



## Travel Fair

Left, Greg Calloway, from Pirate's Dinner Adventure, Orlando, Fla., gave away bead necklace souvenirs at the base's annual Travel Fair. The fair, sponsored by Shaw's Tours and Entertainment Office, was at the Conference Center Tuesday.

Right, Eric Norwood, 20th Services Squadron chef at Club Shaw, served low-country crab boil soup to customers at the fair.



*Photos by Airman 1st Class Susan Penning*

## Shaw Chaplain takes 400-mile journey of faith

By Capt. Mo Schumann  
407th Air Expeditionary Group

TALLIL AIR BASE, Iraq -- "Beware of improvised explosive devices on dogs and bicycles," said Spc. Kenneth Rains, convoy commander. "There has been an increase in IEDs and small-arms fire throughout Iraq."

Dawn was just peeking over the horizon as a party of nine gathered around the specialist to get a detailed convoy briefing that included everything from weather and intelligence reports to attack and emergency responses.

For the Army here, the procedure was more or less routine.

"We have soldiers in numerous camps in the south-central Iraq area to continue the sustainment mission," said Lt. Col. Anita Raines, commander of the 189th Corps Support Battalion, explaining the purpose of the trip. The colonel's battalion is responsible for providing logistics support to U.S. and more than 20 coalition forces throughout a large region of south central Iraq.

"Because of that, it requires us to make continuous command team visits to our soldiers to ensure their morale, health and welfare and to check on the status of the mission," she added.

But for two Air Force members, tagging along on this trip was anything but routine.

"One of my responsibilities as commander is to look out for troops' spiritual fitness," said Col. Raines. "So, we invited Father (Capt.) Martin King to go along to celebrate Mass for some of our soldiers at our other locations."

The chaplain was enthusiastic to oblige.

"The overriding issue that helped me make the decision to go on this trip was the fact there were

Catholic Army troops who were in some of these 'hot-spots' who had not been visited by a U.S. Catholic chaplain since December, and who had not had access to the Sacraments," said Father King, deployed here from Shaw. "I believe I have an obligation when the need exists to offer my assistance, to the best of my ability, to Catholics anywhere and everywhere I go."

Thus began the two-day journey to Ad Diwanyah, Scania and Babylon. Armed with body armor, radios and accompanied by heavily armed personnel and vehicles, the chaplain's call sign -- Shepherd -- stood in stark contrast to the shepherds passed throughout the countryside armed only with the sandals on their feet and hopefully, obedient sheep.

Although the airmen and soldiers were vigilant, they were greeted only by children of all ages eager to smile and give the thumbs-up sign.

"It's like when we were young and chased after the ice cream truck," said Father King, remarking on the hundreds of kids that appeared seemingly out of nowhere alongside the roadway, frantically throwing their arms up in the air, ecstatic when their waves were returned.

A few hours into the trip, the convoy pulled into its first stop, the Diwanyah water site. Dominican Republic and U.S. Army soldiers stood shoulder to shoulder on a small Diwanyah hillside surrounded by barbed wire as Father King celebrated Mass with the troops. A female soldier translated Father King's words into Spanish.

It was a short distance to the next stop, Convoy Support Center Scania. Similar to truck plazas in the U.S., Scania offers one-stop shopping for the military and contract drivers who travel the dangerous highways of Iraq.

"My team monitors the (fuel) line making sure safety procedures are followed," said Sgt. Robert Honomichl, a platoon sergeant for the 889th Quartermaster, a reserve unit from Montana. "We dispense fuel, MREs, water, and assist with any fuel effort on base here."

Meanwhile, Army leaders are busy checking on the welfare of their troops and motivating them as they approach the end of their rotation.

"Don't drop the ball in the fourth quarter," said Command Sgt. Major Allen Fritszching, speaking to some of his fuelers. "You are too good! Don't let your guard down. We want you to go home as heroes."

After spending the night bunking with soldiers at Scania, the convoy arrived the next day in Babylon, home to the Polish brigade and more 189th soldiers.

It would be an understatement to say the soldiers, who have been in country since April, are all looking forward to their upcoming redeployment, but for now, their leaders are intent on ensuring safety remains a top priority.

The long drive home provided the chaplain an opportunity to reflect on the contrasts of the journey -- the devastating poverty and filth, the mile-long, three-car-deep fuel lines that Iraqis fortunate to have a vehicle wait in, blended with the laughter of children and the assurances by some Iraqis that although the country has a long way to go, it is better.

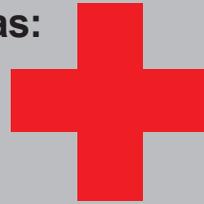
"It was truly a remarkable trip!" said Father King. "Seeing a larger piece of the picture; the hardships our U.S. Army troops heroically endure daily; being a part of a convoy mission that brings reassurance that what they are doing makes a difference and is appreciated; providing spiritual and sacramental care; and hearing some of the history of Babylon was quite enlightening."

## American Red Cross at Shaw -- "The Value of Volunteering"

Day care, paid for by Air Force Aid Society, is available for those who volunteer

**Volunteers are needed in the following medical areas:**

- Health and Wellness Center
- Pharmacy
- Information Desk
- Pediatrics
- Immunizations
- Outpatient Records
- Primary Care



**American  
Red Cross**

*Together, we can save a life*

Call 895-1251 for more information, or visit the Family Support Center in Building 1127.

## PMEL professionals Deployed Shaw members practice precision

By Senior Airman Chawntain Young  
*379th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs*

**SOUTHWEST ASIA** -- They diagnose, treat and cure. There's no room for error in their line of work, or it could cost someone his life.

The professionals assigned to the 379th Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron Precision Measurement Equipment Laboratory here are

doctors for one of the Air Force's most precious resources -- its equipment.

Staff Sgt. Matthew Koch and Senior Airman Kent Greenwood, both PMEL laboratory technicians assigned to the 379th, are deployed from Shaw.

From the defibrillator physicians save lives with, to the missile test sets maintainers use to ensure bombs are on target, PMEL professionals make certain every piece of equipment used to establish a reference or make a measurement is in peak operating condition.

"Our field touches about every squadron on base. Nearly everyone uses some type of test, measurement and diagnostic equipment, and it's our job to calibrate or fix it if it's broken," said Tech. Sgt. Sean Jenigen, PMEL production control supervisor here.

Once a PMEL technician has fixed or revived a resource, Air Force professionals can continue using it to do their job. That's something many technicians seem to take to heart.

"When people ask us to fix or calibrate equipment, they're trusting us to help them do their job," said Staff Sgt. Andrea Lopez, PMEL technician here.

**Left, Sgt. Koch performs load and resistance calibration on a defibrillator analyzer. Hospitals use these analyzers to test the quality of defibrillators, which are used to stabilize patients with abnormal heart rates.**



Photos by Senior Airman Chawntain Young

Above, Senior Airman Greenwood applies pressure to portable wheel load and standard scales. The two scales are compared to determine correct calibration. A PWL scale is commonly used to weigh cargo pallets.



# Propulsion: revving up engines, pride

By Staff Sgt. Alicia Prakash  
Staff writer

*The following is the first article in the "Self-help/quality improvement" series.*

How nice would it be to come into your office and see major improvements have been done? Well, the personnel in the 20th Component Maintenance Squadron propulsion flight know just how nice it is.

They have freshly-painted floors, a new tool storage system and a renovated break room. Members of the flight moved out nearly 85 tons of equipment from the facility to Building 1200 for contractors to paint 40,000 square feet of floor surface.

"The new paint brightens the workplace," said Senior Master Sgt. Phillip Robinson, 20th CMS propul-

sion flight superintendent. He said not only did the flight move the equipment out, but they also continued to get the job done while all their gear was in another location. After three days of hauling all the equipment back into the building, personnel in the flight were able to see an immediate difference.

With brighter floors, potential hazards are more detectable.

"Now it's easier to find FOD (foreign object damage)," said Senior Airman Erika Valdez, 20th CMS aerospace propulsion journeyman.

Another improvement to make work easier was the installation of a tool storage system. According to Sgt. Robinson, the system freed up 500 sq. ft. of space.

"The old stuff was worn out," he said.

They used to have cabinets with



Airmen in the propulsion flight disassemble an F-110 engine fan. The troops say the new paint makes it easier to spot items on the floor.



Photos by Staff Sgt. Alicia Prakash

Airman 1st Class Jason Dennin, 20 CMS jet engine apprentice, takes time to study in the newly renovated squadron break room Monday.

drawers, but they were falling apart.

"The new system can store more items and handle the weight of tools a lot better," said Senior Airman Truley McGhee, 20th CMS aerospace propulsion journeyman.

He said it is easier to keep up, because it is more organized.

Flight members are pleased with the quality improvements in both the work and break areas.

"We have received a lot of positive feedback from the airmen about the break room," said Tech. Sgt. Bruce McCause, 20th CMS flight programs manager.

Flight volunteers worked together to redesign their break room, which took nearly two months to complete.

They stripped the walls and put up new wallpaper and repainted the trim. Carpet was also pulled up and ceramic tiles were laid in its place. New couches and tables were added to further enhance the new space.

"It's nice and comfortable," said Airman Valdez.

"We have 160 people working here, and they need a nice place to take a break and relax," said Chief Master Sgt. Robert Wolff, 20th CMS propulsion flight chief.

He said when his people suggest improvements, he feels it is his duty to make them happen.

"I have never seen a more dedicated and competent work force," said the chief.

Even though these numerous renovations took place, production did not waver.

The propulsion flight turned out more than 100 F-110 engines and 54 TF34 engines, said Chief Wolff. He spoke highly of his flight, and they have the honors to prove it. They were an Air Combat Command nominee for the Commander in Chief's Installation Excellence Award, Special Recognition Category, for 2003 and 2004. They were also named 20th Maintenance Group Outstanding Flight of the Year for 2001 and 2002.

# Car wash keeps Shaw riding clean

By Ms. Adriene M. Dicks  
Correspondent

The 20th Services Squadron provides a self-serve car wash enabling Team Shaw members a convenience on base.

The car wash is Building 228 on Chapin Street near the 20th Civil Engineer Squadron complex. It has four self-serve wash bays including a touch-free bay, with four car-wash settings to choose from. It's for privately owned vehicles only. The touch-free bay goes from a basic car wash with a simple wash and rinse to the works wash, including undercarriage cleaning, clear coat sealant and drying.

According to Jinny Stevens, the touch-free car wash is designed for people who wash their vehicles once a week.

"If someone hasn't washed their car in a while but still want to use the touch-free wash, we suggest they first go through one of the self-serve bays to help loosen up dirt that may have been on the car for a while. This way, the car will come cleaner in

the touch-free wash," said Ms. Stevens.

During winter months, the touch-free car wash bay is closed at night when the temperature drops. The time it reopens depends on how quickly temperatures rise to where it is safe for the car-wash system. The self-serve bays are occasionally closed



Photo by Ms. Adriene M. Dicks

**Tech. Sgt. John Yanick, 20th Component Maintenance Squadron, uses a self-serve bay at the car wash Monday.**

when there is the potential for ice to form after continued use. In spring and summer months, all car-wash bays are open 24-hours-a-day, 7-days-a-week.

Available at the facility for car-wash customers are: vacuums and trash cans for cleaning out vehicles, a change machine, vending for cleaning wipes and drying towels, as well as space to park and do detailing once customers are finished in the bays.

"Everything you need to wash your car is provided at the facility," said Ms. Stevens.

According to Frederick Welch, Auto Skills Center manager, although the car wash is provided by the 20th SVS, it is the responsibility of all Team Shaw members to keep it in good condition for customers. Signs are posted in various places at the car wash to let customers know the rules. To report misuse of the car wash, call 895-2727 or 895-6283.

"If customers abide by the posted rules and clean up after themselves, we will continue to be able to provide services like the car wash, and the money collected will continue to be put into other base programs," said Mr. Welch.



## Spirit Spotlight



### Staff Sgt. Tiffany Pittman



**Organization:** 20th Medical Operations Squadron  
**Duty title:** Primary Care Clinic medical service apprentice  
**Job duties:** Perform and assist with direct patient care  
**Hometown:** Portsmouth, Va.  
**Time in service:** Five and a half years  
**Family:** Husband, Senior Airman Chavez Pittman; daughter, Kiara  
**Off-duty interests:** Reading and shopping

**Words I live by:** "Without God, life has no purpose and without purpose, life has no meaning. Without meaning, life has no significance or hope."

### Airman 1st Class Brandon Hodges



**Organization:** 20th Component Maintenance Squadron  
**Duty title:** Aerospace propulsion apprentice  
**Job duties:** Teardown and buildup of TF34-GE-100A engines for the A-10 Thunderbolt  
**Hometown:** Sacramento, Calif.  
**Time in service:** One and a half years  
**Off-duty interests:** Computer repair; Web, graphic and landscape design; studio production; exotic fish collector and enthusiast

**Words I live by:** "Do it now; relax later."