed me to continue my education in computer information systems. Plus, I get to help fight the Global War on Terrorism.”

Reflecting on his Afghani origin, Airman Noori said his father has lost contact with some of his family back in Afghanistan. Even though some of them had fled Afghanistan to Iran to escape the Taliban, Noori said he has other family members who are reported missing due to the Taliban oppression.

“It’s another reason why I am in the Air Force and deployed right now,” Airman Noori said. “I want to show no matter where you come from

you can make a difference by doing something that’s larger than yourself. For me, it is serving in the Air Force and being deployed.”

Prior to deploying, Airman Noori trained in the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center’s Advanced Contingency Skills Training Course in August prior to his deployment. He said he came to the course unsure of what he was going to learn and initially was nervous about his deployment. That all changed when he graduated.

“Having gone through the course was a highlight in my Air Force career,” Airman Noori said. “The training I received in ACST has helped me feel more confident and prepared to expect the unexpected. This is a war zone and I feel that I at least have a basic knowledge of how to react to certain situations and potentially save a life, including mine.”



Airmen play goodwill role at Camp Bucca

by Staff Sgt. Vincent Borden

386th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

CAMP BUCCA, Iraq (AFNS) — In seven years and four deployments around the world, Staff Sgt. Omar Thompson has never promoted peace. Even when he was deployed three years ago working in the Theater Internment Facility where detainees in the war on terrorism are held at Camp Bucca, he never had the chance to play the part of humanitarian to them or anyone else.

That's all changed.

Here in the most unlikely of places, surrounded by walls topped and strung with coil upon coil of barbed wire leading to security checkpoints, the focus is more on watching than weaponry, and on permitting than defending. Sergeant Thompson helps oversee the visitation of Iraqi detainees and their loved ones at Camp Bucca, many of whom come from all over to visit family members they may not have seen in months.

He said he thoroughly enjoys it, if not for the change of pace in his traditional mission, then for the substance of work he now gets to do every day.

"I've never smiled as much while I'm at

work as I do now," said Sergeant Thompson, a security forces member deployed to the 586th Air Expeditionary Group. "The first time I was here working in the (Theater Internment Facility), you had to be more stern, aggressive, yell and things like that. Here you're being generous and courteous to the people.

"What we do here affects out there," he said motioning to the gates, the surrounding communities, the country of Iraq, and a place far away from his hometown of Oceanside, Calif. "Here it's about peace."

"Peace" is a couple of windowless buildings far away from the gates where Sergeant Thompson works. It is a place where little girls and boys look at their fathers, brothers and family members with bright, engaging eyes and wide smiles. Where wives get an opportunity to see their husbands for a couple of hours a day and talk about life back home. It's a place where the political and judicial discussions of the detainee's lives are replaced with the sounds of fathers playing with their children, and a buzzing conversation that resonates throughout each of the buildings.

By allowing detainees to visit with their loved ones, Airmen at Camp Bucca are doing something extraordinary to promote goodwill between U.S. servicemembers and the Iraqi people. And they understand that.

"They're really appreciative of it all," said Staff Sgt. John Sieck, a 586th AEG security forces member deployed from Seymour John-

son Air Force Base, N.C. "This is a positive mission that brings families together, and the detainees really look forward to being able to see their families. It's a different mission, one that I didn't expect when I arrived here, but it's enjoyable."

Sergeant Sieck said precautions are taken to instill that peaceful aura around the facilities for the nearly 400 people who visit the detainees daily. Security police, placed strategically throughout the buildings and outside of them, do not carry firearms inside the gates of visitation facility. The Iraqi military is present as well, and handle many of the procedures and responsibilities implemented by the Airmen with the idea that, eventually, they will be solely in charge of its operation.

Additionally, the two-hour visitation meetings are also divided into sections, and Airmen do their best to ensure the detainees are not humiliated in front of their loved ones.

"They aren't handcuffed in front of their families," said Airman 1st Class Donald Brown, a 586th AEG security forces member deployed from MacDill AFB, Fla.

Airman Brown explained that the sessions are broken up into periods where detainees are allowed to hug their wives and children, and times where a barrier prevents them from embracing one another.

Sergeant Sieck, a native of Greensboro, N.C., also said small friendships are developed with the children that come to visit.



EVENTS

Today

Base Beach

Annual Regatta from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. Boat build will be in the morning, with the race after lunch.

Youth Center

From 3 until 5:30 p.m., the Youth Center is celebrating a Fall Festival for youth ages 9 to 18 years old. Participants in the festival will enjoy food, games and fun. The Keystone Club will be filling goody bags to give away as youth leave for the evening. Free for members and \$2 for non-members.

Tomorrow

Base Library

A deployed family member event will be held at the Base Library from 10 a.m. to noon. Bring in a photo to put on a pillow case or T-shirt. No reservations are required. For more information please call Laura Morton at the family resource center at 655-9281 or Tech. Sgt. Keyser at the Airman and Family Readiness Center at 828-0122.

Tuesday

Veterans Day

For a list of base closures please see page 4.

Wednesday

Base Chapel Annex

A deployed spouses dinner will be held tonight at the Base Chapel Annex starting at 6 p.m. For information, contact the Chapel at 828-3621.

Base Library

The Base Library is hosting Family Story Time beginning at 6:45 p.m.

ANNUAL REGATTA BOAT RACE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS



0800 TEAMS CHECK-IN

0800 - 0830 REVIEW RULES

0830 - 1130 DESIGN/BUILD

1130 - 1230 INSPECTION OF BOATS

1230 - 1330 HOT DOGS, SODA, CHIPS

1300 - 1400 REGATTA

1345 AWARDS PRESENTATION

Come out and support your team today!

CHAPEL SCHEDULE

Protestant services

Sunday - 9 a.m., Traditional Service

10:30 a.m., Religious Education, Noon, Gospel Service

Tuesday - Noon, Promise Keepers

Wednesday - 10:30 a.m., Women of the Chapel

Thursday - 11:30 a.m., Officers' Christian Fellowship

For more information regarding the Chapel or Chapel services, call 828-3621.

Catholic services

Saturday - Mass, 5:30 p.m.

Sunday - Mass, 10:30 a.m.

Monday to Thursday: Mass, 12:10 p.m.

Saturday - Sacrament of Reconciliation, 4:30 p.m., (or by appointment)

Jewish and Islamic services

Call 828-3621 for information

AT THE MOVIES

Friday 7 p.m.

Burn After Reading

At the headquarters of the Central Intelligence Agency in Arlington, VA., analyst Osbourne Cox arrives for a top-secret meeting. Unfortunately for Cox the secret is soon out: he is being ousted. **R**

Saturday 7 p.m.

My Best Friend's Girl

Alexis is the girl of Dustin's dreams, but after only five weeks of dating, the love-struck Dustin is coming on so strong that Alexis is forced to slow things down permanently. Devastated and desperate to get her back Dustin turns to his best friend, Tank. **R**

Coming Soon

Nights in Rodanthe

Adrienne Willis retreats to the tiny coastal town of Rodanthe, in the Outer Banks of North Carolina, to tend to a friend's inn for the weekend. Here she hopes to find the tranquility she so desperately needs to rethink the conflicts surrounding her -- a wayward husband who has asked to come home, and a teen-aged daughter who resents her every decision. **PG-13**

Ghost Town

Bertram Pincus is a man whose people skills leave much to be desired. When Pincus dies unexpectedly, but is miraculously revived after seven minutes, he wakes up to discover that he now has the annoying ability to see ghost. **PG-13**