Most people think of secret weapons used in Operation Iraqi Freedom in terms of bullets, guns, aircraft and bombs.

Sometimes the thought of specially-trained elite warriors like the Navy SEAL teams, Marine Force Recon units, Air Force Special Operations or Army Rangers come to mind.

For the men and women of the 506th Air Expeditionary Group, a not-so-secret but little known weapon comes in the form of a nose. A dog’s nose.

The military working dogs and handlers attached to the 506th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron make this the largest kennel in the Iraqi Freedom theatre of operations.

They perform various tasks from searches to detection in and around the base.

“The working dog is an invaluable asset because there is no person or machine that does what a working dog does,” said Staff Sgt. Adam McLeod, handler.

That statement was echoed by Staff Sgt. Christopher Collins, kennel master.

“Every machine here either overheats or breaks. Our dogs work in mud, sometimes up to their necks,” Sergeant Collins said.

“Dogs have more sensitivity than us. They can hear and see better. Sometimes merely seeing a dog at the gate can be a deterrent against people bringing something in that they aren’t supposed to,” he added.

Sergeant McLeod said the dogs aren’t restricted to on-base activities, but serve a multitude of tasks off-base.

“Sometimes we’ll do joint missions with the Army,” Sergeant McLeod said. “Our primary job is to find explosives and improvised explosive devices. We also look for weapons, mortar rounds and all the other stuff they’ve been shooting at us.”

Sergeant Collins, who has 17-years of experience working with dogs, is amazed at some of the things dogs have found on this rotation.

“Occasionally we’ve found things from remote-control parts, various weapons and even missiles,” he said.

The road to Iraq as a dog handler is not an easy one. Dog handlers are volunteers who go through a lot of intense training – first in regular security forces work, and then with the dogs at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

Some of that field training occurs on-site, like at Kirkuk Air Base.

“We do validation training with explosives here in country to make sure the dogs recognize explosives with a different

See WORKING DOGS Page 3
Decorations . . .

By Capt. Mark Swiatek
506th Air Expeditionary Group
Executive officer

We are coming up on the end of the tour and the exec is writing about medals... must be a “how-to” for your packages and a list of FAQs and editing tips.

Not quite.

In the space of eight hours between Wednesday evening and Thursday morning I received two very different news articles attachments in e-mail. One touted two troops for receiving bronze stars for their service in Iraq. The other featured veterans from WWII and Vietnam criticizing today’s Army and Air Force for giving medals out like candy.

Some of you may only begin to appreciate how these articles apply to us. For those who haven’t already heard through the official grapevine, Blue rotation left approximately 700 medals behind for us to process.

After getting through the first 100 or so, we received word from CENTCOM via the wing that “inflation was alive and well” with regard to writing medals packages. To make a long story short, we were placed in the uncomfortable position of having to enforce standards for packages that weren’t in place when the awards were written.

The resulting teeth-gnashing and debates over what is and what is not an appropriate level of recognition for service here has begun to trickle out, which I’m guessing explains how two articles about medals showed up in my inbox.

Where do we stand? Well, it’s good by the public affairs office of this base. All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.

The KRAB KRONICLE accepts stories, photographs and commentaries, which may be submitted to the PA staff at the group headquarters building or can be e-mailed to Jeffrey.Williams@krab.aorcentaf.af.mil

Submission deadline is noon Monday the week before publication. All submissions are edited for content and Air Force journalistic style.

For more information, visit the PA office in the 506th AEG HQ building or call 480-0132.

(Flag is courtesy of Senior Airman Jeffrey Fitzmorris and Senior Master Sgt. Eugene LaDouceur)

Editorial Staff
Col. Daniel Peabody
Commander
Capt. Stan Paregien
Chief, Public Affairs
Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Williams
Editor

KRAB KRONICLE

Kirkuk Air Base, Iraq.
01 Nov 03 - 01 April 04 (give or take),

That is, you need to take a look at what other people around you are doing right here and right now. You need not take into account what other rotations have been submitted for (read “submitted for” - does not necessarily mean “awarded to”), what other folks at other bases in the AOR have received (because you are not there and don’t know what they’ve done), what you think your next promotion board will be looking at (including points and checked boxes), nor what you’re doing here versus what you’d be doing at home or for that matter, what you’ve done thus far in your career (expeditionary is a mindset).

When you remove all the extraneous noise, what you’re left with is duty. What is it that you have done here, how well have you done it, what is the quality of impact you’ve had on the mission and the lives and welfare of those around you…?

For some folks, the answers to those simple questions are going to make outstanding citations to accompany any award.

For others, including those who spend inordinate amounts of time figuring out what they deserve…Not quite.
WORKING DOGS
from Page 1
chemical composition,” said Staff Sgt. Joshua Wickster, trainer.

With training comes care. Sergeant Wickster said the dogs are fed Science Diet Active food twice each day, with each dog’s portion recommended by the veterinarian.

Medical care on base is often provided by the 506th Expeditionary Medical Squadron, as Master Sgt. Johnnie Gandolfo, a medical technician, also serves as a veterinary technician, a job she holds in the civilian world while not deployed with the Washington Air National Guard.

Master Sgt. Deb Alaniz, x-ray technician, has experience working with the dogs.

Sergeant Wickster credits both EMEDS members for their help in keeping the working dog program in good condition.

When it comes to the reasons for getting into the working dog program, each handler is different.

“I got into dogs because they will be completely honest with you,” said Sergeant Collins, who handled 10 dogs in his career. “There is no deception, like in humans. If you pay attention, they’ll be completely honest to the point that if the dog doesn’t like you, he’ll let you know.”

Staff Sgt. Andrew Bedell and his German Shepard Exa, who has the distinctive habit of crossing her front legs, arrived here in mid-January from McConnell Air Force Base, Kansas.

“I like being by myself, and with the dog, I get the companionship that I need,” the sergeant said. “She is the one who does the work, actually. I just handle the leash and give her the rewards.”

The squadron uses a variety of dogs in its working dog program, with the most commonly used breed being the German Shepherd.

Staff Sgt. Joshua Morrison is the handler for Liz, the seven-year old Labrador who often acts like a movie star when all eyes are on her.

“It’s a little different,” Sergeant Morrison said. “People tease me a lot about having a lab, but she proved herself on a combat raid recently. She found a modified assault weapon and two 30-round magazines that were hidden in a mattress in a house we raided.”

“With Liz, people can get more hands-on, and the public can learn more from her compared to some of the other dogs,” he added.

Despite the friendliness of some dogs, like Liz, Sergeant Collins points out the fact they are still working dogs and are not personal pets.

“Veteran dogs test their handler to try to get away with certain things.”

He compared Brit, Senior Airman Thomas McElroy’s two-year old German Shepherd, with Fonda, a six-year old German Shepherd handled by Staff Sgt. Thomas Hentzl.

“Brit is still learning the ropes,” he said. “He’s a good dog with a lot of potential, but he’s at the stage where he’s trying to accomplish tasks he’s still learning. Fonda has been around, so we expect more.”

Sergeant Bedell, who has worked with six dogs in his three-year handling career, said the hardest part of being a handler is having to detach when changing dogs. Other handlers agreed.

“As soon as you get to click as a team, you may be together one to two years and then comes the inevitable – orders,” said Sergeant Collins.

“It’s always hard to leave a dog. You understand each other, even if the dog is hard to deal with, because you and the dog are a team. The separating gets hard.”

Despite the occasional parting of ways, Sergeant Haupt believes the biggest benefit to all handlers is, “the unconditional love they will always show for you.”
Base fuels shop supplies energy needs

Story and photo by
Capt. Stan Paregien
Public Affairs officer

They pass gas at all hours of the day and night. You have probably used their services without knowing what they were doing behind the scenes. Yet they do it anyway. The men and women of the fuels shop keep the lifeblood of the Kirkuk Air Base flowing through their fuel supplies. They fuel up the war fighters daily. There are 23 airmen working two shifts seven days a week and they are always on call in case something unexpected happens.

Master Sgt. James Alexander, deployed from Minot North Dakota, is the 506th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron’s fuels manager.

“We support everything here that needs gas. That includes generators, cars, trucks, the A-10 Warthogs, Army helicopters and basically any aircraft that come through here,” he said.

“We have night and day shifts that cover all the generators on the base. The generators can go about 12 hours between refueling, depending on the load they are producing at a particular area. That’s why different generators run out at different times,” said Sergeant Alexander.

“The dining facility also has generators to help with the semi-truck refrigerators,” he added.

“Air Expeditionary Force Blue had some problems getting enough fuel, but the Army now delivers to us, and sometimes we actually get too much and we don’t have room to store the excess,” he said. “We have fuel bladder farms that look like giant pillows and the Iraqi system that has below ground tanks. However, the Iraqi system is for storage only as it has no pumping capability. The Air Force has mobile pumps to siphon the gas out of the Iraqi tanks when required.”

Sergeant Alexander said his shop will make sure the fuel accounts are in good shape so the transition to the next rotation happens without a hiccup.

“On an average day we pump around 30,000 gallons of JP-8 fuel for all the aircraft and I talk with our Army suppliers every other day to make sure we are on track. Biggest problem we have is when it rains here, the dikes fill up, and we have to pump water out of the fuel farm,” he said.

He said morale is in good shape too. He and the crew built a nice wooden deck on the back of their shop to leave the base better than when they found it. Staying busy with the mission also keeps their minds off being deployed.

“I’m looking forward to going back home. Iraq has not been bad here, just the rain and mud, but returning to Minot…that’s cold,” Sergeant Alexander concluded.

Redeploying? Remember to stop by supply customer service

By Capt. Todd Coleman
506th ELRS commander

In order to depart the base, PERSCO provides an Outprocessing Checklist which must be coordinated by several base agencies.

One of the units that must be contacted is the 506th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron distribution flight’s supply customer service.

Individuals must pick up their weapon stored by the 506th ELRS. Once the weapon is returned to the member they are responsible for its return to home station. Also, once the weapon is returned to the individual, courtesy storage can not be provided while awaiting departure from Kirkuk.

People redeploying must turn in complete Individual Body Armor (IBA). The IBA ensemble includes two gamma protective plates, vest collar, groin protector, vest, and instruction booklet.

Individual Body Armor turn-in and weapon pick up will occur just prior to your departure. Your showtime will be determined by the departure time of the aircraft and your unit deployment manager will let you know what time this will be.

Equipment custodians must transfer the account to a replacement appointed by the commander no later than 10 days prior to redeploying. If a replacement has not been appointed then the commander can sign the account until a new custodian is appointed.

Any other item hand receipted by supply customer service must be turned in.

Any of the aforementioned items hand receipted to a group member by Supply Customer Service that have been lost or stolen must be reported as such to unit supervision/leadership immediately. This will enable the proper processes, such as report of survey, law enforcement report, cash collection voucher to take their course.

Group members should not wait until their final out processing to identify missing items. This will delay their departure.

If there are any other items you procured through base supply on a hand receipt, they will need to be turned in prior to departure.

For further information contact Master Sgt. Haycraft at 460-0046 or Master Sgt. Pintaudi at 460-0122.
'First ladies of football' delight Kirkuk crowd

Washington Redskins cheerleaders visit Kirkuk on Armed Forces Entertainment-sponsored tour Feb. 10.

Photos by Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Williams
Editor

Melanie meets Salan, a military working dog.

Erin, Carly and Debbie wait to perform the show’s finale Tuesday night.

The Washington Redskins cheerleaders stand together at the conclusion of their show.

Katie signs the bar at the Clamtina.
The cheerleaders finish their dance routine to ‘Hit Me With Your Best Shot’ during Tuesday’s AFE-sponsored show.

Melanie smiles for the camera as she prepares to sign an autograph. The cheerleaders signed autographs for an hour and a half after the show.

Members of the Washington Redskins cheerleaders pose for a group photo with an Army sergeant after the show.
Explosive ordnance disposal item of the week

Projectiles

These items can range from small mortar rounds to large artillery shells. The projectiles have many different purposes, ranging from armor piercing to illuminations. The ordnance is explosive and may have a sensitive fusing system. It should not be bothered or tampered with. If you encounter one, mark off the area and immediately contact the EOD team with the location at the 506th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron’s Explosive Ordnance Disposal Team with the location at 460-1763.

From left to right: Captains Mark Snow, 506th Air Expeditionary Group finance officer; Romero Reid, 506th AEG/PERSCO; Mark Swiatek, 506th AEG executive officer; and Todd Coleman, 506th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron commander receive the commissioning oath from Col. Daniel Peabody, 506th AEG executive officer following Thursday’s staff meeting at group headquarters.

Officers promoted, recommissioned

The following officers have been promoted or will be promoted during Air Expeditionary Force Silver rotation.

Major

Todd Coleman
506th ELRS commander

Jonathan Rossow
506th EOSS intelligence officer

Romero Reid
506th AEG/PERSCO

Mark Snow
506th AEG executive officer

Captain

Heidi Potter
506th AEG protocol officer

1st Lieutenant
Melissa Harris
506th ELRS

From left to right: Captains Mark Snow, 506th Air Expeditionary Group finance officer; Romero Reid, 506th AEG/PERSCO; Mark Swiatek, 506th AEG executive officer; and Todd Coleman, 506th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron commander receive the commissioning oath from Col. Daniel Peabody, 506th AEG executive officer following Thursday’s staff meeting at group headquarters.

Ka-Boom!
Explosions rock Al Fathah Air Field in Iraq, as Army engineers and Air Force EOD personnel work together to detonate a weapons cache. An estimated two-million pounds of explosives were left at the air field making it the largest single weapons cache uncovered by the coalition. 100,000 pounds of explosives are being destroyed per day.

Kirkuk forecast

Weekend Outlook

Today: Mostly Cloudy Hi 63/Low 48
Tomorrow: Rain Hi 54/Low 40
Sunday: Rain Hi 46/Low 36
Monday: Mostly Cloudy Hi 44/Low 32
Street dedication Monday

A ceremony unveiling the streets that will be dedicated to fallen members of the Army’s 173rd Airborne Brigade will be held at 1:30 p.m. Monday at the Clamtina.

All interested 506th Air Expeditionary Group members are encouraged to attend.

Love, Sex and the IRS

The performance of the chapel-sponsored play “Love, Sex and the IRS,” is slated for Saturday at 6 p.m. and Sunday at 8 p.m. at the Clamtina.

Reenlistment process changing

Due to a change in the reenlistment process, all 506th Air Expeditionary Group members who are eligible to reenlist while deployed here are requested to contact Senior Airman Heather Hayes in PERSCO at 460-1625 immediately.

Burger King closed indefinitely

The Kirkuk Air Base Burger King is closed indefinitely by order of the 506th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron fire department.

Pie-in-the-face contest

The Rising 4 is currently sponsoring a pie-in-the-face contest until Sat. Feb. 28.

The cost of each vote is 50 cents, with the top eight vote-getters getting pied between bingo games that night. Pies will be auctioned off prior to the start of bingo.

Nominations can be dropped off at the Clamtina until the start of bingo Feb. 28.

Crossword Puzzle of the Week

Hometown USAF (Vol. 3)

By 1st Lt. Tony Nickman
Alaskan Command Public Affairs

ACROSS
1. Arizona AFB home to 355th WG; a/c tail marking of DM
10. ___ Alamos, N.M.
11. Russian row
12. Crayon brand
17. Aged
18. Earthlink competitor
19. Delaware AFB home to 436th AW
21. Root covering
22. Hot in Here nipper
24. Egyptian nature goddess
25. Body of water
28. Catfish
30. Honors a neighbor on The Simpsons
31. Event
33. 80s USAF missile used to shoot down a satellite
35. Fragrance maker
36. Type of nurse (abbrev.)
37. Arizona AFB home to 56th FW; a/c tail marking of LF
38. Bean
39. French woman (abbrev.)
40. Conductor
41. Brisk
43. Compass point
45. Stomach
46. Ancient
51. Awake
52. Simple plant beginning (two words)
53. Florida AFB home to 4th AW
57. South Carolina AFB home to 437th AW

DOWN
2. Mysterious
3. Nickname for Stallone
4. Georgia AFB home to 376th RGW; a/c tail marking of NF
5. Capital of Norway
6. Rushed
7. Former White House spokesman ___ Fleischer
8. Sleeps
9. Indiana AFB home to 2nd BW; a/c tail marking of IA
12. Former boxing champion Spinks
14. Term for how US forces conduct themselves in combat (abbrev.)
15. Everything
16. Italy AB home to 31st FW; a/c tail marking of AV
18. Glacier drift residue
20. Place to conduct an experiment
21. Business related to beers
22. Montana AFB home to 341st Space Wing
23. 1988 Leslie Nielsen movie
25. Pizza
30. Tomasi star Apasii
31. Japanese wrestler
32. Military tool for planning logistics (abbrev.)
33. Italian holiday
34. Ancient
35. Type of USAF Sgt.
36. Country known as The Land Down Under (abbrev.)
37. Type of energy
38. California AFB home to 54th RGW; a/c tail marking of HH
39. Japan
40. Singer Torne
41. Country known as The Land Down Under (abbrev.)
42. UK version of SEALs
44. Country known as The Land Down Under (abbrev.)
45. Sky

Answers to last week’s puzzle
Black History month

ELDERS RACE APR
RUAIA SARO
ALI BLOOM HUB
HUEY SLAVE PELE
OSLO RECTOR Y STOP REAL T
PIE CROSS
WOODS BROU H
ILL DUBOIS I DA
LEF FORDS E SIN
D Y TRUTH L E A R
E O UTC I
RAGUCHI RHODES
DON SINGLETON
DOUGLASS TESS

Feb. 13, 2004
Warrior of the Week
Staff Sgt. Oscar Hernandez
506th Expeditionary Services Squadron

Arrived: Nov. 8, 2003
Family: Wife - Florencia
Hobbies: Home Improvement projects, Salsa dancing and gardening

How do you contribute to the mission of the 506th Air Expeditionary Group?
I supervised and maintained the $85,000 monthly linen service contract for all Air Force personnel, and maintain the base locator system to provide unit first sergeants with accurate information in an emergency.
Lastly, I work directly with the protocol officer for all distinguished visitor arrivals, and stepped-up as an escort for the base laundry service contract.

What is your favorite aspect of this deployment?
Having the ability to take a leadership role. The constant challenge to make things better and seeing improvements happen right before my eyes.

What luxury do you miss?
Movie theaters, restaurants, Latin clubs

What food do you miss the most?
Chinese food

Chapel Schedule

Friday
9 a.m.
Catholic Mass
(Sky Soldiers chapel)
Noon
Islamic prayer
7:15 p.m.
Movie & Discussion
(Sky Soldiers Chapel)

Saturday
4 p.m.
Open Ranks Bible Study
Control Tower (EOSS)
5 p.m.
Bible Study
7 p.m.
Catholic Mass
7:30 p.m.
Gospel Service

Sunday
8 a.m.
Gospel Service
9 a.m.
Catholic Mass
(Sky Soldiers Chapel)
10 a.m.
Protestant
11:30 a.m.
Catholic Mass
1 p.m.
Latter-Day Saints
2 p.m.
Catholic Mass
(Sky Soldiers Chapel)
3 p.m.
General Protestant
(Sky Soldiers Chapel)
7 p.m.
Contemporary Service

7 p.m.
Liturgical Service
(Sky Soldiers Chapel)
8 p.m.
Bible Study
(Sky Soldiers Chapel)

Wednesday
7 p.m.
General Protestant
(Sky Soldiers Chapel)

Thursday
7 p.m.
Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA)
8:30 p.m.
Officer’s Christian Fellowship
(Sky Soldiers Chapel)

The play “Love, Sex and the IRS” will be performed this weekend at the Clamtina.

Standings and more

NASCAR
Bud Shootout
Daytona International Speedway
Feb. 8, 2004
Winner: Dale Jarrett (88)

NASCAR Daytona 500
Sunday, Feb. 15, 2004
(8 p.m. Kirkuk local time)

Starting Line Up 1-33
Greg Biffle (16)
Elliott Sadler (38)
Dale Earnhardt Jr. (8)
Sterling Marlin (40)
Tony Stewart (20)
Jimmie Johnson (48)
Jamie McMurray (42)
Mark Martin (6)
Michael Waltrip (15)
Kevin Harvick (29)
Jeff Burton (99)
Jimmie Johnson (48)
Kerry Earnhardt (12)
Johnny Sauter (30)
Jeremy Mayfield (19)
Dave Blaney (23)
Johnny Benson (99)
Casey Mears (41)
Scott Wimmer (22)
Kasey Kahne (9)
Ricky Craven (32)
John Andretti (1)
Robby Gordon (31)

Warrior of the Week
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506th Expeditionary Services Squadron

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This week at the Clamtina
Tonight
Jeopardy
Saturday
Bingo
Sunday
Arm Wrestling
Monday
Street Fighter Marathon
Tuesday
Ping Pong Tourney
Wednesday
Spades
Thursday
Karaoke

How do you contribute to the mission of the 506th Air Expeditionary Group?
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**Iraqi Fast Facts**

**Nuzu - landmark**

Nuzu is an ancient Mesopotamian city, located southeast of Kirkuk.

Excavation revealed material extending from the prehistoric period to Roman, Parthian and Sasanian periods.

In Akadian times (2334 B.C. to 2154 B.C.) the site was called Gasur, but in the 2nd millennium B.C. the Hurrians of northern Mesopotamia occupied the city and changed its name to Nuzu.

During the 16th and 15th centuries B.C. they built a prosperous community and important administrative center.

More than 4000 cuneiform tablets were discovered at the site, mostly written in Akkadian. They clarified many difficult passages in the contemporary patriarchal narratives of the Book of Genesis.

**Eternal Fire - landmark**

3- The Eternal Fire in the area called (Baba-Gurgur) there is what is called (Eternal Fire) where the fire from the earth is burning without stop day and night. Nobody knows when this fire started, but we know it is mentioned in the inscribed records of the Sumerians, Babylonians and Assyrians.

**Kirkuk in modern times**

One of the famous things Kirkuk is known for is the oil. The oil is known in Kirkuk from ancient times.

The Eternal Fire in Baba Gurgur is known in Kirkuk from it’s early history.

The discovery of oil in vast quantities was the reason for its annexation, as a part of the Wilayet of Mosul to the newly-created Iraq State in 1921. This was the main reason for Britain to occupy Iraq in 1917.

The Ottoman army, using primitive methods, had extracted oil from Kirkuk for local consumption since 1639.

The systematized and organized exploration of Kirkuk oil field did not start, however, until March 1925.

The Turkish Petroleum Company (TPC), which was established in 1914 in Istanbul, was granted the concession to exploit the oil fields in the Mosul and Baghdad by the Ottoman Empire.

Before the end of 1925 the company, in which Britain had a substantial share, began conducting geological surveys and constructing road and essential buildings.

www.assyriansofkirkuk.com