

Tops In Blue closes out 2008 desert tour in Southwest Asia

story and photos page 4



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photo by Airman 1st Class Sandoval

On the cover

Tops In Blue visited deployed Airmen in Southwest Asia Sunday for their last stop of the 2008 Deja Blue Tour. See page 4 for story and photos.

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illustration by Tech. Sgt. Denise Johnson

Softball fever

WSA left fielder, Matthew Wigginton, takes a crack at one coming down the pike. Wigginton and the WSA team have been practicing in preparation for an upcoming 380th AEW Softball Tournament Aug. 6 through 8. The team is expecting a big upset when they take the trophy.

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. 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

Making choices

by Maj. Chuck Collier
380th Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron Commander

Every day, each of us make choices that guide us through our great Air Force. Choices are everywhere; each has a price tag. Some we can afford and others we cannot ... but we make the choice regardless. Choices range from the selection of food at the dining facility to your next duty assignment. Choices also include the decision to abide by or break defined rules on and off duty.

There are numerous factors that shape our choice selections, one such being the Air Force Core Values. Wow, how long has it been since you’ve heard that one? Anyone still have their little blue book? Yet this remains: in the Profession of Arms, we have a moral obligation to uphold. Taking the high ground in making choices is not always easy and sometimes goes against our wants. Our upbringing and training are the building blocks that help us make the right decisions for the greater good of the institution.

Certainly, using our “little blue” moral compass in decision-making makes life easier to digest. Once ingrained, a course is set; decisions tend to flow pretty well. With that said, I’m against the idea of walking around with flow charts to make decisions. Instead, we must intentionally make such values our own.



“We have a moral obligation to uphold in the profession of arms.”

**- Maj. Chuck Collier,
380th EMXS**

In the struggle to continually make things better, faster and stronger, we knit-pick, knee-jerk and peel-back issues after things happen. More times than not, the means to the end was simply a bad choice. There are many variables in the equation, but a recalibration to our base lines, “Integrity First—Service Before Self—Excellence in all We Do,” would save much unnecessary pain.

All-in-all, the adage of free will still applies. “When there is a fork in the road, take it ... Just make sure you can live with the result before you apply thrust.”

POL fuels airpower: No fuel, no mission

By Tech. Sgt. Denise Johnson
380th AEW Public Affairs

The 380th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron employed nearly 20 experts to replace a 2.5-ton fuel bladder here Thursday.

Volunteers from the 380th Air Expeditionary Wing joined the experts – members of the Petroleum, Oils, and Lubrications Flight – as they gathered in the POL area at the start of their shift to complete the replacement. The previous bladder had reached the end of its shelf life, which is generally three to four years, according to Tech. Sgt. Tommy Goss, the noncommissioned officer in charge of Bulk Storage. This is the last scheduled replacement for the next 12 months.

A fuel bladder is like a giant balloon made of strong, pliable material capable of holding 200,000 gallons of jet fuel. The bladder sits in a square-shaped berm, measuring approximately 82x82 feet. Here at this location, there are a number of bladders maintained by the 17 Bulk Storage personnel. The bladders line the fuel storage area for nearly a quarter of a mile.

That fuel is the lifeline of the mission. “If we lose our [fuel] capabilities, we can’t push fuel to the flight line,” said Staff Sgt. Ronald Anderson, Bulk Storage supervisor. “No fuel ... no mission.”

Sergeant Anderson is deployed here from Barksdale Air Force Base, La. Having spent his first deployment in Kuwait in 2005, he said missions like this provide a more immediate perspective on the impact his job has on the mission.

The bladders, though flat when unrolled, are inflated with the precious liquid. When movements or maintenance are required, the fuel can be sucked out to whichever level is



photo by Tech. Sgt. Christopher A. Campbell

The 380th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron employed nearly 20 experts and volunteers to replace a 2.5-ton fuel bladder here July 24. The experts – members of the Petroleum, Oils, and Lubrications Flight – and the volunteers gathered in the POL area to complete the replacement.

necessary for repair, or all the way down to provide mobility. Periodic inspections are conducted and logged on a historical data sheet kept on each individual bladder for the life of the bag.

Sergeant Anderson and his team check the bladders each morning and periodically through the day. “It’s obvious if you have a leak,” he said. “I check the bags every hour while they’re filling or deflating.”

Leaks can be repaired with patches, but they’re not always that simple. “When a tear starts on a seam, it goes fast,” said Sergeant Goss. “The force can bend rebar; it can easily kill a person. That’s why it’s so important to maintain these bags and stay on top of shelf life and inspections.”

The team’s dedication to safety and ensuring mission success is evident in the turn out of so many folks to get this job done. “It’s a team effort,” said Lt. Col. Tanya Kubinec, 380th ELRS commander, who was on hand for the operation. “This is not summer camp, this is serious business.” Colonel Kubinec is one month into her 12-month deployment here. “Safety is our number one priority while fulfilling the mission. Our folks are top notch; they’re out

here in the extreme heat making a difference every day.”

Sergeant Anderson watches over the process with a keen eye. “He’s a motivated guy, always putting his best forward,” Sergeant Goss remarked. “He wants to leave this place better than he found it; he’s got a great headstart.”

This location may be a far cry from Sergeant Anderson’s hometown of Enid, Okla., but the noncommissioned officer said he has no regrets about his deployment here. “Every day it’s something different, something new. The Air Force has led me to see different parts of the world and different people in their native environments. I enjoy it and I have the full support of my family back home.” He said his wife, Lisa, has a thorough understanding of deployment responsibilities. “As a Reservist, she understands military commitment. We both volunteered to serve our country and that’s what we’re doing.”

Sergeant Anderson’s family can be proud on this day, as this mission was a success. This undertaking will not likely be witnessed again here for another year, at which time most of the 380th personnel will have departed and a new team of folks will be in place.



photos by Tech. Sgt. Christopher A. Campbell

Hydrate, hydrate, hydrate

Above: Master Sgt. Bruce Perkins, 380th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron first sergeant and member of the First Sergeant’s team, throws water on a simulated housefire during the Fire Muster competition here July 26. The competition was a morale-building event comprising fire-fighting stations in which each team had to perform for an overall score. Sergeant Perkins recently arrived here for a one-year tour from Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho.

And a little light came on ...

Below: Staff Sgt. Kevin Pearson, 380th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron troubleshoots a faulty series of street lights here Saturday. The electrical systems craftsman is checking and fixing the 30-foot high street lights to further ensure personnel safety. Sergeant Pearson is deployed from the 52nd Civil Engineer Squadron out of Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany. His hometown is Casper, Wyo.

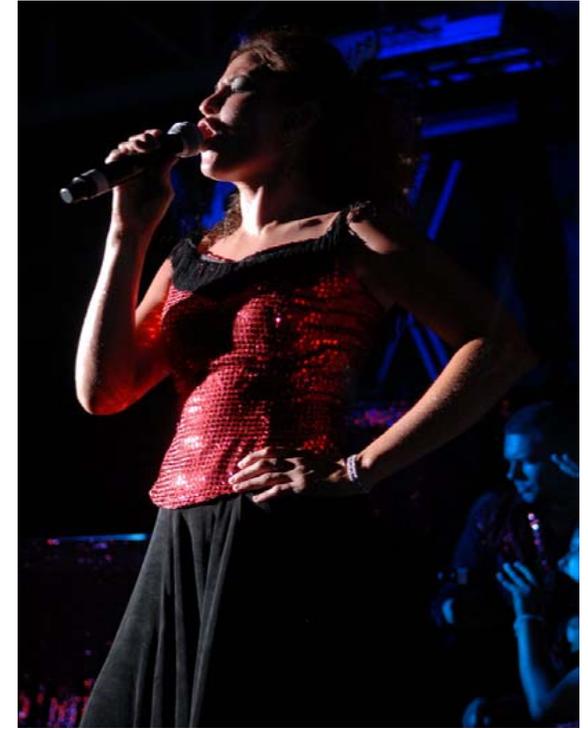




photos by Airman 1st Class Alexandra Sandoval



The group performed their first-ever 1 a.m. show at the request of 380th AEW Commander, Brig. Gen. H.D. Pumbo, Jr., and Command Chief Master Sgt. Kevin Slater, to facilitate shiftworkers supporting 24-hour operations. Above General Pumbo presents a wing coin to the performers in appreciation for their support.



Tops In Blue performer, 1st Lt. Darci Day, lights up the stage. Lieutenant Day is on Permissive Temporary Duty from the 960th Airborne Air Control Squadron for one year while she works with the Tops In Blue tour. More than 40 of her squadron mates from the 960th Expeditionary AACs filled the seats to see their air weapons officer hit the stage.

Tops In Blue entertained 380th Air Expeditionary Wing members at the Pavilion Sunday. This was the last stop of the 2008 Deja Blue Tour which brought the group to 11 desert locations in 21 days. The group is celebrating their 55th Anniversary this year.

Tops In Blue wraps up desert tour in Southwest Asia

By Tech. Sgt. Denise Johnson
380th AEW Public Affairs

380th Air Expeditionary Wing deployers attended Tops In Blue's final show of their desert tour in Southwest Asia Sunday.

The group was originally scheduled to perform one show at 8 p.m., but added their first-ever 1 a.m. show based on a request from Brig. Gen. H.D. Pumbo, Jr., 380th AEW commander, and Command Chief Master Sgt. Kevin Slater. The two shows better supported the various shiftworkers manning the 24-hour operational duty day.

"Our goal is to give the wing commander what he needs for the morale of his troops," said Edward Jones, Tops In Blue performance director. "We do that by adapting to the needs of the wing commanders and the deployers."

After their 1 a.m. premier, Tops In Blue followed up with an 8 p.m. performance Sunday, lighting up the pavilion and filling it with music to repeated rounds of applause.

"The show was a fantastic boost for the folks here; we appreciate the

showcase is an expeditionary unit, deploying with one-fourth of the equipment they use at non-deployed performances while sustaining a high-ops tempo. "They went out of their way to acknowledge our unique situation here at this deployed location. They did a tremendous job keeping our spirits high and helping us press forward with flying the tasking order every day."

The show kicked off with a solo of "Over the Rainbow" and proceeded for the next two hours to highlight the talents of musicians, singers and dancers. The Deja Blue tour comprises elements from Tops In Blue's 55-year history. The group performed a musical version of the Airman's Creed and brought the crowd to their feet for the Air Force Song.

"The show was awesome," said Tech. Sgt. Oscar Campos, Plans and Programs Flight superintendent for the 380th Expeditionary Communications Squadron. "The performers were very professional and enthusiastic"

The 24 active-duty entertainers, three technicians and one performance director conducted 12 shows at 11 stops in 21 days at various deployed locations on their 2008 Deja Blue Tour. The Air Force's premier entertainment

showcase is an expeditionary unit, deploying with one-fourth of the equipment they use at non-deployed performances while sustaining a high-ops tempo.

"We don't perform to our comfort level; these shows are about the people in the audience," Mr. Jones said. "We try to go where and when we might be needed most: the desert in July, the northern-tier in December ..."

Although the needs of the deployers come first, the Tops In Blue team doesn't go away empty handed. "I love what we do," said Capt. Courtney E. Wallace, singer and tour director. "I love the desert. I feel like we're bringing a little bit of home to the folks here. I hope we give them a reprieve, too."

Captain Wallace is a Registered Nurse at the Wilford Hall Medical Center, Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, when not on tour. "This is saving lives in a whole different light from the perspective of a nurse," she said.

The crowd responded to the performers' desire to raise their spirits, building a bond likely to last beyond the fading echoes of the closing act.

To comment on the show, find out how to become a member or to download some of their releases, visit www.topsinblue.com.

“I’ve just been assaulted ... Can someone help me?”

Can you?

By Maj. Jenny McCorkle
380th Expeditionary Medical Group

Sexual assault; it’s an ugly phrase, with painful and lasting consequences.

Although we don’t think it’ll happen to us or our loved ones, the reality is that sexual assault does happen. Not only does it happen to women, but it also happens to men. Generally speaking the actual number of occurrences is likely higher than what we know. Why do I say that? Because sexual assault is a deeply personal, difficult incident to report; therefore, many people keep it to themselves. After a sexual assault, many emotions can be involved – embarrassment, shame and fear, to name only a few.

What would you do if you were sexually assaulted? Would you tell someone or would you keep it a secret? It’s a very personal decision and there are various pieces of information to consider. I’d like to share some information with you in case you need to know these things in the future.

The very first thing to do if you’ve been sexually assaulted is to go to a safe location, away from the attacker. The next thing to do is to get in contact with a Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (434-SARC), a Victim Advocate, a chaplain, or medical personnel, including a Mental Health specialist. It’s very important to seek medical care because even if you don’t have visible physical injuries, you might be at risk of becoming pregnant or acquiring a sexually transmitted illness. Medical personnel can also conduct a sexual assault forensic examination to preserve evidence. For this reason, it is important not to shower, wash your hands, brush your teeth, or change clothes before speaking to medics about the assault. It’s also important not to clean or straighten up the crime scene so important evidence isn’t destroyed. It would be helpful to write down or record all the details you remember about the assault and the assailant.

In the military, there are two types of reports; one type is an unrestricted report and the other is a restricted report. If you opt for an investigation to occur, with the goal of holding the offender accountable, that is called an unrestricted report. This means the information is unrestricted, and your chain of command will be aware of the allegation, as will be the law enforcement, investigative personnel and medical personnel who provide treatment and help gather evidence. We know the majority of sexual assaults are committed by acquaintances such as friends, neighbors, or co-workers. Imagine if you were sexually assaulted by someone in your unit who works the same shift as you. It would be incredibly uncomfortable to continue working with that individual. One benefit of an unrestricted report is that your chain of command could help to perhaps change work schedules or make environmental changes



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Christopher A. Campbell

Maj. Jenny McCorkle, 380th Expeditionary Medical Group and Capt. Jose Milan, Sexual Assault Response Coordinator, discuss sexual assault statistics Monday. Major McCorkle was promoted today.

to minimize interaction with the offender. A second benefit lies within the judicial process. Our hope is that the offender will be held accountable; subsequently, you, as well as others, will be spared from further harm at the hands of this individual.

A restricted report is the second option and provides the opportunity for the victim to receive the medical treatment and mental healthcare he or she desires without triggering the official investigation process or notifications to the chain of command. In order to take advantage of the restricted reporting option, the victim can go to a SARC, victim advocate, chaplain, or a healthcare provider, including Mental Health. These individuals can help you receive care, without a legal investigation.

Sometimes people ask if they can change their mind about which type of report they make. Yes, but only a restricted report can later be changed to an unrestricted report, not vice versa. One difficulty that exists when a person changes a restricted report to an unrestricted report is that, because of the delay, there is the possibility that physical evidence and information could have been lost or forgotten, which could make it more difficult to prosecute the offender. However, there are times when an individual needs the extra time to decide if an investigation is desired; this option allows time to make a decision about how to proceed regarding this deeply personal and difficult situation.

Regardless of your situation, it is imperative you remain educated on the process. It may not be you who is assaulted, but it could be a friend or one of your Airmen. Staying smart on how to respond or react is your best course of action.

Sexual Assault Statistics

In Fiscal Year 2007 there were 2,085 Unrestricted Reports of sexual assault involving Military Members as either the subject and/or victim of an investigation.

Of the 2,085 Unrestricted Reports, 1,511 (72%) involved Service Members as victims of alleged sexual assault.

- Of the 1,511 Unrestricted Reports of sexual assault including Service Member victims, 868 (57%) were for alleged rape.

- The 1,511 Unrestricted Reports included a total of 1,620 Service members

U.S. Central Command info:

In FY07, there were 174 reports of sexual assault in the USCENTCOM.

There were 153 Unrestricted Reports of sexual assault in the USCENTCOM AOR.

- Of these 153 Unrestricted Reports, 104 (68%) reports were made in Iraq and 18 (12%) were made in Afghanistan.

- The remaining 31 (20%) Unrestricted Reports were made in other areas of the USCENTCOM AOR.

There were 22 Restricted Reports of sexual assault in the USCENTCOM AOR. Of the 22 reports, one report was changed to Unrestricted by the victim, leaving 21 Restricted Reports that remained Restricted.

- Of the 21 Restricted Reports that remained Restricted, 8 (38%) were made in Iraq and 1 (5%) was made in Afghanistan.

- The remaining 12 (57%) were made in other areas of the USCENTCOM

Courtesy of Department of Defense FY07 Report on Sexual Assault in the Military, published in March 2008

Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office

The Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program provides the ability for active-duty victims of sexual assault to choose the restricted or unrestricted reporting option.

Any victim of sexual assault may contact the Sexual Assault Response Coordinator who will explain reporting options and answer any questions the victim may have regarding the reporting process. The SARC also provides one-on-one direct interpersonal support to victims, crisis intervention, referral and ongoing support. The victim can request to work with a volunteer victim advocate who can provide victim assistance through initial investigative, legal and recovery processes.



Don't let this happen to you

Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC) 24/7 318-434-3250/7272



To view the latest news, photos, and videos from around the wing, check out the 380th Air Expeditionary Wing's public web site:

<http://www.380aew.afnews.af.mil/>

Share this site with family and friends.



Note from the editor: *The 380th AEW/PA team is dedicated to serving you, their customers. E-mail the editor at 380aew.pa@adab.afcent.af.mil to share your views or opinions. We are also interested in sharing your story, so send us your ideas or views to help improve our products.*

We also accept articles and commentaries from our viewers and are more than happy to assist any aspiring journalists. 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.

Changes to off-base travel

In effect: 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.