



# SAND SCRIPT

EXPEDITIONARY EDITION

Vol. 7, No. 22 ● 380th Air Expeditionary Wing ● May 30, 2008

*Off we go ...*





## On the cover

An RQ-4 Global Hawk on the flightline. Courtesy photo.

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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

## NCAA Coaches Tour Unit Mission Briefing

Brig Gen Lawrence Wells, 380th Air Expeditionary Wing Commander, gives a 380 AEW unit mission briefing to Tommy Tuberville, Auburn University Head Football Coach, Randy Shannon, University of Miami Head Football Coach, Jack Siedlecki, Yale University Head Football Coach, Charlie Weiss, Notre Dame Head Football Coach, and Mark Richt, University of Georgia Head Football Coach, during their visit here.

## 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

# Who supports you?

by Maj Jacque Wilson  
12th Expeditionary Reconnaissance Squadron Commander

Most of our days are focused on the immediate task at hand. I'm betting that most of us don't have much time to reflect on our role in the Global War On Terror.

For those new to the 380th Air Expeditionary Wing, most of our first few days here have most likely been a challenge to establish a daily routine – some change in circadian rhythm, long hours, hopefully not too much dehydration, and maybe a bit of missing home.

What I challenge you to do is take a moment, whether it's in the Dining Facility line, at Roy's diner, or working on your second drink at the Thirsty Camel, to think of who else works side by side with you around the world 24/7 to help you "Fly the Frag and Win the War." The answer might surprise you.

The enduring concept that built this base, made it stronger and more efficient in the past year, is built on the fact that our fellow Airmen and service members across the world are in constant rhythm and synergy with us.

For the intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance community alone, each of the RQ-4 Global Hawk and U-2 Dragon Lady missions are supported by literally hundreds of people across the globe. Locally the flight crews, maintenance, and contractors work 24/7 to ensure the world's only high-altitude intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance squadrons can launch to support warriors in theater from over 13 miles up, day, night, and in all types of weather.

This is just the tip of the iceberg. Each day, thousands of images are bounced by satellite to Active Duty, Guard, and Reserve bases across the globe for intelligence analysis to find the enemy and protect our warriors in harm's way. A deeper layer is the test communities who work for constant improvement of the technology, the Combined Air and Space Operations Center and battalion-level personnel who pick the targets, and most important our home base who trains and equips us, the deployed warfighters.

Now back to that question you were thinking about while standing in line for that beer - Who supports you? Who are those people that ensure you have food, equipment, comforts of home, and the right training? We're the warfighters in theater and it's vital that we're here to project America's air power – but we can not do it alone. We are not alone.

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***"What I challenge you to do is take a moment, whether it's in the Dining Facility line, at Roy's diner, or working on your second drink at the Thirsty Camel, to think of who else works side by side with you around the world 24/7 to help you Fly the Frag and Win the War."***

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**- Maj Jacque Wilson,  
12 ERS Commander**

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photo by Capt Martin Gerst

### Financial Wellness for Warriors Fair

SSgt Antonio Gueits, 380th Air Expeditionary Wing Finance Office, passes on finance information to an Airman during the Financial Wellness for Warriors Fair Friday.



photo by Capt Martin Gerst

### Army Combatives Training

SSgt Samuel Riggs, 380th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron, practices a choke hold on U.S. Army Sgt David Clavette while U.S. Army SSgt Michael Gordon, Senior Combatives Instructor, observes during a U.S. Army Modern Army Combatives Training class at the Phantom Center.



photo by SrA Ross M. Tweten

### Alabama and Massachusetts Congressmen visit the 380th

Massachusetts Congressman Michael Capuano and Alabama Congressman Spencer Bachus visited the 380th Air Expeditionary Wing May 27 and spent time with Airmen from their states. The congressmen were visiting the local area and decided to visit with Airmen during their free time. According to SSgt Clyde Emerson, 380th Expeditionary Services Squadron, and Birmingham, Ala. native, it's nice to see politicians taking time out to visit with servicemembers. "Seeing congressmen from my own state and being able to converse openly with them is a great opportunity," he said. "They were genuinely down-to-earth folks, and the fact that they spent their free time with us shows that they really care."



## Firefighters conduct training with host nation

Airmen from the 380th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron Fire Protection Flight conducted joint KC-10 Extender familiarization training with host nation firefighters Monday. The training has been conducted during the past few months to build a stronger unity with the host nation and foster the sharing of information and resources.

courtesy photo



## Information Manager of the month award

Left: Congratulations to SSgt Matthew Fritz, 380th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, for receiving an Outstanding Information Manager of the Month Award for May.

Right: Congratulations to MSgt Percy Roper, 380th Expeditionary Operations Group, for receiving an Outstanding Information Manager of the Month Award for May.



photos by SrA Ross M. Tweten

# Air Force adjusting AEF system to meet deployment tempo

ARLINGTON, Va. — The Air Force is changing its Air and Space Expeditionary Force policy to provide increased predictability for the nearly half of deployed airmen whose deployments aren't working out the way the system was designed.

The improvements to the AEF system won't make the deployments shorter or less frequent, according to Col. J.R. Reid, director of the Air Force's War and Mobilization Planning Policy Division, which oversees AEF policy.

Instead, according to one of Reid's deputies, Maj. Leslie Higer, the changes are designed to eliminate the nagging question airmen ask themselves when they are home: "I knew they came early for me last time, and I know they'll come early for me this time — but when?"

One of the reasons the Air Force decided to adopt the AEF in the late 1990s was so that airmen would know

exactly when they would be vulnerable for deployment, and how long they would be gone, Reid said.

The AEF works on a 20-month cycle, and divides the active Air Force into 12 "buckets." At any one time, two of these buckets are either vulnerable to deploy, or actually rotated into theater for 120 days. Then they come home and are not vulnerable to deploy again for 16 months.

But the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have busted that cycle for thousands of airmen in high-demand jobs, who are getting pulled out of their AEF buckets long before they are supposed to be deployable, Reid said.

In fact, out of the 35,000 airmen who are currently deployed around the world, "45 percent are deployed outside of the tempo of the AEF," according to Reid.

The Air Force can do nothing to change the deployment tempo for its personnel, Reid said.

But what leaders can, and should do, Reid said, is redesign the system to "reflect the reality of the tempo ... so airmen can realistically schedule" events such as schools, tests and moves.

"How often and how long don't change," Reid said. "But I'll give you a better understanding of when" an airman will deploy.

The new AEF system splits the force into five tempo-based "bands."

About half the Air Force will stay in their buckets in their normal AEF cycle (which will also be called Band A), with a 1:4 dwell.

But the other half will be sorted into the other four bands, each one containing a list of specific functions.

Some of those have been decided: for example, Band "D" will include vehicle operations, vehicle maintenance,

port operations, aerial readiness, among others, Hilger said.

But Air Force leaders are still sorting out which functional areas to put into which bands, a task that will determine which airmen are going to be part of the "tempo" system and which ones will stay with the original AEF construct, Reid said.

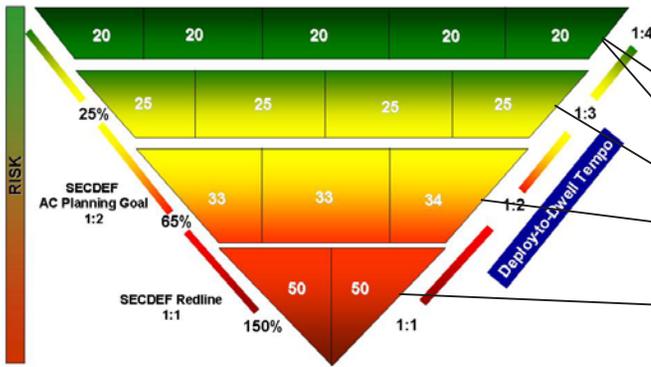
Meanwhile, each of the four bands will have its own dwell ratio: 1:1, 1:2, 1:3, or 1:4, based on six-month increments.

The busiest band, Band E, has a 1:1 dwell, meaning six months vulnerable to deployment or actually deployed, then six months at home station before starting all over again.

The goal is to finish sorting airmen into their bands by Oct. 1, Reid said, and to begin using the new system to actually deploy people by Jan. 1.

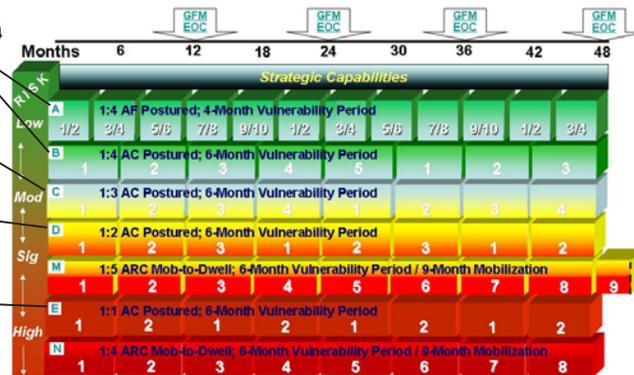
[Article by Lisa Burgess, *Stars and Stripes*]

## Utilization of Rotational Capabilities



Manpower sourcing is dependent on functional UTC pools. The current AEF model distributes all UTCs (regardless of capabilities or requirements) across five AEF periods, as depicted by the 1:4 band at the top of this chart. This only provides 20 percent of each UTC pool for each rotation. Actual combatant commander requirements may be greater than 20 percent for some UTCs. This diagram depicts four different "tempo bands" to allow varying levels of support for each AEF, with the corresponding changes to risk and deploy-to-dwell tempo.

## AEF Tempo Bands



GFM = Global Force Management AC = Active Component  
EOC = End of Cycle ARC = Active Reserve Component

Here's the new "Global AEF" construct. There are several options based on the capabilities and requirements for each UTC. Bands A-E denote Active Component and Air Reserve Component volunteers. Bands M and N denote mobilized ARC, used when the combatant commander needs more manpower than D or E alone can provide.

## Comparison

	Single AEF Construct	Global AEF	Improvements
Measurement of Tempo	Only measures 1:4	Measures 1:4 to 1:1	Service Risk measured in Deploy to Dwell down to 1:1 - tied to Joint definitions of risk
What AEF indicator is assigned to an Airman?	AEF 1/2, 3/4, etc.	Block A1-A5 or B1-B5 or C1-C4 or D1-D3 or E1-E2	AEF assignment now reflects actual tempo based on CCDR demand
Will the Tempo of Airman deployments decrease?	No	No - tempo on different functional areas driven by CCDR and SecDef allocation decisions	Tempo is based on CCDR requirements, not AEF construct
What tour length can Airmen expect?	120 (up to 179 w/ deviation or waiver)	Planned for 120 or 179 days	Tour length more predictable
Are there rule sets for all Tempos?	No rules outside of 120 day 1:4 tempo - all else ad hoc	Yes - rule sets for all tempos	Tempo measured and predictable
Will Wings deploy together?	Maybe - tempo on different functional areas drive deployments	Maybe - tempo on different functional areas drive deployments	Global AEF provides better planning and less reactionary deployment requirements because all CCDR requirements are planned for every 12 months
Planning Cycle	Once prior to 20 month cycle	Every 12 months	Synchronized with GFM. Current AEF planning outside of 12 month Joint planning timeline
What is measure of Service Risk? (GFM risk articulated in deploy to dwell)	Outside of 1:4, very difficult to measure	Clearly identifies deploy to dwell	Very clearly articulates service risk based on Joint GFM deploy-to-dwell measures
ARC Utilization	Does not accurately measure tempo on AC force - hard to validate need for RC mob at or near 1:2	Accurately measures deploy to dwell and allows AC and RC planning for mob when AC near or at 1:2	Better planning for ARC participation

Bottom line: the single AEF model does not accurately describe how about half the Air Force deploys. The new "Global AEF" model is designed to provide greater predictability to our deployment schedule. Don't expect to see any change to your tour length or deployment tempo. The model is just catching up with what we're actually doing. Expect full functionality by the end of 2008, with a note on your vMPF page telling you which tempo band you are assigned. For more information or for a commander's call briefing, call Maj Richard Blagg, 380th Air Expeditionary Wing Plans and Programs Office, at 434-3175.



photos by Capt Martin Gerst

## NCAA Coaches Tour

Tommy Tuberville (above left), Auburn University Head Football Coach, Randy Shannon (above right), University of Miami Head Football Coach, Jack Siedlecki (below left), Yale University Head Football Coach, Charlie Weiss (below right), Notre Dame Head Football Coach, and Mark Richt (below right in hat), University of Georgia Head Football Coach, give their respective flag football squads a little football expertise for a flag football game during the coaches' visit.



# Warrior of the Week

MSgt Johnny R. Russell



photo by Capt Martin Gerst

380th Air Expeditionary Wing Antiterrorism Office

Duty title: Superintendent, Antiterrorism, Permanent Party,  
and Wing Inspector General Representative

Hobbies: Dirtbike riding, teaching my sons how to shoot (I'm a CATM  
Instructor), and playing Texas Hold'em

Most fulfilling part of my job: Keeping Airmen safe through education and  
training so they can accomplish the mission.

Supervisor's Comments: Sergeant Russell is a weapons system in his own  
right. Point, shoot, and forget - He handles all tasks with ease. John has truly  
enhanced the Antiterrorism Office with his unrivaled work ethic and I sleep  
better at night knowing he is on the job.

## Community Standards Tip of the Week

► *Personnel will not converse with members of the press or media and will make every effort to avoid being photographed by the media while*

*on a pass. If approached by a member of the press or*

*media, refer them to the 380th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs Office. The*

*Group Leader will immediately notify 380 AEW/PA, Force Protection, and the Air Force Office of Special Investigations upon return to base.*





**Winner**  
“Yeah man,  
we’re golden. I  
convinced the  
judge we made  
the gun entirely  
out of cardboard  
and duct tape.”  
- Capt  
Bobby Budde  
380th Expeditionary  
Operations Group

### Other submissions:

“Cannon, \$5,000, paper boat \$.25. Cannon on paper boat, priceless.”

SrA Encinias Reyes, 380th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron

“Dude, check out my guns. Oh no, bro, check out my gun!”

SrA Andre Jackson, 380th Expeditionary Communications Squadron

“Had me one of them in ‘Nam.”

SSgt Benjamin Bunnell, 380th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron

“Navy’s answer to DoD budget cuts.”

SSgt Melody Westervelt, 380th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness 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.

