

# Krab KRONICLE

Volume 4 Issue 6

506th Air Expeditionary Group, Kirkuk Air Base, Iraq

March 13, 2006

## News Briefs

### KRAB SMSgt. Selectee

Master Sgt. Anthony Newton, 506th AEG Ammo, was selected for promotion to senior master sergeant.

### March promotees

The following Airmen were promoted in the month of March:

**To the rank of Airman 1st Class -**  
Hampton Ceron, Justin Edwards  
Zackary Hull, Karen Thorogood and  
Ava Turner, 506th SFS

**To the rank of Senior Airman -**  
Abby Daws, 506th AEG;  
Woodrow Ellis, Jonathon Kirby,  
and Jonathon Lamme, 506th ESFS

**To the rank of Staff Sgt. -**  
Sirron Chambers, Madson Quinn and  
Frederick Rinke, 506th ECES; James  
Rila, 506th ECS; Samuel Kirkwood,  
506th EOSS; and Gerald Currie, 506th  
ESFS

**To the rank of Technical Sgt. -**  
Carlos Pabon, 727th EACS

**To the rank of Master Sgt. -**  
Mark Deitz, 506th ELRS; and  
Robert Kisner, 506th ESFS

### Monthly award winners

The following Airmen are the monthly award winners for March:

**Airman of the Month**  
Senior Airman Rock Conley,  
506th ELRS

**Noncommissioned Officer**  
Staff Sgt. Charles Cowart,  
506th ECES

**Senior NCO**  
Master Sgt. Russell Leatherman,  
506th ESFS

**Company Grade Officer**  
1st Lt. Jacob Leck, 506th ECES  
**Saber Team**  
506th EOSS Air Traffic Control/Tower  
Staff Sgt. Bruno Garcia and Senior  
Airman Nicholas Day

<http://intranet.krab.cent.af.ds.af.mil/aeg/Public%5Faffairs/DOCS/DD226.htm>



Photo by Staff Sgt. Kristina Barrett

### A bite is worse than the bark

Staff Sgt. Dewan Rakesh feels the bite of Breston, a military working dog assigned to the 506th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron. Staff Sgt. Clinton Cornelison lets Breston enjoy the bite before calling him off.  
**See Page 6 for the full story**

## CENTAF commander visits base

By Staff Sgt. Kristina Barrett  
506th AEG Public Affairs

The new commander of U.S. Central Command Air Forces visited Kirkuk March 3 to experience the mission of the base.

Lt. Gen. Gary North spent approximately 4 hours on base visiting various units and having lunch with selected Airmen.

"My goal is to get out there and see the troops," General North said. "Meeting our Airmen allows me to frame my sight picture

after taking command of CENTAF."

The general spent time with the 506th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron, the 506th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, the 506th Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron and the 727th Expeditionary Air Control Squadron. At every location, the general offered words of support for deployed Airmen.

"No one needs to tell you what a great job you do – you already know that," he said to \_\_\_\_\_ see CFACC tours Kirkuk , Page 3

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### Feature

*Civil engineers step outside the wire*

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# Message from the group command chief

## KRAB must focus on the mission

By Chief Master Sgt. Larry Seibel  
506th AEG Command Chief

Hello to all Air Expeditionary Force 9-10 Warriors. For most folks two months have already come and gone since arriving at Kirkuk Regional Air Base.

For most, your tour is half over. Time flies when you are having fun. Do you remember the first few days after you arrived here, you stood at the air terminal and waved as the people you replaced boarded a C-130 and departed for home.

In two short months you have met many new people and worked many long hours each day learning new jobs and the mission.

In two short months I have witnessed extraordinary Airmen from all walks of life doing extraordinary things. I witnessed Active Duty, Guard and Reserve, bond together as a team, become friends, and become a family. Yes - I said family!

Everyday since you arrived at KRAB you have eaten together, worked together, lived together, and huddled down in "Alarm Red" together.

When you think about it, KRAB is just a little city and we are its citizens. I have seen our unit members take pride in this old Iraqi Air Force Base and do things to make quality of life a lot better for the next AEF rotation.

Yes, these two short months have been exciting, memorable and at times trying.

From my perspective it has been one of the best experiences I have had in my long military career.

In a short period of time, you have come together as a team and done some great things. I am so impressed with each and every one of you and am proud to serve with you and be your Group

**Each and everyone of you are outstanding individuals and the Air Force's best and brightest. In years to come, you will look back at your experience here at KRAB and realize that you helped make a difference.**



mission. This is still a very dangerous and volatile region we live in and the war is going on all around us.

Remember, complacency kills, and I for one don't want anything bad to happen to any one of you. For the rest of this tour please always lookout for your wingman. Always stay vigilant of your surroundings and please take care of one another.

Please remember you are ambassadors of the United States of America and were sent to Iraq to help stabilize this country so its citizens can live in a society that is free and just.

I truly believe because of your efforts here at KRAB and the efforts of all coalition forces, one day freedom will ring in

Chief Enlisted Manager.

What I ask you now is to keep focused and committed for the rest of this deployment.

After being here for two months it is very easy to start seeing "the light at the end of the tunnel." You are now on the "down hill slide" of this deployment and each and everyone of you can visualize getting on that C-130 and going home.

I ask you to please stay focused on our

Iraq.

Each and everyone of you are outstanding individuals and the Air Force's best and brightest. In years to come, you will look back at your experience here at KRAB and realize that you helped make a difference.

In closing, remember safety first, stay focused on the mission and take care of each other. Thank you for your service to your country and what you do. I will see you on the C-130 in two months.



Col. Pete Hronek

Commander  
506th AEG

Lt. Col.

Dave Carrell  
Deputy Commander  
506th AEG

Chief Master Sgt.

Larry Seibel  
Command Chief  
506th AEG

Staff Sgt. Kristina Barrett

Editor/Chief, Public Affairs

Airman 1st Class JoAnn White

Photographer



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For more information, call 444-2075, or e-mail the editor/chief.

# ELRS adopts a road, cleans up trash

**By Staff Sgt. Kristina Barrett**  
506th AEG Public Affairs

Members of the 506th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron hit the road to make Kirkuk a better place.

The squadron adopted the running route between the skeleton hanger and the military service station in an effort to make the KRAB a better place.

“The goal from Day 1 for ELRS was to leave this place better than we found it,” said Senior Master Sgt. Lori Pulkinen, senior enlisted manager. “We wanted to find a way to make a difference.”

Make a difference they did – fourteen volunteers, including the squadron commander Lt. Col. Daniel Schmidt and security forces first sergeant Master Sgt. William McCoy, picked up 6 truckloads of trash.

Among the items found were old tires, spools of barbed wire and one rusty bed frame, along with other various roadside trash.

“The clean up is part of our responsibility to make a better environment,” said Master Sgt. Mark Deitz, vehicle fleet manager and driving force behind the clean up. “I would like to see other units, Air Force and Army, join together to make this an even better place to be.”

The squadron’s pride is evident in the signs made by Senior Airman Armando

Jerez, vehicle maintenance, posted at either end of the road. The unit wants everyone to know who’s out there cleaning in hopes of getting other units out there too.

“We’re hoping other squadrons follow the lead of ELRS and adopt a stretch of road to help keep KRAB clean,” Sergeant Pulkinen said.

Squadrons interested in adopting a road must take into account safety and force protection issues, depending on which road they want to adopt.

“If a unit is interested in adopting a road on the interior of the base, there are no issues,” said Tech Sgt. Rich Amann, anti-terrorism/force protection NCOIC. “However, if the road is on the perimeter of the base or one of the roads leading up to one of the gates inside the base, body armor and helmet are required.”

In addition, he cautioned those participating in the adopt a road project to be careful



Photo by Staff Sgt. Kristina Barrett

**Airman 1st Class Jorge Barnes, vehicle maintenance, talks trash during the ELRS adopt a road clean up. Fourteen Airmen picked up 6 truckloads of trash.**

what they pick up and be on the look out for possible unexploded ordnance.

He stressed if UXO's are discovered to follow proper marking and reporting procedures. “With the recent rains, it is possible UXO's that weren't visible before may now be visible due to the erosion of the ground,” Sergeant Amann added.

Sergeant Deitz is available at 444-2034 to answer questions from squadron representatives who are interested and want to know the steps ELRS took to adopt a road.

## CFACC tours Kirkuk *Continued From Page 1*

the Airmen of the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Flight. “You are out there doing an important job of making the roads safe for convoys and patrol.”

At each location, General North received briefing on the special missions and capabilities of each organization. He recognized the importance of each mission and what they bring to the fight. At the 727th EACS, the general noted that the equipment located here is important to the mission across the AOR.

“Without your pictures, we wouldn’t have the capabilities we have,” he said.

At lunch the general took some down time to talk with each Airman about their mission in the Air Force. He also commended them for the work they do.

“Meeting Airmen gives me a good sense of what’s going on,” he said. “The Airmen of the 506th are operating in a joint community and supporting the mission on the ground.”

“No matter what role these Airmen fill, they are providing the support and the ability to delivery air power.”



Photo by Airman 1st Class JoAnn White

**Lt. Gen. Gary North, commander of U.S. Central Command Air Forces, listens to Senior Airman William Freytes, 727th Expeditionary Air Control Squadron electronic protection technician, explain the unit’s radar detection system during a visit here.**

# Beginning Again Iraqi AF spreads its wings

By Staff Sgt. Melissa Koskovich  
CENTAF-Fwd Public Affairs

**BAGHDAD, Iraq** – A fully certified aircrew takes flight and a single air base opens its gates – these accomplishments may not seem overly impressive, but to Iraqi Airmen, training side-by-side with U.S. Air Force Airmen, these feats represent giant steps toward independence and national security.

Since November 2005, the USAF has taken on the mission of standing up the Iraqi Air Force, enabling Iraqis to gradually take over operations and help secure their nation's future.

"In only a few months they [the Iraqi AF] have made significant progress," said Brig. Gen. David Eidsaune, Air Component Coordination Element director. "We're working closely with them on a plan for their future. We agree on where they're going and how to get there."

Iraqi Airmen agree that progress has been made, but know there's still a long road to travel.

"We are starting over," said Maj. Gen. Kamal Barzanjy, Iraqi Air Force chief of staff. "America has given us a lot of help, and we have already accomplished many things, but we need to keep growing."

Building an Air Force however, is no sim-

ple undertaking. General Eidsaune noted that Iraqis will face many challenges along the way.

"One of the major challenges for them is funding," General Eidsaune said. "The whole country [Iraq] is really stretched right now as far as funding and commerce, and air forces are not cheap entities. It will take them time to build up their capabilities."

To assist them, the U.S. has given the IAF a small fleet of C-130s, but funding alone is not the only obstacle they face. Recruiting the next generation of Iraqi Airmen will also be a challenge.

"Right now, most Iraqi Airmen come from the 'old air force' – prior to the 1990s," General Eidsaune said. "The Iraqis need to recruit more Airmen, and build up their air academy and staff colleges. There are already initiatives under way to accomplish this, but it will take time."

Despite these growing pains, the IAF is taking part in some Coalition operations.

"The IAF is playing a limited, but effective role in our operations," General Eidsaune said. "Their current aircraft are kept busy transporting troops, supplies and distinguished visitors."

In addition, the IAF plays a small role in intelligence, surveillance and

reconnaissance operations.

"Iraqi ISR assets are tasked by the local [Iraqi] Army division to scan their local infrastructure, including pipelines and borders," he said. "These assets bring back valuable intelligence to ground commanders, and are definitely making a difference."

With the first Iraqi Air Base opening March 7, the IAF will begin to take on ground and airfield operations as well.

"Mastering these functions is critical for survival as a defense force," said General Eidsaune. "The Iraqis are motivated and eager to learn. They welcome our help – our efforts are very much a partnership."

General Barzanjy agrees.

"We are working together as one team," said General Barzanjy. "Of course we still need support from our allies, but we are growing."

When asked about how he sees the Iraqi Air Force, General Eidsaune said, "They [the Iraqi AF] is small, but proud. One day they will be large and proud, like they once were."



Photos by Master Sgt. Lance Cheung

**Tech. Sgt. Charles Franks observes and instructs an Iraqi crew chief performing an inspection on the propeller of an Iraqi C-130E Hercules cargo aircraft at New Al Muthana Air Base, Iraq. Sergeant Franks is part of the Multinational Security Transition Command-Iraq, Coalition Air Force Transition Team. The Iraqi trainee is with the 23rd Squadron.**



**C-130E Hercules cargo aircraft of the Iraqi air force, taxis to a Baghdad International Airport runway from New Al Muthana Air Base, Iraq. YI-303 is one of three cargo aircraft at the new air base.**

# Air Force releases 2006 posture statement

by Senior Airman J.G. Buzanowski

*Air Force Print News*

WASHINGTON — The Air Force released its “posture statement” detailing the service’s missions and priorities over the next year.

The 52-page document’s introduction asks Airmen to look from their heritage to the horizon, taking lessons from the past and adapting them for the future.

It also opens with a letter from Michael W. Wynne, secretary of the Air Force, and Gen. T. Michael Moseley, Air Force chief of staff.

“Our 2006 posture statement outlines our plan to accomplish ... goals regarding (the global war on terror), our Airmen, and our aircraft and equipment,” they said.

The posture statement expands those three main Air Force objectives and why they’re important to today’s Airmen.

The posture statement also “reflects our commitment to good stewardship of the resources entrusted to us, and our dedication to protecting our nation in air, space and cyberspace,” General Moseley and Secretary Wynne wrote.

“Our first priority is winning the global war on terror,” according to the statement. It goes on to outline the importance of air, space and cyberspace operations and their importance in both homeland

defense and fighting the nation’s enemies.

The posture statement takes into consideration the total force. Considerations for active duty, Guard and Reserve Airmen are at the forefront of shaping and developing the Air Force.

It also details recruiting and retention efforts, updates on military housing, as well as new management systems for personnel actions and civilian employment.

The posture statement outlines that the Air Force is also looking

to use its oldest aircraft for as long as it can while newer weapon systems are brought online. To extend the use of platforms such as the C-5 Galaxy for airlift operations, certain upgrades are essential.

The Air Force is also looking to bring its newest aircraft to the forefront of the Air Force mission, such as the F-22A Raptor, unmanned aerial vehicles and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance aircraft.

To successfully reach the three goals, the posture statement describes how the service will establish Air Force Smart Operations 21 practices.

Essentially, AFSO21, is the application of business plans meant to streamline everyday processes across the Air Force to be more effective and more efficient.

Air Force leaders believe AFSO21 practices, as well as energy conservation, total force integration and exploring new technologies are what will bring the Air Force forward into the future.



## News from around the Air Force

### IAS begins second round

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — The International Affairs Specialist, or IAS, Program is entering its second year of competitive selection. The program will be targeting 117 mid-career line officers for the designation.

The program seeks to enhance expeditionary capability by developing regional and international expertise, cultural sensitivity and language skills. Selected officers will receive advanced education, language training and cultural immersion.

Airmen who earn an IAS designation will continue to serve in their primary career field, as well as in IAS-related assignments. Air Force officials are seeking 42 officers with 7 to 10 years of commissioned service and 75 officers who are intermediate developmental education selects with 10 to 12 years of commissioned service.

Selection targets are distributed through most line career fields. However, officers in the medical, chaplain and judge advocate career fields are not eligible to apply. More information about the IAS program and implementation dates may be found on

the IAS Web site through the Air Force Portal.

### Personnel actions online

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — Like MyPay and LeaveWeb before, the Air Force is bringing even more military personnel flight actions online.

The process, called personnel services delivery transformation, takes effect March 31, and will encompass even more options than those of the Virtual MPF site already on the Internet.

The transformation is a four-phase program, beginning this month and continuing through 2011. The first phase begins with the active-duty force and is further broken up into seven segments called spirals.

Spiral 1, which goes into effect at the end of March, will move several personnel transactions to the Web and contact center at the Air Force Personnel Center.

Among the initial actions transferred online are forms for evaluation appeals, retirements, retraining, and duty history corrections. To access the new online MPF actions, log into the Air Force Portal, and from there head to Virtual MPF.

The goal is to move 85 percent of MPF actions online.

To make the transition easier, personnelists and mission support squadron commanders have been sent training programs so they can better explain the transformation initiatives.

### Force shaping issues explained

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — Lt. Gen. Roger A. Brady, the Air Force deputy chief of staff for manpower and personnel, testified on force shaping and its effect on Airmen before the Senate Armed Services Personnel Subcommittee March 1.

The testimony was presented to the committee that ensures servicemembers have the resources needed to defend the nation. The Air Force began 2006 with a significant force imbalance — too many officers and too few enlisted Airmen. To fix this problem, officers under their initial service obligation can now voluntarily separate from active duty service earlier than they would have otherwise been eligible. Some of those who don’t separate will be considered for involuntary separation by a force shaping board later in the year.

The nose knows

# Military working dogs complete security forces mission



By Staff Sgt. Kristina Barrett  
506th AEG Public Affairs

“GETEM”

With one swift movement, military working dog Breston is off like a flash, covering the distance between his handler and his target in just a few fluid strides. The reward for his speed and agility is a nice juicy bite.

Of course the juicy bite was just the “bite suit” but Breston, a Dutch Shepherd, delivers an impressive 900 pounds of pressure per square inch – enough to tell any offender he means business and enough to knock a full grown man to his feet.

Breston is one of the eight military working dogs, along with 10 handlers, who are deployed here from the 820th Security Forces Group at Moody Air Force Base, Ga.

The dogs, as well as their handlers, have a tough job in Iraq supporting both Air Force and Army missions outside the wire.

“We use the dogs often on our (security forces) patrols,” said Tech. Sgt. Sherrie Conkright, MWD handler and shift supervisor. “In addition, we have Airmen and MWDs supporting Army mission too.”

Teams are assigned to the 506th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron and the 101st Airborne Brigade. Due to the extensive work both branches conduct in Kirkuk and surrounding area, the dogs augment missions in a way no human can. For these professionals, it’s all about the nose.

“The dogs give us capabilities that far surpass humans in terms of detection,” Sergeant Conkright said. “The dogs senses are significantly more refined than ours and can detect odors better than we can. There are odors that they can smell but we can’t.”

Those odors the dogs are sensing are the unmistakable scent of explosives. In a place where the next improvised explosive device could be just around the corner, dogs like Breston are force multipliers and keep their humans alive.

“Dogs don’t generalize smells. For



Photo by Staff Sgt. Kristina Barrett

**Staff Sgt. Ethan McCants runs Edo through an explosive search exercise. Edo’s reward for a job well done was his favorite ball.**

example, if a human smells a hamburger, they receive the whole smell in general terms,” Sergeant Conkright explained. “A dog smells the parts of the burger individually – the bun, the condiments and the burger.”

Their unique ability to separate odors alerts them to different dangers, which leads to a more proficient and quick search. This is especially important when stepping outside the safety of the base.

“They support the missions we do here in both mounted and dismounted patrols outside the wire,” Sergeant Conkright said. “They travel with mounted patrols and when needed, are able to search various locations. For an unmounted patrol, they are a show of force in foot patrols throughout the city.”

Two of the MWDs here are little different, but unnoticeable until they are let off the leash. They are called SSDs, specialized search dogs, who are trained to work “off leash” during patrols and other actions. They have the ability to work up to 200

yards away from their handler.

“The 820th has the only two SSDs in the Air Force and is a test program to find out if there is a benefit in the types of missions we do,” said Master Sgt. Robert Kisner, kennel master. “SSDs are different in the way they approach various situations but have the same basic detection capabilities as MWDs.”

The Army employs the SSD program full-time but because of the differences in the mission, it is unknown how these dogs fit into the Air Force mission. For now, the future of the program is still being tested in the field.

Staff Sgt. Ethan McCants, MWD handler, whose dog Edo is a traditional explosive search dog, is sure the mission the dogs do now saves lives.

“He can smell things we can’t, which allows us to back off and call (the explosive ordnance disposal flight) to do the job they need to do,” he said. “He gives a better sense of safety to do the job we need to do because he knows.”

# Civil engineers rebuild Iraq



Senior Airman Adam Chavera, Senior Airman Jason Brashar and Master Sgt. Kirk Kessler pour concrete into a crater on the edge of a bridge from the mobile concrete batch plant.

Courtesy Photo

**By Staff Sgt. Kristina Barrett**  
506th AEG Public Affairs

Civil engineers wage the war on terror by stepping outside the wire and bringing the fight into the streets. They are the only Air Force unit in Iraq who come with armored dump trucks, excavators and concrete, repairing the many craters pitting the roads in Kirkuk and surrounding area.

The primary mission of the 732nd Expeditionary Civil Engineers Squadron, Detachment, 10, is two-fold. While road repair goes a long way in rebuilding the damaged infrastructure of the country, and in turn the hearts and minds of the Iraqi people, the reason behind it has a more tactical goal.

“Insurgents are known to put improvised explosive devices in existing craters and when the Army rolls up while on patrol, they are unable to see it,” said Maj. Chris Fuller, detachment commander. “Our engineers fill in the craters, which makes the patrol routes safer to travel – for both the locals and the military.”

Detachment 10 works round-the-clock providing concrete crater repairs on roadways and bridges, as well as backfilling craters on shoulders, blind spots and ditches on more than 100 miles of roads. The detachment is comprised of 58 people covering the spectrum of civil engineers, to include carpenters, plumbers, electricians, as well as vehicle maintenance and supply. The goal of these engineers is to keep the convoys and patrol moving.

“Crater repair is a core competency for Air Force engineers,” said Master Sgt. Kirk

Kessler, chief of heavy repair. “We are skilled at repairing damaged runways and we use the same techniques to repair roadways.”

Filling holes in a combat zone isn’t the same as runway repair on a secured base. The slow-moving team is a target for insurgents and once they repair a hole, steps need to be taken to protect from insurgents placing IEDs into the wet concrete. In order to complete approximately 100 miles of road, many days of prep work is involved each time the team hits the road.

The initial steps are reconnaissance and planning. A team travels a convoy route inspecting existing craters. Once they are identified, the hole is measured so the crew knows how much fill and concrete to bring with them. Staff Sgt. Dale Self is in charge of mission planning and execution.

“Planning our supplies allows us to complete the work fast,” he said. “Right now we’re trying to figure out a way to bring more concrete with us so we can cover more ground.”

The keys to success lie not just in the planning, but in completing the groundwork needed to carry out the mission.

“We have to schedule our repairs to occur around other military operations in the sector. Like us, the route clearance teams are low density, high demand assets” said Captain Preston Rufe, operations officer.

Once scheduled, the unit focuses on preparing the equipment and vehicles for the specific mission, and then dedicated to practicing the battle-drills and emergency actions; a hard learned lesson from the

early years of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The team can repair more than 20 craters in one day. This is achieved by turning the whole process into an assembly line process. Each repair mission involved about 20 fully armed Airmen dressed for action in 60 pounds of individual body armor, weapons and ammunition. Since repairs take place on heavily traveled roads, the team must be prepared for anything. Everything is mobile, even the “HYEX”, or hydraulic excavator that digs out and backfills the craters.

“We try to get the whole process done quickly and completely,” Major Fuller explained. “The whole road is blocked off and we fill multiple craters by jumping from one to the other.”

Completing a repair is a three-step process. The excavator clears debris out of the hole and readies it for fill, the dump truck then supplies the fill for the hole. When the excavator finishes dumping fill into the hole, it goes on to the next hole and the concrete truck comes in and finishes the job.

“By the time the concrete truck is done filling the hole, the excavator has already finished with its second hole,” Sergeant Self said. “Once the process is finished, we mark the repair so other military units know we did the repair.”

The teams take special precautions in filling the hole, such as rebar mesh embedded in concrete.

“The rebar mesh prevents insurgents from popping out the concrete repair or using a chisel to break it apart and inserting another IED and camouflaging it with more concrete,” Sergeant Kessler added. “In addition, members of the Iraqi Army guard the holes until the concrete dries so the bad guys don’t put anything in there.”

Making the process smarter is the goal of the unit. That, and not getting attacked.

“Our unit has been hit with IEDs but we haven’t had any injuries,” Major Fuller said. “We are a high priority for the Army so they look out for us.”

Even though members of the detachment received combat arms training along side the Army in preparation for their deployment, the major said he wants to use

— See **Civil Engineers**, Page 9

# Make every stroke count in drive to eliminate FOD

## Sooner or later: Foreign Object Debris = Foreign Object Damage

By Master Sgt. Todd Miller

506th EOSS Airfield Management

When a golfer like John Daly or Tiger Woods clears foreign object debris from the green before a putt, he's not putting anything near as valuable on the line as Airmen do when they clear an aircraft to move within the area of responsibility. He risks money and disappointment. Airmen risk foreign object damage that could cost millions of dollars, lives, families, jobs and vital missions. Within the AOR aircraft can suffer multi-million dollar loss.

FOD for professional golfers is an inconvenience. For Airmen it's more. Anything potentially impairing an aircraft's ability to fly is FOD. Tools, nuts or bolts, caps, paper, aircraft parts, vehicles, people, construction material, packaging, plastic bags, dogs, cats, birds, pencils, phones, books, rocks, pavement



pieces, aluminum cans and, of course, golf balls ... the list is as long as the flight line. Just one of these, left in the wrong place one time, can result in punishment or your life.

It's simple: anything and everything out of place is a FOD threat, and Airmen must be knowledgeable, have the proper equipment the vehicle NCO, and ensure trash is always secured in the proper container to prevent FOD from impacting the operation. Trash within the MOD areas and duty sections can impact aircraft operations with the severe winds Kirkuk experiences.

506th Air Expeditionary Group Operating Instruction 91-states FOD checkpoints will be at every airfield access point. All those accessing the flightline must ensure they are properly educated and equipped before operating a vehicle or working on Kirkuk's flightline. When it comes FOD, it's simple: "clean as you go and you'll be right all the time."

## 506th Air Expeditionary Group History

provided by Master Sgt. Shawn Bohannon, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing Historian

**Emblem** Approved on July 21, 1955

**Streamers** None

**Campaign Streamers** World War II: Air Offensive, Japan

**Armed Forces Expeditionary**

**Streamers** None

**Decorations** Distinguished Unit Citation: Japan, June 7-10, 1945.

**Lineage** Established as 506 Fighter Group, Single Engine on Oct. 5, 1944. Activated on Oct. 21, 1944. Inactivated on Dec. 16, 1945. Redesignated 506 Tactical Fighter Group on May 4, 1972. Activated in the Reserve on July 8, 1972. Inactivated on March 25, 1973. Consolidated (Jan. 31, 1984) with the 506 Strategic Fighter Wing, which was established on Nov. 20, 1952. Activated on Jan. 20, 1953. Redesignated: 506 Fighter-Day Wing on July 1, 1957; 506 Fighter-Bomber Wing on Jan. 1, 1958; 506 Tactical Fighter Wing on July 1, 1958. Inactivated on April 1, 1959. Redesignated 506 Air Expeditionary Group, and converted to provisional status, on April 22, 2003.

**Assignments** III Fighter Command, Oct. 21, 1944; Twentieth Air Force (attached to VII Fighter Command), April 25, 1945; VII Fighter Command, Aug. 5 1945; Twentieth Air Force (attached to

Iwo Jima Air Base Command [Provisional], Dec. 1, 1945; Army Transport Service, c. Dec. 3-16, 1945. Eighth Air Force, Jan. 20, 1953 (attached to 39 Air Division, Aug. 13-Nov. 7, 1953); Second Air Force, April 1, 1955; Ninth Air Force, July 1, 1957; Eighteenth Air Force, Oct. 1, 1957; Twelfth Air Force, Jan. 1, 1958-April 1, 1959. 301 Tactical Fighter Wing, July 8, 1972-March 25, 1973. Air Combat Command to activate or inactivate at any time after April 22, 2003. Squadrons: 457: Oct. 21, 1944- Dec. 16, 1945; Jan. 20, 1953-April 1, 1959 (detached March 20-Aug. 19, 1958; not operational Dec. 19, 1958-April 1, 1959); July 8, March 25, 1973. 458: Oct. 21, 1944-Dec. 16 1945; Jan. 20 1953-April 1, 1959 (detached c. Aug. 13, 1958-c. Feb. 18, 1959; not operational c. March 1-April 1, 1959). 462: Oct. 21, 1944-Dec. 16, 1945; Jan. 20, 1953- April 1, 1959 (not operational Dec. 19, 1958-April 1, 1959). 470: Sept. 25, 1957-April 1, 1959 (not operational Dec. 19 1958-April 1, 1959). 506 Air Refueling: Sept. 25 1953-March 1, 1955 (detached Sept. 25-Nov. 7, 1953; not operational Nov. 8-19, 1953).

**Stations** Lakeland AAFld, FL, Oct. 21, 1944-March 5, 1945; North Field, Iwo Jima, April 25-Dec. 3, 1945 (air echelon

operated from West Field, Tinian, March 23-May 11, 1945); Camp Anza, CA, Dec. 15-16, 1945. Dow AFB, ME, Jan. 20 1953; Tinker AFB, OK, March 20, 1955-April 1, 1959. Carswell AFB, TX, July 9, 1972-March 25, 1973.

**Aircraft** P-51, 1944-1945. F-84, 1953-1957; KB-29, 1954-1955; F-100, 1957-1958. F-105, 1972-1973.

**Operations** Trained in fighter formation flying, long range navigation, and gunnery prior to deploying to Guam in March 1945. Air echelon flew combat air patrol missions under control of the Air Defense Command, Saipan (US Navy), March and April, 1945. Joined with ground echelon at Iwo Jima in May 1945. Attacked airfields, antiaircraft emplacements, shipping, barracks, radio and radar stations, railway cars, and other targets in the Bonin Islands and Japan. Provided air defense of Iwo Jima and escorted B-29s on missions to Japan. Trained as a strategic fighter wing, charged with providing air defense and escort, Apr 1953-Jun 1957. Provided air defense of northern Japan while deployed to Misawa AB, 13 Aug-7 Nov 1953. Participated in tactical exercises and rotated squadrons to Europe 1957-1958. Activated in the Reserve and trained in F-105 fighter operations, 1972-1973.

# Vehicle ops manages KRAB's fleet

By Staff Sgt. Kristina Barrett

506th AEG Public Affairs

In a location where having a vehicle is almost like being a rock star, the Airmen of the 506th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron, Vehicle Operations Flight, must be feel like gods, for they have a whole fleet of them.

Managing this fleet of chariots is no easy task, considering the dust, mud and potholes that make up most of the roads.

"The mud here holds on to anything that gets stuck in it," said Tech. Sgt. John Staats, day shift NCOIC. "People misjudge how deep a hole is so we spend a lot of time digging stuff out of the mud."

The operations flight handles many tasks other than helping fire trucks out of the mud, they handle all vehicle accidents and breakdowns, as well as all distinguished visitor vehicles and fill in a drivers if necessary. At Kirkuk, the Airmen stay safely inside the wire, unless under extreme circumstances.

"We are trained to do emergency extraction of personnel," said Master Sgt. John Robinson, shop superintendent. "But we are a last resort."

But for most Airmen, their most important task is passenger and cargo support. The flight supplies all the vehicles needed to get Airmen to and from the PAX terminal on time and with their bags.

"Getting Airmen around the base with their bags when they arrive is a big deal," said Staff Sgt. Patrick Pittman. "People are tired from flying for who only knows how long and they just want to get to their home and to bed, depending on the time of day." Vehicle ops Airmen work 24/7 supporting the mission. Unlike most units on base, they are here for six month rotation rather than four.

"Our career field is also tasked with pulling convoy duty," Sergeant Staats explained. He is on his second tour of duty to Iraq. He spent his first tour on convoy duties with the Army.

"Most people volunteer to go on convoy duty because we feel it's our duty," he added.

Pulling six month rotation can be tough, especially when you see two rotations come and go. The group arrived before Air

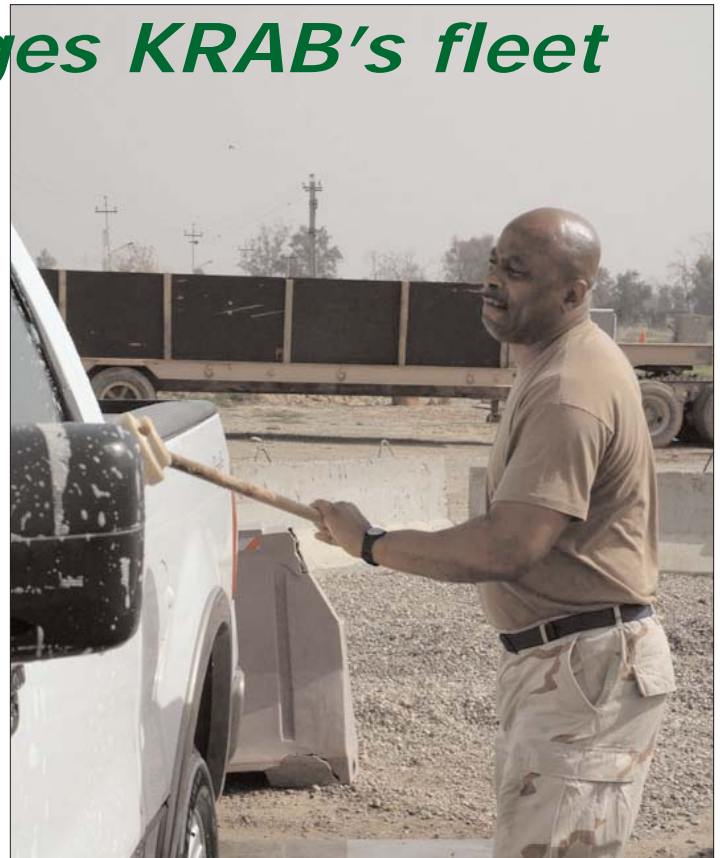


Photo by Staff Sgt. Kristina Barrett

## Staff Sgt. James Tillery readies a staff vehicle in preparation for a distinguished visitor tour.

Expeditionary Force rotation 5/6, saw them leave and said hello to AEF 7/8. In January most of 7/8 left and they greeted 9/10. Also during that time, the watched one Army brigade combat team transfer out and the 101st Airborne Brigade transfer in. In just one Army swap out, the team loaded or unloaded more than 6,000 soldiers and moved more than 500,000 pounds of personal bags. And they took less than 20 days to do it. Talk about moving mountains.

The current team will leave soon but not before greeting a new group of Airmen ready to take the reins. And they were more than happy to move their own baggage.

## Civil Engineers *Continued From Page 7*

engineers to do engineer work. The Army supplies a security detachment for the unit so the engineers can do what they do best – making roads safe for convoys and patrols.

"The Army really goes out of their way to support our missions," said Staff Sgt. Steve Latimer, heavy equipment operator. "If it were up to them, we'd be out there every day but we definitely need reconstitution time to resupply."

Resupply is key considering the amount of terrain the unit must cover. They are responsible for approximately 10,000 square miles. In just the first 30 days for their six month deployment, the Airmen have man-

aged to cover 350 miles of roads. That translates to 200 tons of dirt and 40 cubic meters of concrete. In perspective, that amount is equal to a community-sized swimming pool, filled in and converted for parking; all one bucket at a time.

The detachment is currently the only Air Force unit conducting this type of mission outside the wire.

"We are doing a mission normally reserved for the Army," said Staff Sgt. Kirk Everhard, who is one of the unit's carpenters but serves as the weapons NCOIC. "The adrenalin gets pumping once you leave the safety of the base."

The adrenalin gets the Airmen going, making them the fastest repair crew in Iraq, according to Major Fuller.

"CE craftsmen are multi-skilled – there's nothing we can't do."

To the Airmen of the 732nd ECES, there's a fight for the streets and they are winning. With every crater they fill, they are saving lives and doing their part to rebuild Iraq.

"What we do is important not just for the safety of our military, but for the safety of the civilians here too," Sergeant Everhard said. "The locals see us fixing the roads. They see us helping them and the hope is that they can help find the next bad guy."

# Photos from around the KRAB



## KRAB Idol winners

The winners of Krab Idol are (right to left) Army Sgts. Dan Wills, 3rd Place; Robin Richardson, 2nd Place; and Dinard Edwards, 1st Place.

(Photo by Airman 1st Class JoAnn White)



## Where's that blue wire?

Tech. Sgt. Roger Wheeler, 506th Expeditionary Communications Squadron, splices telephone cables together for the new security forces and logistics readiness squadrons' compounds.

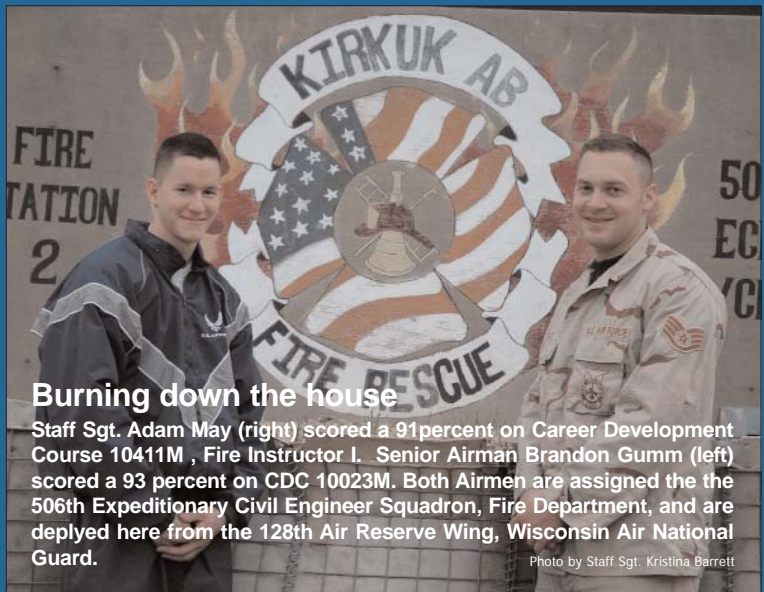
Photo by Tech. Sgt. Robert J. Horstman



## All this wire should lead somewhere

Senior Airman Matthew Parker, 506th Expeditionary Communications Squadron pulls up excess wire found around the base during Operation Bucket Truck. The squadron netted more than 27,000 feet of unused wire.

Photo by Airman 1st Class JoAnn White



## Burning down the house

Staff Sgt. Adam May (right) scored a 91 percent on Career Development Course 10411M, Fire Instructor I. Senior Airman Brandon Gumm (left) scored a 93 percent on CDC 10023M. Both Airmen are assigned to the 506th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron, Fire Department, and are deployed here from the 128th Air Reserve Wing, Wisconsin Air National Guard.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Kristina Barrett

## Is there a doctor on the court?

The KRAB Cup competition is still going strong. Teams from across the base participated in a dodgeball competition March 5. Krab Cup standings are as below:

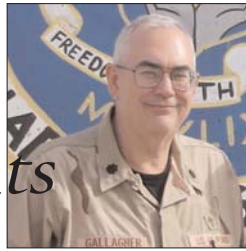


ESVS	21 pts		
ELRS	26 pts		
ESFS	19 pts		
Group Staff Agencies	17 pts	732 ECES	15 pts
EMEDS	16 pts	EOSS	15 pts
ECES	16 pts	ECS	9 pts.

Photo by Airman 1st Class JoAnn White

# Chaplain's Thoughts

By Chaplain Robert Gallagher



The 15th of March is famous as the "Ides of March" - the day when Julius Cesar, the 1st emperor of Rome, was assassinated. So what? We are in Iraq and its just a day like any other, right?

Maybe not, the 15th of March, for example, is also the day Columbus returned to Spain from the new world, the day Maine became our 23rd state, the day KISS released the album Destroyer, and the day Mikhail Gorbachev was elected as the first president of the Soviet Union. It's the birthday of Andrew Jackson, our 7th president. It's the feast day of St. Longinus, the Roman soldier who pierced Jesus' side with a lance, and the day each year the turkey buzzards return to Hinkley, Ohio, a little town between Cleveland and Columbus.

Pick any day of the year and you will find it is important to someone for reasons that might have no interest to you at all. Or a day might be important to you for reasons that are just yours: a promotion, the first or last time you saw a loved one, the day you paid off a loan, the birth of a child, the day

you made some big decision, the day you achieved one of your goals in life.

It can be easy here for one day to look just like the next and to see each day as just a rerun of what we've done before.

We don't have to fall victim to the "Groundhog Day Syndrome." It doesn't take much to make a day unique - that doesn't mean it will be one that you remember; it just means there can be something fresh and interesting about each day.

There are people here you have never spoken to; there are books you have never read and there is some food at the DFAC you haven't tried before.

You can treat some person better today for no reason; you can find a quiet moment

## Sects of Islam: Sufi

By Capt. Matthew Ence  
Middle East Foreign Affairs Officer



Sufi Islam is based on the internal pursuit of spiritual knowledge through the heart and mind. Sufism is not so much a separate sect of Islam as it is a means for attaining enlightenment. In other words, a Sunni or Shi'i Muslim can also practice Sufi Islam. Many refer to Sufism as Islamic mysticism.

The word *sufi* (soofee) is believed to originate with the original followers of Sufism and referred to the rough woolen cloaks they often wore.

The Arabic word for wool is *suf*. Other experts believe it originates with the *Ahl al-Suffa* (People of the Veranda), who were a group of early Muslims that spent time on the veranda of the Prophet's mosque engaged in prayer.

To achieve enlightenment, Sufi Muslims engage in a variety of practices. Meditation plays an important role in achieving awareness of God and may take the form of the repetition of certain sections of the Qur'an, singing, dancing,

focusing on Arabic letters with special significance, or certain colors. One Sufi school is the Mevlevi school, commonly called "whirling dervishes." Mevlevi devotees spin in circles accompanied by instrumental music to enter into a spiritual trance-like state. Through meditation, rejection of materialism, and ridding themselves of negative thoughts, emotions, and actions, Sufi Muslims hope to achieve spiritual unity with God.

### KRAB Religious Schedule

<b>Monday</b>		<b>Friday</b>	
11:30 a.m. — Catholic Mass (Freedom Chapel)	7 p.m. — Ladies Fellowship (Freedom Chapel)	11:30 a.m. — Catholic Mass (Freedom Chapel)	6:30 - Jewish Service (Freedom Chapel)
7 p.m. — Catholic Fellowship/Discussion Group (Hotel Charlie)	7:30 p.m. — Daniel Bible Study (Eagle's Nest)	7 p.m. — Gospel Choir Practice (Freedom Chapel)	
<b>Tuesday</b>		<b>Saturday</b>	
7 p.m. — Protestant Praise Team (Freedom Chapel)	7 p.m. — Men's Bible Study (Bastogne Chapel)	7 p.m. — Catholic Mass (Freedom Chapel)	7 p.m. — Gospel Joy Night (Bastogne Chapel)
<b>Wednesday</b>		<b>Sunday</b>	
11:30 a.m. — Catholic Mass (Freedom Chapel)	7 p.m. — Gospel Service Bible Study (Freedom Chapel)	8 a.m. — Gospel Service (Freedom Chapel)	9 a.m. — Catholic Mass (Bastogne Chapel)
7 p.m. — Bible Study (Bastogne Chapel)	7 p.m. — Protestant Praise Team (Freedom Chapel)	10 a.m. — Contemporary Worship Service (Freedom Chapel)	11 a.m. — General Protestant Service (Bastogne Chapel)
<b>Thursday</b>		11:30 a.m. — Catholic Mass (Freedom Chapel)	
7:30 p.m. — Praise Team (Bastogne Chapel)	8 p.m. — "Common Ground Kirkuk" Protestant Community (Freedom Chapel)	1 p.m. — Protestant Sunday School (Freedom Chapel)	
		1:30 p.m. — LDS Service (Bastogne Chapel)	
		7 p.m. — Contemporary with Communion Worship Service (Freedom Chapel)	

just to watch the stars alone. We have all been here for a while now so its important to take the time to bring something fresh and refreshing into each day.

Nearly all religious traditions encourage followers to take that occasional pause to reflect, to review their lives, to adjust their paths. If this day starts to look just like every other day behind us then we probably aren't making much progress in becoming the person we had hoped to be or following the spiritual path that we have chosen. What have you done to make today a memory worth keeping?

**Did you know...?**

- one of the early Sufi mystics was a woman named Rabi'a al-'Adawwiya, today revered as a saint by many Sufi Muslims
- many of the early Sufi devotees lived celibate lives of poverty that shunned personal possessions, wealth, or notoriety
- fundamentalist Muslims regard Sufism as a heretical innovation and its followers as apostates from the Faith

## Clamtina Events

### Mondays

Hearts 8 p.m.  
 Dominoes 8:15 p.m.

### Tuesdays

Texas Hold 'Em 8 p.m.  
 8-Ball/9-Ball 8:15 p.m.

### Wednesdays

Darts 7 p.m.  
 Spades 8 p.m.

### Thursdays

March 16 St. Patrick's Day Party 8 p.m.  
 March 23 Showtime at the Clamtina 8 p.m.

### Fridays

March 17 Bazaar 1:30 - 9 p.m.  
 March 24 Latino Night 8 p.m.

### Saturdays

March 18 Bazaar 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
 Progressive BINGO 8 p.m.

Karaoke 9:30

### Sundays

Foosball 7 p.m.  
 Texas Hold 'Em 8 p.m.

## Fitness Center Events

### Mondays

Ab Class - 5:30 a.m. Spin Class - 5 and 6:30 a.m.  
 Ju Jitsu 7 p.m.

### Tuesdays

Boxing Basics/Spin Class 7:30 p.m.  
 March 14 3 Pt Shot Competition 8 p.m.  
 March 21 Bench Press Competition 8 p.m.

### Wednesdays

Ab Class - 5:30 a.m. Spin Class - 5 and 6:30 a.m.  
 March 8 Ju Jitsu 7:30 p.m.

### Thursdays

Spin Class 7:30 p.m.  
 March 16 Squat Lift Competition 8 a.m.  
 March 23 Dead Lift Competition 8 a.m.

### Fridays

Ab Class - 5:30 a.m. Spin Class - 5 and 6:30 a.m.  
 Boxing Basics 7:30 p.m.

### Saturdays

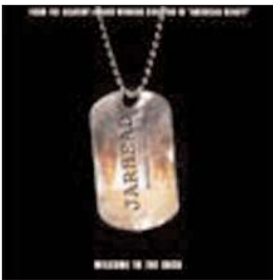
5K Run 10 a.m.  
 Spin Class 7:30 p.m.

### Sundays

KRAB Cup 2 p.m.  
 Spin Class 7:30 p.m.



# KRABusters Video



### Monday, March 13

0700 & 1900 Jarhead  
 1000 & 2200 Rodentz  
 1300 & 0100 American Outlaws  
 1600 & 0400 The Crazy Stranger

### Tuesday, March 14

0700 & 1900 Imagine Me & You  
 1000 & 2200 Star Wars 1  
 1300 & 0100 Forrest Gump  
 1600 & 0400 Die Hard

### Wednesday, March 15

0700 & 1900 The Last Holiday  
 1000 & 2200 Girls Just Want to Have Fun  
 1300 & 0100 American Gun  
 1600 & 0400 Cool and the Crazy

### Thursday, March 16

0700 & 1900 Aeon Flux  
 1000 & 2200 Mission Impossible 2  
 1300 & 0100 Who Framed Roger Rabbit  
 1600 & 0400 Spider

### Friday, March 17

0700 & 1900 Date Movie  
 1000 & 2200 Killing Mr. Griffin  
 1300 & 0100 Joe Dirt  
 1600 & 0400 Jurassic Park

### Saturday, March 18

0700 & 1900 Night Watch  
 1000 & 2200 Thomas Crown Affair  
 1300 & 0100 Empire Strikes Back  
 1600 & 0400 Vertical Limit

### Sunday, March 19

0700 & 1900 The Fog  
 1000 & 2200 Star Trek II  
 1300 & 0100 Star Trek The Motion Picture  
 1600 & 0400 Patch Adams



### Monday, March 20

0700 & 1900 Tristan and Isolade  
 1000 & 2200 The Horse Whisperer  
 1300 & 0100 Scream 3  
 1600 & 0400 The Master of Disguise

### Tuesday, March 21

0700 & 1900 Big Momma's House 2  
 1000 & 2200 Star Trek VI  
 1300 & 0100 Batman  
 1600 & 0400 Batman Forever

### Wednesday, March 22

0700 & 1900 Grandma's Boy  
 1000 & 2200 Ravenous  
 1300 & 0100 So I Married an Axe Murderer  
 1600 & 0400 Mercury Rising

### Thursday, March 23

0700 & 1900 Chicken Little  
 1000 & 2200 Forrest Gump  
 1300 & 0100 Godzilla  
 1600 & 0400 Demolition Man

### Friday, March 24

0700 & 1900 Get Rich or Die Tryin'  
 1000 & 2200 Star Trek Insurrection  
 1300 & 0100 The Art of War  
 1600 & 0400 Spun

### Saturday, March 25

0700 & 1900 Wedding Crashers  
 1000 & 2200 Out of Time  
 1300 & 0100 What Women Want  
 1600 & 0400 Gangs of New York

### Sunday, March 26

0700 & 1900 The Ringer  
 1000 & 2200 The PA Miners Story  
 1300 & 0100 Nutty Professor 2  
 1600 & 0400 Auto Focus

