



Keeping the Hawk's eyes focused on the frag

 **SAND SCRIPT**
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On the cover

SSgt Jeremy Randall, 380th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, conducts an engine bay inspection on an RQ-4A Global Hawk Wednesday. Photo by SrA Levi Riendeau.

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Brig Gen Lawrence Wells

380th Air Expeditionary Wing
Commander

Capt Martin Gerst

Chief of Public Affairs

SrA Ross M. Tweten

Editor

SrA Levi Riendeau

Photographer

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Submit stories and photos to 380aew.pa@adab.afcent.af.mil. The SAND SCRIPT staff reserves the right to edit all submissions for content, policy and style.



courtesy photo

Mobile shooting range

Left to right: SSgts Dean Le, Travis Beyea, Sean Kramer, and Jason Gabel, 380th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron Combat Arms, with Brig Gen Lawrence Wells (center), 380th Air Expeditionary Wing Commander, inside the mobile shooting range after a tour of the facility Monday.

Action Line

If you have a question or comment you would like to direct to the wing commander, send an e-mail with subject line "Commander's Forum" to: 380aew.pa@adab.afcent.af.mil. The commander will provide a response by e-mail for most issues; however, Public Affairs may consolidate duplicate questions and print the responses in a future issue of the Sand Script. Members are encouraged to work issues through their chain of command prior to using the forum.

The Airman's Creed

I am an American Airman.
I am a Warrior.
I have answered my Nation's call.

I am an American Airman.
My mission is to Fly, Fight, and Win.
I am faithful to a Proud Heritage,
A Tradition of Honor,
And a Legacy of Valor.

I am an American Airman.
Guardian of Freedom and Justice,
My Nation's Sword and Shield,
Its Sentry and Avenger.
I defend my Country with my Life.

I am an American Airman.
Wingman, Leader, Warrior.
I will never leave an Airman behind,
I will never falter,
And I will not fail.

Perspective

People are my business

by MSgt Robert A. Perrin

380th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron First Sergeant

Becoming a first sergeant was the best decision I ever made.

Early in my career, I heard leaders say that people were the Air Force's most valuable asset. This gave me a feeling of security knowing that as an Airman facing a world of unknowns, *someone* would be there for me if a need arose.

Twenty years later I have become that person to whom people in my squadron turn to for help.

Every person in our Air Force has value, and their needs are important. Whether it is in crisis or celebration, it's a first sergeant that stands ready to lend a hand.

For a first sergeant, every day can be an adventure filled with great demand. A new

mother gives birth at the hospital, someone fell off a ladder and hit their head, a family of four, eight, or twelve doesn't have money to buy food, or there is a police officer with an arrest warrant at the front gate waiting for an Airman. Many times, the average person doesn't know that within any given unit on any given day, a first sergeant may have comforted someone whose father just passed away, held a newborn in his or her arms, or picked up someone apprehended by security forces.

Sometimes there are several days in a row where the phone rings all through the day and night. Nevertheless, 99 percent of the first sergeants I know would never give up their diamond unless there was just no other option.

So, why do we do it?

There are three reasons I believe being a first sergeant is the best job in the Air Force:

- 1 – I have a great deal of respect for every person who raised their hand and took an oath to defend our country with his or her life. In response, we must communicate that their life, in all of its complexities, matters.
- 2 – Our Airmen are motivated to be the best trained, best equipped, and best defenders of our nation they can be. However, they sometimes deal with distractions coming from outside sources that require a little assistance to help them work through those issues.
- 3 – It's my duty as a senior non-commissioned officer to share my lessons learned, experience, and wisdom with those who will one day take my place. I'm placing the lives of my children and grandchildren in their hands as they will continue to defend our freedom.

Perhaps you've considered becoming a first sergeant. If something within this short article has peaked your interest, then I encourage you to seek out your first sergeant to find out more first-hand information about the best job in the Air Force.

Let the phrase written on the auditorium wall of the First Sergeant Academy be your motto; "People are my business!"

"Many times, the average person doesn't know that within any given unit on any given day, a first sergeant may have comforted someone whose father just passed away, held a newborn in his or her arms, or picked up someone apprehended by security forces."

***- MSgt Robert A. Perrin,
380 ECES First Sergeant***



photos by SrA Levi Riendeau

ACCE director takes ride with EAACS Airmen

by SrA Ross M. Tweten
380th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

Maj Gen Kevin Kennedy, Air Forces Central Air Component Coordination Element Director, participated in an E-3 Sentry mission with the Airmen of the 964th Expeditionary Airborne Air Control Squadron Saturday.

According to the general, the E-3 Sentry plays an extremely vital role in winning the Global War on Terror.

"We have the finest Air Force in the world," he said. "No single piece of that Air Force can do the mission by itself. It's all a combined effort. The AWACS has a critical part in that. We use it every time we have a special operation in Afghanistan or Iraq. When we bring in a lot of airpower, we have to keep it separated so nothing conflicts, to provide proper integration and synchronization with the ground. These guys do a great job. It was really fun flying with the 964th. They're a fine professional team conducting a great mission."

"We want to continue to develop the AWACS for the future of the Air Force and the 380 AEW," said Capt Casey Busta, 964 EAACS Aircraft Commander.

"AWACS can be utilized in many different arenas," he said. "It has proven it's a vital link and key component to the war effort."

According to Maj Bruce Barnes, 964 EAACS mission

crew commander of the Canadian Air Force, the real strength of the Airborne Warning And Control System concept lies in the team that makes it all happen.

"The general commented to me that he was extremely impressed by how the entire team truly cared about their jobs and that they should be proud of the key role they play in the ongoing Global War On Terror," he said.

As for the Airmen of the Desert Phoenix Squadron's Alpha Crew, "General Kennedy can fly with us again, anytime, anywhere," said Major Barnes. "But he didn't just fly along with us. He even sat in one of the mission crew seats and expertly performed the task of AWACS Monitor, expertly calling out nearby air traffic to our flight deck."



Airmen, Marines test Osprey

by SrA Ross M. Tweten
380th Air Expeditionary Wing
Public Affairs

In an effort to improve service interoperability, a group of U.S. Marines, with two MV-22 Ospreys, visited the 380th Air Expeditionary Wing Monday.

During the visit, the Marines, who arrived at the 380 AEW from Iraq, did a site survey with fuels and maintenance Airmen, then displayed the capabilities of the Osprey in two subsequent air demonstrations for the Airmen of the Host Nation 380 AEW.

"The Air Force maintenance facilities are perfectly compatible for the Marine Corps Osprey," said Marine Corps Maj. Robert Freeland. "Everything worked well and the maintenance crew here was extremely hardworking and helpful."

"It was great to work with another professional flying service," said Marine Corps 2nd Lieutenant Nick Mannweiler. "Our Air Force hosts impressed us with their knowledge and professionalism, and showed us the greatest hospitality."



photos by SrA Levi Riendeau

"We truly enjoyed the opportunity to support the MV-22 team in accomplishing their mission," said Capt Brian McKay, 380th Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron Maintenance Operations Officer. "The team seamlessly integrated into our maintenance complex and required minimal external support in generating their aircraft."





photo by SrA Levi Riendeau

12 ERS change of command

Col David Sprague, 380th Expeditionary Operations Group Commander, passes a guidon to Maj Jacque "JJ" Wilson, new 12th Expeditionary Reconnaissance Squadron Commander, during a change of command ceremony at the Base Theater Friday.



photo by SrA Levi Riendeau

A quick pick-me-up

Green Beans Coffee is hoisted onto a flat-bed trailer Sunday before being relocated to its new location on the flightline complex. The grand opening of the new location is scheduled for today.



photo by SrA Levi Riendeau

Chief Recognition Ceremony

SMSGts Kevin Brogan, 380th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, and Patrick Stanford, host-nation air force Supply Program Advisor, stand at attention during the 380th Air Expeditionary Wing Chief Master Sergeant Recognition Ceremony at the Phantom Center Friday.



courtesy photo

Airman's Council conducts Runner's Road cleanup

The 380th Air Expeditionary Wing's Airman's Council held a Runner's Road cleanup Saturday. For more information on the Airman's Council and its upcoming functions, contact A1C Nicki Littles, Airman's Council President.



photo by SrA Levi Riendeau

Airman Coe's final gallons-pumped tally

A1C Zechariah Coe, 380th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron Fuels Distribution Operator and owner of the Air Force record for most fuel pumped in one month which he broke on Feb. 25, finished off his record-setting month with 4,132,656 gallons pumped.



photo by SrA Levi Riendeau

Finger rolling through playoffs

Airmen battle it out in playoff intramural basketball Tuesday. See next week's Sand Script for playoff and season results.



photo by SrA Levi Riendeau

Firing squad

Airmen participate in the dodge ball tournament at the Phantom Center Sunday. Congratulations to the 380th Expeditionary Services and Communications Squadron combined team for taking first place in the tournament. The 380th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron Fire Protection Flight Team 2 took second.



photo by SrA Levi Riendeau

Golden Bolt Award

Congratulations to SSgt Charles Grant, 380th Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron, for earning the Foreign Object Damage Golden Bolt award for the month of March. The award goes to the individual who finds a pre-positioned item during the daily flightline FOD walk.



courtesy photo

Sharp Airman Award

TSgt Brad Zikas, 964th Expeditionary Airborne Air Control Squadron, presents SrA Adam Borrello with the Enduring 5/6 Foundation's Sharp Airman Award for the month of February. Consideration for the award is based on dress and appearance, customs and courtesies, and work ethic. Nominations run from the 15th to the 21st of every month. For more information or to nominate an Airman, email adab.56@adab.afcent.af.mil.



photo by SrA Levi Riendeau

Fresh coat of paint

MSgt Mark Nicholson, 380th Expeditionary Services Squadron, paints markings on the basketball courts outside of the Pavilion Saturday.

Congratulations to SrA Lynn Plemons, 380th Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron, who earned the 380th Air Expeditionary Wing Airman of the Month Award for February.



Congratulations to A1C Stephen Ross, 380th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, who earned the 380th Air Expeditionary Wing honor guard member of the Month Award for February.



Congratulations to SSgt Trevor Wilson, 380th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, who earned the 380th Air Expeditionary Wing Non-Commissioned officer of the Month Award for February.



380 AEW Monthly Award Winners

Congratulations to the 380th Expeditionary Communications Squadron's Network Control Center, who earned the 380th Air Expeditionary Wing Team of the Month Award for February.



Congratulations to SMSgt Keith Treptow, 380th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, who earned the 380th Air Expeditionary Wing Senior Non-Commissioned Officer of the Month Award for February.



Congratulations to Capt Harry Kenner, 12th Expeditionary Reconnaissance Squadron, who earned the 380th Air Expeditionary Wing Company Grade Officer of the Month Award for February.



photos by SrA Levi Riendeau

Supporting the U-2 Mission

by SrA Ross Tweten
380th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

Since its introduction in 1957, the U-2 Dragon Lady and the Airmen who support it have provided the United States, and all its branches of military, with an unmatched upper hand on the enemy by providing high-altitude intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance to commanders past and present.

Here, the 380th Air Expeditionary Wing's 99th Expeditionary Reconnaissance Squadron, out of Beale Air Force Base, Calif., continues to add to the U-2's renowned history by being the only U-2 squadron in the Area Of Responsibility operating in Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom.

"Even after 50 years of flying, the U-2 is still an important part of the mission," said Maj Merryl Tengesdal, 99 ERS Aircraft Commander. "There are other platforms out there that try to duplicate what we do, but so far it has proven to be a challenge."

The mission of the 99 ERS sounds simple: to provide high altitude ISR to the warfighter. But what goes into supporting that mission is much more demanding.

The Physiological Support Division (PSD) of the 99 ERS is made up of Airmen who are essentially the lifeline to the pilot of the aircraft. They're in charge of prepping the seat kit, loading the parachute, and setting up the pressure suit for the pilot to get dressed in for the day's mission.

Due to the U-2 flying at altitudes of over 70,000 feet, loss of cabin pressure is potentially

fatal to a pilot. The Airmen from the PSD maintain the suits that keep the pilots alive and able to continue flying the frag.

Another danger to the pilot the PSD is there to combat is decompression sickness.

"Decompression sickness is difficult to deal with because the pilots are in pain," said SSgt Nikolina Kreager, 99 ERS PSD supervisor. "We are to get the pilot on 100 percent oxygen and depending on how severe the pain is they might have to go to a hyperbaric chamber."

According to Sergeant Kreager, one of the most interesting aspects of PSD is working close with the pilots and deploying with them.

"We 'hook 'em up' and 'get 'em high,'" she said, reciting the PSD mantra.

Maintenance on this dynamic airframe is difficult but comes with a lot of distinction.

"Maintainers of this airframe deploy a lot," said SrA Christina Pagan, 380th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron U-2 Avionics Specialist. "But you get to see and learn about all the specialized capabilities it can be equipped with for missions."

"It's rewarding to know that as a maintainer of the U-2 you're part of a small group of people that maintains the premiere ISR airframe in the inventory," said SrA Donald Adams, 380th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron U-2 Crew Chief. "Every day we fly this aircraft, we are making history."

Pride is a common trait among the Airmen who make the U-2 mission possible.

"It's rewarding to know that we provide information to the troops on the ground that might save their life," said Major Tengesdal. "There's less than 850 U-2 pilots in its over 50-year history. It's an honor to be a part of the U-2 heritage, and to be fighting in the Global War On Terror."

Supporting and winning the GWOT is at the forefront of every 380 AEW Airman who is affiliated with the U-2.

"With the information the U-2 provides, we're watching over our sister services, to ensure they all go home safe," said Airman Pagan.

"Our mission is to protect our friends, family, and nation," said Airman Adams. "It's been an honor to do what I've been trained to do and serve with the 380 AEW."



photos by SrA Levi Riendeau



Airman of the Week

SrA Jessica Saenz



photo by SrA Levi Riendeau

Squadron: 964th Expeditionary Airborne Air Control Squadron

Home Unit: Tinker Air Force Base, Okla.

Best part of the job: As an information manager, I learn something new every day. My knowledge has grown so much because of the Air Force and what I see on a daily basis. I've learned to appreciate what it means to be an American and free.

Where do you see yourself in five years: I see myself having a degree in accounting or pharmacy tech., moving back to El Paso, Texas, to be with my family, and me and my husband being blessed with a child and more dogs.

Favorite movie: My wedding video

Supervisor's Comments: Airman Saenz is an excellent Airman and a crucial member of the 964 EAACS team. Her positive, can-do attitude is contagious and a real boost to the organization. She has a true warrior spirit and embodies our Air Force Core Values.

Community Standards

Tip of the Week

Prior to departing the base on a Group Commander Authorized Travel, drivers must ensure they have local maps depicting routes and safe havens. Drivers will check out a GPS from their unit before traveling off the installation. If a unit has exhausted its supply, GPS units can be borrowed from other units.

To view more photos of what happened around the wing, visit the 380th Air Expeditionary Wing's intranet site and click on "*Photos*" under the "*Wing Links*" tab.



Did you deploy, receive an award, re-enlist, or get promoted? Spread the news with the Hometown News Release Program. Hometown news releases are designed to let your hometown news organizations know about your military accomplishments and significant career events - to include arrival for duty. For more information, call the 380th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs office at 434-2056.



Winner
“Wow, I didn’t realize we were that late for the briefing.”

Kristopher Rezner,
380th Expeditionary
Communications
Squadron

Other submissions:

“The new U-2 pressure suit is to die for!”

Capt Thomas Carr, 964th Expeditionary Airborne Air Control Squadron

“After seeing the new safety requirements for the softball catcher, several players considered new positions to fill.”

SSgt Jeff Hauser, 380th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron

“Maybe the incentive ride on top of the Camaro isn’t a good idea.”

A1C Zechariah Coe, 380th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness squadron

Caption Contest

Send your caption to 380aew.pa@adab.afcent.af.mil by 1700 Wednesday.

Captions should be in good taste and no more than 25 words. The winner’s name and unit will be published in next week’s Sand Script.

