

FROM ANDERSEN TO ZWEIBRUCKEN USAF WORLDWIDE

A STAFF REPORT

IF YOU joined the Air Force to see the world, chances are excellent that you won't be disappointed. At any given time, some twenty-three percent of the active-duty force is stationed overseas.

From Andersen AFB on Guam to Zweibrücken AB in Germany, the Air Force has sixty squadrons of aircraft abroad, operating from thirty major bases and 681 smaller installations.

Even so, the Air Force does not have enough people and machines in place overseas to meet the full requirements for airpower in the event of a major conflict. The overseas Air Force would have to be rapidly reinforced by units deploying from Stateside.

For those who are part of the in-place forces over there, the duty has its hardships, but there are rewards, too. Most Air Force people say they wouldn't swap their experiences overseas for anything. They see places the stay-at-homes only dream about. They get to know interesting cultures different from their own. And they take special satisfaction and pride in their mission in the first rank of the worldwide Air Force.



A-10 pilots receive a warm welcome upon arrival at Suwon AB, Korea, a Pacific Air Forces tactical fighter base. Blue-suit presence in Korea is the fourth largest in the overseas Air Force, exceeded only by USAF contingents in Germany, the United Kingdom, and Japan.



Air Force people assigned to the air station at Ankara in Turkey relax over a traditional Turkish lunch in a local café. (USAF photo by SSgt. Bill Thompson)

PEOPLE ABROAD

By latest count, there are 136,345 active-duty Air Force members in foreign lands. The largest concentrations are in Germany (35,000), the United Kingdom (22,300), Japan (14,100), South Korea (9,300), and the Philippines (8,400). At the other end of the scale, the Air Force presence on Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean consists of one officer and nine airmen. Members completing a long tour of duty abroad after September 1, 1980, get the new Air Force Overseas Medal.

Family separations remain a fact of life for many. Close to 17,000 of USAF's overseas people are serving short tours. Forty-four duty locations are remote. When possible, the Air Force tries to give people their choice of next duty location when they return from unaccompanied tours of fifteen months or less.

Accompanied tour lengths normally vary from twenty-four to thirty-six months, but Air Force people may volunteer to extend beyond their prescribed tour lengths. In fact, 22,495 airmen were extended during FY '82.

Limitations on travel entitlements for junior airmen are still a problem. For E-4s and below with less than two years of service, gov-

ernment shipment of household goods is limited to 1,500 pounds. The Air Force is again requesting money this year to improve this situation, but the outlook is not promising. These junior airmen, however, have had funded transportation for dependents to overseas duty stations since 1978.

A cost-of-living allowance (COLA) in certain overseas areas now defrays the average excess costs (excluding housing) for such items as food, personal care, recreation, and clothing. In addition, the Rent Plus system reimburses members who live off base for the cost of their rent and utilities within a prescribed "by-grade" formula.

When it comes to assignments, "overseas" is a relative term. Two American states—Alaska and Hawaii—count as overseas duty, but only for those who aren't legal residents of those states.

Choice overseas assignments for officers, based on expressed preferences: Germany, United Kingdom, Hawaii, Spain, and Korea. Top preferences for airmen: Germany, United Kingdom, Hawaii, Alaska, and Spain.

HOME AWAY FROM HOME

Your life-style changes when you're stationed abroad. For example, new opportunities abound for travel. One of the most popular military recreation areas in Europe is at Garmisch, Germany's leading Alpine resort. Nearby is Neuschwanstein (pictured on the front cover of this issue), the model for Walt Disney's fantasy castle. Within a fifty-mile radius is the Wies Kirche (church), noted for its Bavarian rococo architecture, and the cultur-



al and touring center of Innsbruck, Austria.

Shopping—and in many places, bargaining—for local merchandise can be fun. And overseas exchanges stock a wider selection and a greater price range of merchandise. Fur coats, television sets, stereo components, and cars can be purchased. These items aren't for sale in Stateside exchanges. Neither are diamonds larger than half a carat, but if you can afford them, you can find larger ones in BXs abroad. Overseas commissaries report that most items their customers want are generally available, with only occasional exceptions. At press time, commissaries in Europe had current shortages of such high-demand items as potato chips, paper products (toilet tissue and diapers), family-size and king-size detergents, bleach, biscuits, cream cheese, and horseradish. In PACAF, it's difficult to keep perishable items like fresh fruit and vegetables in good condition. Whenever possible, stocks of these items are supplemented by local purchase.

Television, taken for granted Stateside, becomes important. In



TOP: There are no commercials and the Super Bowl may be broadcast at midnight, but Armed Forces Radio and Television Service brings the sights and sounds of home to airmen around the globe. Here, the AFRTS signal is beamed from the Azores. (USAF photo by SrA. Guido Melo) **ABOVE:** An Air Force shopper picks vegetables at an open market in Mildenhall, Suffolk, England. (USAF photo by SSgt. Myron Geddings)

1982, approximately forty-five satellite TV events, including live sports and special news, were transmitted abroad. Work is still in progress to complete the worldwide Armed Forces Radio and Television Service (AFRTS) Satellite Network (SATNET). When completed, SATNET will provide live and taped radio and TV programs twenty-four hours a day.



ABOVE: American children study at the Hahn AB, Germany, elementary school. **LEFT:** The Dallas Cowboys cheerleaders are among USO's most popular overseas entertainment tour groups.

where American troops are, relaying messages between service members and their families and verifying emergency leave requests. The Red Cross handled more than 500,000 welfare and emergency leave messages for military people overseas last year.

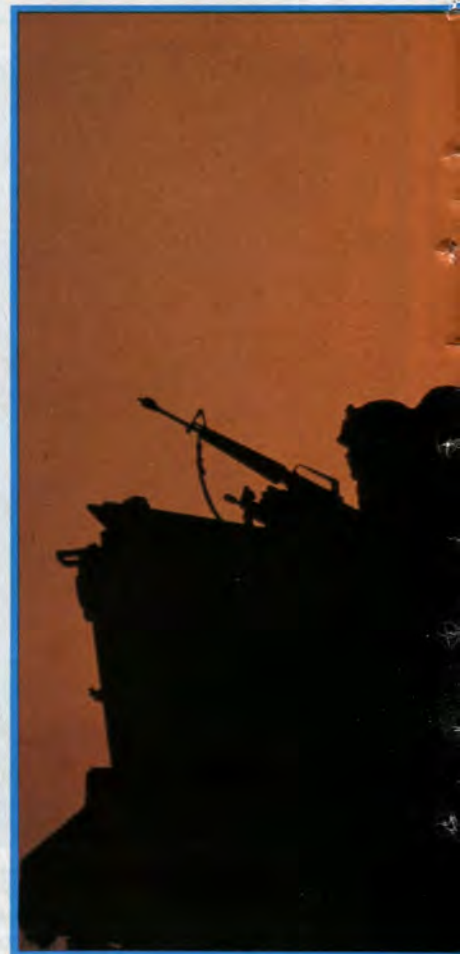
AB, Germany; RAF Upper Heyford and RAF Lakenheath, UK; Eielson AFB and Elmendorf AFB, Alaska; and Clark AB, the Philippines.

The USO operates 106 overseas centers. USO volunteers at twenty-five airports abroad provide nursery facilities, hospitality lounges, and refreshments. Among USO entertainers on tour overseas in 1982: Lou Rawls, the Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders, the Los Angeles Rams Cheerleaders, and the cast of TV's *Happy Days*, including the Fonz—Henry Winkler. The Cowboys and Rams cheerleaders were so popular that the USO is planning another tour by them later this year. Johnny Lee and Tony Orlando may also be appearing overseas soon.

The Red Cross is at every location



At Iraklion AS, Crete, expectant parents attend a childbirth class. (USAF photo by SrA. Mark Crabtree)



It is more difficult and more expensive to telephone relatives back in the States, so people rediscover letter writing. In FY '82, the military postal service delivered 72,295,000 pounds of mail to and from Air Force installations overseas.

Last year, 9,552 officers and 72,693 airmen were enrolled in off-duty educational courses overseas. The Department of Defense Dependents School System (DoDDS) runs from kindergarten through grade twelve, and has 271 schools in twenty countries. Over a seven-year period DoDDS students achieved higher average SAT and ACT scores than the national average in the United States.

Air Force Family Support Centers are now located at five overseas locations. These centers provide support to families while Air Force members are TDY. They also help spouses find jobs, resolve family money management problems, and teach family enrichment courses. Six new centers are scheduled to open during 1983, at Zweibrücken

JOINTNESS AND COMBINEDNESS

In the event of war, the US Air Force would be fighting alongside other US forces and allied forces. In fact, a significant trend of the 1980s is toward greater emphasis on joint (among US forces) and combined (among allies) cooperation and training.

Articles elsewhere in this issue spotlight such developments as the Joint Attack of the Second Echelon (J-SAK) concept and USAF participation in the maritime mission, as well as programs in which US and allied airmen fly together, both in big exercises and as an everyday routine.

The US is a party to seven collective defense agreements: the North Atlantic Treaty; the ANZUS (Australia, New Zealand, US) Treaty; the Philippine Treaty; the Southeast Asia Treaty; the Japanese Treaty; the Republic of Korea Treaty; and the Rio Treaty.

Jointness and combinedness have not been without their tensions—for example, roles-and-missions questions about air base defense and interdiction, or in the case of allies, the portion of common defense costs being borne.

After much debate last year, Congress capped US troop strength in Europe at FY '82 levels, about 4,700 short of what the Administration had asked for. Reductions in overseas troop strength are advocated by some who feel America's allies are not carrying their fair share of the burden, and by others whose concern is budgetary—an overseas force being very expensive.

But as the Secretary of Defense pointed out in his annual report to Congress, "US forces are maintained in Europe directly in support of US political and military interests—not as an act of charity toward our allies." The same applies wherever American forces are serving worldwide.



YOU KNOW YOU'RE OVERSEAS WHEN . . .

- Your kids think all school buses are blue.
- You fill in another block on your short-timer calendar.
- You get intense cravings for things the commissary and ex-



LEFT: Security policemen, deployed from Keesler AFB, Miss., in Exercise Team Spirit 82, patrol at Kunsan AB, Korea. (USAF photo by SSgt. Jim Pearson) **INSET:** A local constable gets a security police orientation at RAF Chicksands, UK. **ABOVE:** USAF and Korean maintenance personnel work on an F-4 at Taegu AB in Korea. (USAF photo by TSgt. Mike Dial)

change are out of. (There's peanut butter but no jelly for the sandwich you dream of, and a big jar of jelly breaks in your roommate's luggage when he's returning from Stateside leave.)

- Ultrahigh temperature milk or the powdered and reconstituted stuff (with coconut oil) doesn't taste so bad anymore.

- You hang your coat next to your gas mask on the duty section coat rack.



The Army and the Air Force conduct a joint night patrol in downtown Kaiserslautern, Germany. (USAF photo by Ken Hackman)

● You decorate your living room based on the number of transformers you have.

● Your ration card is used up with a week left to go in the month.

● You wish AFRTS had real commercials.

● There is a female attendant in the men's room.

● Those relatives from North Dakota who have promised to visit you for years finally show up.

● The Super Bowl is broadcast in the middle of the night.

● The locals want to talk with you so they can practice their English.

● The MARS station patches you through for a call home, and you have to keep reminding your mother to say "over."

● You quit watching the Dow Jones and turn to the exchange rate.

● The Stars and Stripes (the flag, not the newspaper) never looked quite so grand.

(Send in your additions to this list.)

LONG LINES TO A GLOBAL FORCE

Not every airman overseas is assigned to an overseas command. The crews of Military Airlift Command, for example, come and go constantly from aerial ports abroad.

One of the consequences of having a global force is that it must be supplied, sustained, and, if necessary, reinforced. The Army also looks to the air for its lifeline, and an increasing percentage of what the Army needs is outsize cargo. In the first fifteen days of a European war—the time when airlift would be most critical—about twenty-seven percent of all the cargo to be hauled is outsize.

The airlift situation is improving, and will improve still more by the end of the decade. Last year, programs were completed to add aerial refueling capability to the C-141B and to increase the cargo space in the C-141A. The FY '84 DoD budget request includes funds for fifty C-5Bs and eight KC-10 cargo tanker aircraft. The Air Force hopes to achieve initial operating capability for the C-17 next-generation airlifter. Still, there are presently shortages in the airlift that would be available, both from the United States to

overseas and within the overseas theaters. Prepositioning of materials relieves this to some extent, but is not the total answer. Crises tend to develop in places far from where the stocks are located. Furthermore, positioned stocks are vulnerable to attack or capture, and often require maintenance to keep them usable.

Among its programs to alleviate the current shortfall in facilities available to handle casualties, the Air Force wants funding for two air transportable hospitals and eighteen mobile surgical suites.

The United States is more distant from the principal theaters in Europe and the Pacific than is the Soviet Union. The east coast of the United States is about 3,500 nautical miles from the most likely European battlefields, for example, while Moscow is only some 1,300 miles away. Also, Soviet reinforcements could come by road and rail, while the Americans must deploy by either sea or air.

Eventually, sealift would carry better than ninety percent of the cargo in an extended conflict or crisis abroad, but in the early days it would all be up to the airlifters.

A C-5A flies over the autobahn on its approach to Rhein-Main AB, Germany, carrying troops and cargo for the annual Autumn Forge exercise. (USAF photo by SSGT. Jim Pearson)



OVERSEAS ALL THE WAY

Seventeenth Air Force observes its thirtieth birthday this month. It was activated April 25, 1953, at Rabat, French Morocco, and its colors have flown continuously on foreign soil ever since.

Today, it is the most forward-deployed of the three numbered air forces in USAFE. It has been head-

quartered at Sembach AB, Germany, since 1972. Major units are assigned to Zweibrücken, Bitburg, Hahn, Spangdahlem, Ramstein, Sembach, Lindsey, and Rhein-Main in Germany, and to Camp New Amsterdam in the Netherlands.

The command has air defense responsibilities throughout central Europe, and manages a large portion of USAFE's collocated operating base program. For these up-front squadrons, combat training is serious business. In 1982, Seventeenth Air Force crews logged

77,000 sorties and 97,000 flying hours to keep sharp their combat-mission readiness.

This key organization is spotlighted here as a representative of *all* the fine units of the overseas Air Force. ■

An F-4G Wild Weasel aircraft from Spangdahlem AB passes above Cochem Castle on the Moselle River in West Germany. Against such scenic backdrops, the forward-deployed units of the overseas Air Force prepare daily for the grim possibility of war.

