

ROCK SLATE



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SECAF visits Rock, addresses Airmen

Capt. Jeff Clark
386 AEW Public Affairs

Secretary of the Air Force Michael Wynne toured the Rock Dec. 7 and spoke to base members Dec. 8 about issues affecting today's Air Force. Secretary Wynne and his wife Barbara were taken throughout the base and shown many of the outstanding workcenters, accomplishments and Airmen that make the 386th Air Expeditionary Wing so special.

The tour started with a mission brief and was highlighted with visits to the fitness center, some major civil engineering construction locations, flight-line operations and maintenance facilities and of course the Desert Winds dining facility where the tour culminated with a Texas-style bar-be-que dinner.

Secretary Wynne continually commented on how impressed he was with the wing's facilities and the importance of the wing here.

"When you talk about global mobility, its opening places like this," he said. "You're cooperating with our colleagues and coalition

partners moving in and moving so many goods and passengers through yet you make it look easy.

In his briefing Dec. 8, Secretary Wynne focused on the joint aspect of the battlefield, the future of training for and fighting in cyberspace and the Air Force continuing to support in lieu of taskings for the Army.

"We don't have enough people to fill the Army with in lieu taskings," he said. Secretary Wynne went on to say we need to maintain our focus and our heritage, but some of the missions we do so well we may take on to some degree. "And right now we are not going to pull away or refuse to commit our forces."

A video was also shown that in Secretary Wynne's words "shows the interdependency we (the Air Force) share with the Army, Navy, Coast Guard and Marines." While it did focus on the joint operations and the capability of the Air Force "to deliver sovereign options for the defense of the United States of America and its global interests -- to fly and fight in Air, Space, and Cyberspace" there was one piece



Air Force/Staff Sgt. Ian Carrier

Secretary of the Air Force, Michael Wynne is briefed during his visit here by C-130 loadmasters, Airman 1st Class Heather Jarke and Master Sgt. Scott Mello. Both are assigned to the 737th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron from the 2nd Airlift Squadron at Pope AFB, N.C.

from our mission here the video didn't show that Secretary Wynne stressed. He spoke about Contingency Aerial Staging Facilities (we have one of only two in theater) and medivac as being key to the survivability of the force.

"The miracle of this engagement and this time is medivac,"

he said. "The survival rate as you all know is in the high 90's. If you can make it to the CASF here, I believe it's above 96 percent. This is unheard of in warfare.

"Bless everyone who does that mission and all of you who are additional volunteers when things get rough."