



First newspaper in Iraq to serve coalition forces and the Tallil Air Base community.

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407th Air Expeditionary Group, Tallil Air Base, Iraq

Friday, June 27, 2003

The Tallil Times

NEWS BRIEFS

Tallil Passenger Terminal

There will be a brief ribbon cutting ceremony at the new Tallil passenger Terminal on Friday, July 4th at 8:30 a.m. The brief ceremony will mark the official opening of the facility and dedicate it to Army Sergeant Edward John Anguiano—the last MIA found in Iraq.

Check Cashing Policy

To accommodate all personnel mailing packages home, Finance is increasing the check cashing limit to \$100/week. Finance will also continue to cash checks for up to \$500 for departing personnel (PERSCO boarding pass is required). Finance will help accommodate special circumstances on a case-by-case basis (via letter signed by the squadron commander).

Chapel Movie Mystery Night

On Wednesday night, the Air Force chaplains will sponsor Mystery Movie Night. That's right! It's Mystery Movie Night because we don't know the name of the movie yet. The movie is free and open to all Tallil Personnel. The movie begins at 7 p.m. in the 407th AEG WOC conference room.

Last Chance for Photos!

This weekend is your last chance for a squadron or group photo. There are a few appointments left so call before they are all gone. After this weekend, the Public Affairs office will no longer be able to provide a photographer for this purpose. Photography will be limited to news events only. To grab the last few appointments, call 459-0014.

Fun Run Results

Here are the results of the Services sponsored 2-mile FUN RUN held June 22:

Male

1. Airman 1st Class Conner Maher (13:38) 407th ESFS
2. Senior Airman John Upchurch (13:42) 407th EMXS
3. Tech Sgt. Calvin Wilson (14:34) 407th ECS

Female

1. Capt. Melissa Cunningham (16:37) 407th ECS
2. Airman 1st Class Laura Martinez (16:52) 407th ECS
3. Senior Airman Sunshine Goff (18:32) 407th EMEDS

RED HORSE Team Arrives

□ **Legendary civil engineering team to start runway repairs**

By Master Sgt. Deb Smith

Editor, Tallil Times

Arriving on the very runway they came to repair, the 1st Expeditionary RED HORSE Group stepped off a plane at Tallil Air Base, Iraq Thursday night ready to work. Based out of Southwest Asia, an 11-man heavy operational repair team has been tasked to repair more than 40 spalls—surface chipping—in both base runways.

Once complete, the repairs will enable the runways to withstand larger aircraft that will eventually land at Tallil.

While the runways are safe for the aircraft they currently serve, the excessive chipping and cracking due to years of ill-repair make it questionable for prolonged and extensive use by larger, heavier air frames.

“Basically it (runway) hasn't been repaired for the past twelve years—probably not since the Iraqis left it after the end of the first Gulf War,” said 1st Lt. Bryan Cooper, 1st RED HORSE Group deployed commander. “This runway was built back in 1980 by the French and the lack of maintenance and severe environmental conditions here have really taken their toll on the surface.”

Repairs are expected to take approximately 3 weeks and will be accomplished in two separate phases. The first phase of repairs will begin on the inside runway “30R” which is currently closed. The estimated repair time will be



USAF Photo by Master Sgt. Deb Smith

▲ **RED HORSE IN DA HOUSE!** The 1st Expeditionary RED HORSE Group arrived Thursday night with three plane loads of equipment and materials. Recognized by their distinct red hats, the famous engineering team will spend the next three weeks repairing the runways to enable heavier aircraft, such as rotators, to service Tallil.

about 12 days. During the closure, RED HORSE engineers will make “saw cuts” in and around the identified spall damage, and remove the inferior part of the runway. They will then apply a special material called PaveMend™ to fill the void. Pave Mend™ is a rapid repair concrete replacement substance that produces a bonded, rock-like material and forms a high-performance concrete substitute.

Phase two begins when runway 30R is complete and repairs on the outside runway, 30L, begin.

“The outside runway will not

close during repairs,” Cooper said. “Runway 30L will still be able to accept inbound traffic while we're working on it, and we expect repairs on this phase to only take approximately a week.”

RED HORSE teams are mobile civil engineering units that are manned, trained and equipped to perform heavy repairs and upgrade airfields and facilities, as well as support weapons systems deployed to any theatre of operation.

The RED HORSE concept dates back to a March 10, 1965 memo from Robert McNamara,



RED HORSE: Here to Repair Runways

Secretary of Defense to Harold Brown, then Secretary of the Air Force. McNamara was intrigued by a report of U.S. Marines moving from an undeveloped Viet Cong-controlled area at Chou lai to a 4-squadron operational field in just under 20 days, in which they built an 8,000-foot runway.

By Sept. 1965, Tactical Air Command was tasked to organize train, equip and prepare two squadrons of civil engineers for deployment to Southeast Asia.

These squadrons took the name RED HORSE from the acronym, Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy Operational Repair Squadron, Engineer. In 1988 they were renamed to simply Civil Engineering RED HORSE squadrons.

Stripe One Up For These 20 Tallil Promotees



▲ **YEAH, BABY!** Tech. Sgt. Joseph Quetel and Tech. Sgt. Byron Grant show off their new stripes. Both were notified Thursday that they had received lines numbers for promotion to Master Sgt. (USAF Photo by Master Sgt. Deb Smith)

Promoted to Technical Sergeant:

ADAMS PERRY D	ESFS
BENNETT MICHAEL D	AEG
BROWN SCOTT RANDAL	ESFS
BRYANT RICHARD A I	EAMXS
CUTHBERTSON JOSEPH	ESFS
FARRAR MICHAEL S	ECS
HARPER TARSHA L	ECS
HASSAN PATTIE A	EMEDS
HODGES CHRISTIAN K	ESFS
JOHNSON DAVID A	EOSS
KING DENNIS J III	ECS
MILLER TIMOTHY W	ELRS
MOODY KELVIN D	EAMXS
POTTER KEVIN L	PREDATORS
RACE VIRGINIA M	AEG
SKERRETT CHRISTY M	ECES
VALENTINE JOE D	EOSS

Promoted to Master Sergeant:

GRANT BYRON D	PREDATORS
MEACHAM ANDY L	ELRS
QUETEL JOSEPH T	EMXS

900 Airmen Face Involuntary Retraining

6/25/2003 - RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPN) -- More than 900 airmen may be involuntarily moved to shortage career skills starting July 7, according to Air Force Personnel Center officials here.

Although 450 airmen volunteered to change career fields during the initial phase of this year's noncommissioned officer retraining program, it was not enough.

Around the second week of

July, officials will begin notifying airmen selected as most vulnerable to retrain. They will ask the airmen to submit their choices of shortage career fields they would most like to retrain into as part of the program's Phase II. The second phase runs through Aug. 15.

"This phase of the retraining program is necessary to help meet the needs of the Air Force by putting airmen where they are needed most," said Chief Master Sgt.

Alvin Diaz, chief of the skills management branch here.

Under Phase II, not everyone is guaranteed his or her first choice. Major commands continue to accept volunteer applications. Personnel officials encourage all eligible NCOs to also consider special-duty assignments such as recruiting, military training instructors, first sergeant duty or professional military education instructor.

"There's still time for those who have been identified for possible retraining to volunteer," said Diaz. "It's up to each airman, but if it were me, I'd think having control over my career would be a priority and help reduce the stress of not knowing whether or not I will get that notification asking me to make a selection -- I'd volunteer."

The retraining program is designed to help balance the enlisted force by moving NCOs in specialties with surpluses to those with shortages. In April, the Air Force said it needed about 1,400 airmen to change careers.

"But unless a large number suddenly step up and volunteer, we'll be looking for another 900 or so," he said.

Vulnerability listings by grade and Air Force specialty code will be updated online weekly on the Air Force Personnel Center's Web site at <https://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/enlskills/Retraining/rctraining.htm>.

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Wing Operations Center (WOC), or can be sent directly to the newspaper at tallil.times@tlab.aorcentaf.af.mil.

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