



# SAND SCRIPT

EXPEDITIONARY EDITION

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Setting tunnel vision on the

FRAG



## On the cover

Jeremy Matthews, 380th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, conducts phase maintenance on a U-2 Dragon Lady. See page 5 for an in-depth look at U-2 phase maintenance. Photo by SrA Levi Riendeau.

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



courtesy photo

## Know your shirt!

From left: MSgt Alice Sischo, SMSgt Robert Webb, SMSgt James Smith, MSgt Robert Perrin, MSgt Randall Boldt, MSgt Kevin Johnson, MSgt Ric Sochor, MSgt Jeffrey Baldwin, Brig Gen Lawrence Wells, 380th Air Expeditionary Wing Commander, MSgt Michael Mujwid, MSgt Calvin Keene, MSgt Enrique Alcaraz, MSgt Keith Custer, CMSgt Kevin Slater, 380 AEW Command Chief Master Sergeant.

## 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](mailto: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. People 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

# The TSA, paper towels, Force Protection, and you

by Capt William Fejeran  
380th Air Expeditionary Wing Antiterrorism Office

I hail from a small city in Texas most terrorists have probably never heard of. Despite this, the Transportation Security Administration employees at the airport take their responsibilities very seriously.

Every (and I do mean every) piece of luggage gets hand-searched. Elderly women, business travelers, even military personnel (although the inspectors will thank you for your service) all get their bags searched. The point is that although the terrorist threat may be minimal in my hometown, the TSA employees working there refuse to be the weakest link in the war on terror.

Fast forward to our current location. In an attempt to stay hydrated, I consume the recommended amount of water dictated to me by the "all-knowing" pigeon client banner. This usually results in frequent trips to the latrine and consistent amazement

at the discovery of empty paper towel rolls when I wash my hands. I can only think of three reasons why someone wouldn't replace the roll if they utilized the last paper towel: 1) They're in such a hurry to get back to the mission that they don't have the time to dedicate to the task. 2) They have the short term memory of a goldfish (which I have read is less than 10 seconds). 3) They just don't care and figure the next person will take care of it. While I can excuse the first two reasons, I definitely have an issue with the third. If we apply the same faulty logic of the third reason to force protection, (Houston) we definitely have a problem.

If you have ever watched AFN for any extended period of time, you have probably seen the commercial that says "Force Protection Is Everyone's Responsibility." As the Chief of Force Protection for the wing, I can't stress how true this statement is. I can assure you there were servicemembers at Khobar Towers who wish more people had been force protection-minded. "So what can I do?" you ask. Easy, take the extra five seconds to lock the door to your room when you head off to work for the day. Double check your vehicle to ensure it's properly secured when you park it. Do a cursory walk-around of your vehicle when you leave it unattended off-base. Remind the new person that bags aren't allowed in the dining facility. Call the Eagle Eyes hotline or Security Forces if you experience a suspicious person, vehicle, or activity. These are simple things we can do to keep the base secure so we can execute the mission and return home safely to our family and friends.

Someone much smarter and wiser than me once said, "The price of freedom is eternal vigilance." As a warrior in the profession of arms, stay vigilant, and practice good force protection.

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***"I can assure you there were servicemembers at Khobar Towers who wish more people had been force protection minded."***

***- Capt William Fejeran,  
380 AEW Antiterrorism Office***

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photo by Capt Martin Gerst

### 380 EOG change of command

Col Kyle Garland, new 380th Expeditionary Operations Group Commander, addresses the crowd during his change of command ceremony Sunday.



photo by Capt Martin Gerst

### 908 EARS change of command

Lt Col Timothy MacGregor, new 908th Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron Commander, addresses the crowd during his change of command ceremony Tuesday.

### 380 ECES change of command

Lt Col Mark Sloan, new 380th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron Commander, addresses the crowd during his change of command ceremony Monday.



photo by Capt Martin Gerst



photo by A1C Cynthia Spalding

### The Redding Brothers rock the 380th

The Redding Brothers rocked the 380th at the Pavilion Saturday



photos by SrA Ross M. Tweten

### Patriot maintenance

Soldiers conduct system maintenance on a Patriot Missile Launching System Tuesday.



photo by Capt Martin Gerst

### Pool party

Airmen participate in the cardboard and duct tape boat races during a pool party, sponsored by the Airman's Council, at the Base Pool Sunday. Congratulations to Explosive Ordnance Disposal for taking first place in the boat races.



photo by Capt Martin Gerst

### CAC gaming computer upgrade

Airmen use the gaming PCs in the Chapman's Activity Center. The gaming PCs recently received upgraded video cards with 512 KBs of dedicated video memory for enhanced graphics.

# They only have eyes for the U-2

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

The eyes of the U-2 Dragon Lady have been scanning and scrutinizing the battlespace for more than 51 years.

Achieving that degree of longevity requires another set of eyes, equal in power and focus to that of the U-2's eyes, scanning and scrutinizing the aircraft itself for defects, imperfections, deficiencies, and impediments.

Those eyes belong to a small group of Airmen and civilians who've maintained the U-2 during its inimitable history.

A critical facet of this maintenance is the phase dock inspection. The members of the 380th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron's phase inspection team, consisting of roughly 30 civilian contracted technicians from Lockheed who are permanently stationed here serving in the Global War On Terror alongside their uniformed comrades, recently completed a phase inspection. Conducted every 600 flight hours, phase dock inspection is a systematic check and breakdown of every nook and cranny of the aircraft. Every part and piece of equipment is examined, repaired, modified, or changed. The typical phase inspection spans 12 days, 24 hours per day, as literally thousands of checks are completed, to ensure everything is tiptop and shipshape.

According to 1st Lt Joseph Bennett, 380 EAMXS, the main goal of phase inspection is to simply make the aircraft better than it was prior to the inspection.

"This aircraft has been flying for a long time, and phase is a very important aspect of the aircraft's longevity," he said. "It ensures we're keeping up with overall maintenance of the jets and that they continue



photos by SrA Levi Riendeau

Jeff Knutson, 380th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron phase dock crew member, conducts phase maintenance on a U-2 Dragon Lady.

flying well, resulting in effective missions."

The crew's attention to detail during a phase inspection is as important as the detailed ISR the U-2 brings back after its missions.

"Cohesiveness between the phase team is very important as every detail must be briefed to an oncoming shift of what has been done and what needs to be done," said Lieutenant Bennett. "It's crucial to the success of phase."

According to Rob Coates, 380 EAMXS Phase Dock Chief, every aspect of phase is important. Some phase tasks are more difficult than others but no matter what the task, nothing short of perfection is required.

"Certain phase tasks take a lot of talent," he said. "There are many places in this aircraft that are extremely tight and cramped where components need to be fixed or changed.

"There's minimal space to work with, while long hours are being spent in those spaces, but when you're dealing

with the extreme altitudes that a U-2 pilot experiences, there's no room for failure, and that pilot expects nothing but perfection, and that's what we put out."

Once the checks and rechecks are completed and the aircraft is put back together, the pilot completes the functional check flight and declares the aircraft combat ready. Then, the phase clock is reset and it will be another 600 hours of flying time until the next phase inspection is due.

Just as the Dragon Lady only has eyes for the battlespace, the phase dock crew only has eyes for the dragon lady.

"It's an honor to be a part of this aircraft's great history," said Mr. Coates. "There are a lot of guys here that have been with this airframe for quite a while. This aircraft kind of grabs hold of you, and it's one of those things that you'll always come back to. We have a definite affection for the Dragon Lady."

The mission of the 380th Air Expeditionary Wing's 99th Expeditionary Reconnaissance Squadron is to provide high-altitude intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance to the warfighter. The U-2s of the 99 ERS are deployed here from Beale Air Force Base, Calif.



Grady Lollis, 380th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron phase dock crew member, conducts phase maintenance on a U-2 Dragon Lady.

# Warrior of the Week

## Capt Christopher Hetrick



photo by SrA Ross M. Tweten

**Duty title:** RQ-4A Global Hawk Pilot

**Hobbies:** Hiking, flyfishing, and traveling

**Most fulfilling part of my job:** Knowing the 24-hour intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance support my counterparts and I provide is keeping servicemembers alive.

**Supervisor's Comments:** Captain Hetrick is a hard-charging warrior who is on the forefront of the Air Force's Technical evolution. He's a line launch and recovery element pilot who holds the responsibility of safely guiding the Global Hawk within the local crowded airspace to support troops in harm's way downrange. Capt Hetrick is working with his fellow Global Hawk pilots to advance the doctrinal issues of employing the Global Hawk with his recent ground breaking modification to the chase car procedures — leading to manpower savings and increased ground operations safety.

## Community Standards Tip of the Week

*While in uniform,  
the DCU/ABU blouse may be removed as follows:*

- ▶ *In immediate work areas (to include ECPs and VSA)*
- ▶ *While performing official duties on US portions of the base as a vehicle driver or equipment operator (CE, ELRS, FPE, POL, etc.)*
- ▶ *While working/walking in the flightline complex. ELRS TMO Cargo Pad*

The blouse may not be removed when traveling between the flightline complex and Phantom East/West, or if removal allows an unauthorized or inappropriate tattoo to be revealed (AFI 36-2903, Table 2.5).



**Winner**  
**“So that’s  
what’s beyond  
Thunderdome!”**

**- SSgt Jared  
Richmond,  
380th Expeditionary  
Logistics Readiness  
Squadron**

### **Other submissions:**

**“Unintentionally, budget cutbacks have increased driver’s visibility  
and reduced backing incidents by 50 percent.”**

TSgt Michael Vincent, 380th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron

**“380 AEW’s version of Junkyard Wars.”**

SrA Tyler Lynch, 380th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron

**“Have you driven a Ford lately?”**

SrA Andre Jackson, 380th Expeditionary Communications Squadron

### **Caption Contest**

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

Captions should be in good taste and no more than 25 words. The  
winning caption is published in next week’s Sand Script.

