

A photograph showing Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice on the right, wearing a grey blazer and a pearl necklace, looking towards a line of military personnel on the left. The personnel are wearing desert camouflage uniforms and bucket hats. The setting is a brightly lit hallway with a red carpet.

*380th welcomes  
Secretary of State  
Condoleezza Rice*

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changes to off-base  
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### On the cover

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice greets Airmen from the 380th during a visit here recently.

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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.*



photo by Tech. Sgt. Christopher A. Campbell

### Hazmat training

Senior Airman Tava Blair, 380th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron, conducts hazardous material training with a group of emergency responders from various units recently. Airman Blair is holding a BioCapture 650. The device samples air, drawn in through a vacuum. The air is mixed with a buffered saline solution and then applied to another piece of equipment to detect biological agents.

## 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

## Groundhog Day, or relentless Airpower

by Col. Paul R. Murphy  
 380th Air Expeditionary Wing Vice Commander

Fellow warriors, it’s an immense honor to serve with you as a member of the 380th Air Expeditionary Wing.

This wing and this base have established a tradition of professional excellence and can-do spirit that no other unit or operating location in the AOR can match.

As I continue to meet and get to know each of you, I’m struck every day by the positive attitude and pride of mission accomplishment displayed by the Airmen of all four groups no matter what their specialty.

I also happen to have the distinct honor of returning as a senior field grade officer to the exact same wing I was first assigned to as a very junior company grade officer, almost 20 years ago. Although, in those days, the mighty 380th Wing was stationed at a place called Plattsburgh Air Force Base, in beautifully forested, mountainous upstate New York.

At the tail end of the Cold War, as a Strategic Air Command unit, our mission in life was to keep a fixed number of bombers and tankers always ready to launch off in minutes when a claxon sounded. Moreover, the “seems like Groundhog Day” concept was alive and well, but way back then it meant the never-ending, week-to-week cycles of 24/7 hard alert, 365 days a year, with the expectation it would last forever. You may not believe this, but before Operation Desert Shield/Storm, the largest complaint of our Airmen was that we were *home* all the time and *rarely* went TDY. Furthermore, you were to expect no more than a single six-week overseas TDY per year — and even that was viewed as a *reward* rather than a hardship.

The reasons I reminisce about our wing heritage as something not only worth remembering, but also worth contrasting, are threefold.

First, in the nearly two decades since the first Gulf War, our wing, in fact our entire Air Force, has transformed itself into a truly expeditionary Air Force. What you as professionals take in stride and make look easy every day, your predecessors were simply making up as they went along to accomplish the tasked mission. They surmounted, as Airmen always surmount, new and exotic challenges like bedding down, maintaining, protecting and launching airpower from inhospitable desert locations that now seem to you as standard/standard ops.

Bottom line, we rest on the shoulders of those who have gone before us. With that in mind, remember it’s our duty to manage our AEF transition every time, and leave our unit as good or better than we found it for the next set of Airmen who will take over our watch on the next rotation.

Second, what on many days may seem like Groundhog Day to us, the repetitive nature of supporting the Air Tasking Order every day, appears to our brothers and sisters on the ground downrange as an unbroken

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# 960th Airman artistically bridges EAACS squadrons with mural

by 1st Lt. Laura Rackis

960th Expeditionary Airborne Air Control Squadron

When Senior Airman Nicole Singh, an Air Surveillance Technician with the 960th Expeditionary Airborne Air Control Squadron, deployed to the 380th Air Expeditionary Wing, little did she know she would be given the opportunity to hone her artistic talents.

Since deploying in support of AEF 3/4, Airman Singh has become the resident artist of the 960th. She was recently asked to use her artistic skills to design a painting that would represent the AWACS community here. She came through with flying colors.

Airman Singh, who has an artistic background, including an art scholarship and art shows in college, spent approximately 40 hours of her off-duty time creating the AWACS jersey barrier mural. The barrier is of special significance because it represents not only the 960th, but all four of the AWACS squadrons that rotate through the 380th.

Unlike other squadrons that change personnel with each rotation, the EAACS also changes

designation. Every four months, one EAACS squadron is deactivated and another one is activated. Soon, the 960th EAACS, which replaced the 964th EAACS, will stand down as the 965th EAACS takes its turn holding watch over our nation's freedoms as the Eyes In The Sky. Therefore, it was important the EAACS sign represent all four sister squadrons and our co-manned Canadian component.

Airman Singh was able to accurately depict every detail of all four squadron patches. Her abilities were not only admired by those who happened to pass by and see her at work, but they also earned her a coveted 380th Expeditionary Operations Group Commander's coin. In fact, Col Kyle Garland, 380th EOG commander, was so impressed by Airman Singh's artistic skills, he drove the 380th AEW Commander, Brig. Gen. H.D. Polumbo, Jr., by the barrier to show him the work in progress.

Airman Singh says she loves art, and that to be deployed and still be able to paint was "awesome." She hopes to one day put her skills to work as an art teacher or a muralist.



Senior Airman Nicole Singh (right center), in front of her mural with Col. Kyle Garland (far right), 380th Expeditionary Operations Group Commander, Lt. Col. Lou Brundidge (left center), 960th Expeditionary Airborne Air Control Squadron commander, and Capt. Darren MacIsaac, Royal Canadian Air Force Senior Director weapons controller.



## Bringing in a new bladder

The 380th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron recently replaced an old fuel bladder. The herculean effort required lots of manpower as the bladders can weigh nearly 5,000 pounds empty. The bladders can hold up to 200,000 gallons of jet fuel. See this full story Friday on the 380th internet site: <http://www.380aew.afnews.af.mil>.



photos by Tech. Sgt. Michael Vincent

## Who's keeping you cool?

Staff Sgt. Jesse Flores (right) charges an air conditioning unit with Freon and checks the unit's pressure as Staff Sgt. Ken McLaurin (below) sprays down air conditioning unit exteriors. Both staff sergeants are from the 380th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron Heating, Ventilation, and Air Condition flight. HVAC maintains over 1700 AC units on base.



### To the rescue!

Lifeguards employed at the base pool conduct a head-trauma rescue exercise Tuesday.



photos by Tech. Sgt. Christopher A. Campbell

# Managing your battle rhythm

by Lt. Col. Wayne Blanchette  
380th Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron  
Commander

380th Air Expeditionary Wing warriors perform incredibly every day prosecuting the Global War on Terror.

The professional men and women of the 380th are absolutely essential in providing combat capability to support our fellow war fighters in Iraq and Afghanistan.

By the half-way point of the rotation, we have all established a solid battle rhythm. We know what it takes to accomplish the mission each and every day. Statistics don't lie; across the board, the 380th team rises to the challenge 24/7.

Establishing a good battle rhythm is vital to operating safely, efficiently, and effectively. However, we all must remain vigilant to prevent complacency.

This is the hottest part of the year, and the heat contributes to the fog and friction of war. Following checklists and tech-

nical orders, staying healthy, getting rest when able, and relying on our wingmen all help prevent mishaps and ensure we execute our portion of the Air Tasking Order.

A sound battle rhythm also helps us continue our mission after adversity strikes. For example, a member of our 380th lost his brother in Afghanistan recently during combat operations in the Kunar Province. Before traveling back to the United States to be with family, Airman 1st Class Alex Zwilling from the 380th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron launched his jet back to the war to take the fight to the enemy.

We all count on each other to be at our very best all the time. Each of us must stay combat focused on the war and understand the importance of what we do every day to save the lives of our brothers in arms in Iraq and Afghanistan. Now is the perfect time to review your battle rhythm and the battle rhythm of your unit, to look for ways to increase our combat effectiveness both here and farther down range.



photos by Tech. Sgt. Christopher A. Campbell



photo by Tech. Sgt. Christopher A. Campbell

### Pump it up

Staff Sgt. Andre Denson, 380th Expeditionary Medical Group, competes in the bench press competition during the 380th's Strongest in the AOR competition Tuesday. The competition also featured other weightlifting challenges such as squats and deadlifts.



courtesy photo

### All clear

Airman 1st Class Lincoln Crunk, 380th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, checks an incoming visitor's ID at a gate recently.

## All GTCC holders to receive new cards in August

All government travel cardholders will receive new cards this August.

The Department of Defense's current Government Travel Charge Card contract with Bank of America ends this year. Citi was awarded the contract as the new GTCC provider.

Current cards expire on Nov. 29. New GTCCs issued by Citi will be ready for use on Nov. 30.

Cardholders are advised to confirm their mailing addresses on file with Bank of America as new travel cards will be mailed to that address. Those scheduled for a Permanent Change of Station move, must ensure their new address and date of move is on file with Bank of America. Cards that are sent to an incorrect address will be returned to Citi. Those who do not receive a new travel card by Oct. 31 should notify their Agency Program Coordinator.

**Important Note:** People should verify receipt of their new travel card immediately by phone or online, to ensure they will be able to use it on Nov. 30. Contact information for verification will be printed on a sticker affixed to the new card.

Traveling during the cutover: Those who will be traveling during the cutover (Nov. 29-30), should charge all official travel expenses up to, and including, Nov. 29

on their current GTCC. Travel expenses incurred from Nov. 30 should be charged to the new Citi GTCC.

**Outstanding charges:** Users should pay all outstanding, undisputed charges on their Bank of America GTCC before Nov. 29. If users currently have a credit balance, please call the phone number on the back of the card to request a statement. After the cutover, Bank of America will continue to accept and receive payments for charges previously made on its cards.

**What to expect:** Since the new card will also be VISA branded, cardholders will have the same worldwide charging privileges as they do with the current program. Charge limits will remain the same and APCs will have the authority to raise limits to meet mission requirements. The primary contact for the transition is the cardholder's APC.

The 380th AEW does not currently have an APC for its permanent party members. The Financial Management team is exploring and coordinating the possibility of establishing an APC for permanent party members here. Members on TDY will continue to go to their home stations for APC support.

For information, visit [www.defensetravel.dod.mil](http://www.defensetravel.dod.mil), [www.gsa.gov/smartpay](http://www.gsa.gov/smartpay) or send questions to [dtmotc@dtmo.pentagon.mil](mailto:dtmotc@dtmo.pentagon.mil).

## AIRPOWER

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promise of overhead intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance, command and control, and persistent close air support — ever on call — 24/7/365.

Moreover, to our enemies, the never ending Air Tasking Order cycle resonates tangibly in *their* ears as the relentless drumbeat of American airpower somewhere above them, always watching and waiting.

Third, the good order and discipline of the current incarnation of the 380th is miles beyond the shabby, wild-west atmosphere we lived in. This is a great place to be in this AOR, but it is no accident.

Affording hardworking Airmen the best possible living conditions assumes integrity and adherence to our core values. Respecting each other as fellow professionals on the job, and well-behaved citizens of Phantom East and West, all the time, are essential to keeping it a crown jewel location.

How do we foster this? Well, it's said that where there is no law there is no liberty. The newly minted Community Standards codify standards of behavior that provide our good location with the great atmosphere we can all appreciate. Trust me, there is a well thought out

rationale for every single paragraph. I carry a pocket version and I encourage you to do the same.

Together, these three threads are entirely consistent with General Polumbo's commander's intent, eloquently spelled out last month when he took command:

- Fly the Tasking Order — Every day
- Manage the AEF transition — Every time
- Good order and discipline — All the time

My job this time as the vice is to assist the wing commander in looking out for you while you take care of the business at hand. I certainly look forward to working with each and every one of you as we move the 380th AEW to the next level of excellence — Class of 2008 style.

### Changes to off-base travel

**Effective Monday:** all personnel departing the installation for Group Commander Approved Travel or Official Business Travel must sign in/out at the Chapman Activity Center. Personnel will no longer sign in/out at US Gate 1. All existing curfew rules still apply. All personnel who left vehicles unattended while off base must still process through the Vehicle Search Area and US Gate 1. Personnel must have transited the VSA and US Gate 1, and be signed in AT THE CAC by 12 a.m. to meet the curfew.