

Ganci Gazette

Vol. 4, No. 30

376th Air Expeditionary Wing, Manas AB, Kyrgyzstan

Aug. 5, 2006

DCFACC: Manas is phenomenal



Photo by Staff Sgt. Candy Knight

Senior Airman William Veal, 376th ELRS fuels flight, explains to Maj. Gen. William Holland, Deputy Combined Forces Air Component Commander, the different types of fuel stored and used by Manas Air Base. General Holland visited different units during his tour of the base, July 28 and 29.

By Capt. Anna Carpenter
376th AEW Public Affairs

Maj. Gen. William Holland didn't try to hide his excitement to meet the Airmen here on his visit July 28 and 29.

After all, it's partly the Deputy Combined Force Air Component Commander's efforts four and a half years ago that brought this base into existence.

In 2001, he was the Assistant Deputy Director of Plans and Policy at U.S. Central Command and headed the team looking for bases from which to launch Operation Enduring Freedom.

"There was nothing here except the Kyrgyz. We looked around to see if it had the potential of becoming what it is today," the general said. "To see it the last couple of days, what our Airmen

have made it into is absolutely phenomenal. Makes you proud."

General Holland spent two days touring the base, meeting the Airmen in their work places and recognizing outstanding performers. He said the present state of the base has far surpassed the potential his team saw when they first visited.

————— See DCFACC page 3

DCFAAC from page 1



Photos by Staff Sgt. Candy Knight

General Holland presents Staff Sgt. Richard Hyatt, 22nd EARS, with a commander's coin for being an outstanding performer.



Senior Airman Nathan Lotts, 376th ESFS, adjusts the sights as the general takes aim in the armory.



General Holland thanks members of the 376th EMXG for their service.

He credited the quality of life and work evident here to the Airmen's expeditionary mindset.

"That's the beauty of our Air Force," he said. "People...come with that expeditionary mindset, and understanding that the living conditions and work environment may not be the same as back at their home station. But they understand that when they're in the deployed environment, that is their home and they try to make it a little bit better."

He said that ownership mentality is changing the Air Force for the better at all levels, from where he sits at the Combined Air Operations Center to the field, and he can see that happening here.

In each work center he visited, he asked the Airmen if they had the proper training before they came, if they had everything they needed to do their job and thanked them for their contributions to the Global War on Terrorism. In his eyes, he said, everybody is valuable.

"It doesn't matter whether you're one of the aircrew or (work at) the fuel farm," he said. "I mean, how critical is it for them to test that fuel to make sure it's ready before it goes into that airplane? Absolutely critical."

"(The petroleum, oil and lubricant technicians) can't be as efficient working if they don't have a good dining facility to eat in, good food, and a physical fitness facility so they can stay ready to do their job, so it all blends together. No matter where you work on an installation, what you do is so valuable to the mission."

He said he considers it part of his job to let people know how they are contribut-

ing to the overall mission. His job also requires the communication to flow up to him.

"I really need people to talk to me and lay it on the line and tell me what they're doing and how they can do things better," he said. "If they need something in order to do their job, they have to let me know. Let their supervisors and their commanders know, but it will eventually get to me."

After complimenting the work of Airmen here on base, he turned his praise to efforts off base through the Village Partnership Program and Manas Air Base Outreach Society.

"I think one of the best things about this location is that people can get off of the compound and mingle with the local civilian population," he said. "I think it's wonderful for our nation. We have the best and the brightest in this uniform and when they can go out there, and the local population can see that, they see the best part of America."

General Holland left the Liberandos with a challenge, one he is confident they are up to.

"Everybody is doing their job, and doing it with a smile and trying to make it a little bit better," he said. "That's about all I can ask of people in an expeditionary environment, to try to make it better for the next rotation that comes in. Whether that means just adding a page in the continuity book or doing something that saves the Air Force millions of dollars. It's all relative; just people thinking about how to make things a little better."



Photo by Capt. Anna Carpenter

Members of the 376th ECES EOD flight give the general a demonstration of the F-6A explosive detecting robot.