

by Master Sgt. Jim Varhegyi



Military honors fallen commander in chief

Members of a joint honor guard carry the flag-draped casket bearing former President **Ronald Reagan's** remains to a horse-drawn caisson at the transfer point for the funeral procession from the White

House to the Capitol, Washington, D.C., in June. Airmen nationwide paid tribute to President Reagan after he died at his home from pneumonia as a complication of Alzheimer's disease.

C-17 airlifts Iraqi child to Hungarian hospital

BALAD AIR BASE, Iraq — Medics from the 379th Expeditionary Aero-medical Evacuation Squadron helped airlift a 13-year-old Iraqi to Budapest, Hungary, in June.

A dozen crewmembers aboard a C-17 Globemaster III helped transport **Abbas Jabbar**, who was injured in June when he ran in front of a Hungarian convoy patrolling near Baghdad.

The boy was rushed to the 31st Combat Support Hospital at Baghdad International Airport after the accident, and Col. **Peter Doby**, who served as the chief of operations within multinational force-Iraq in Baghdad, eventually became the child's caretaker. He said the boy's life was clinging by a thread when he arrived at the military hospital.

"He had a fractured skull and a compound fracture to his right leg. He was also on a respirator," the colonel said.

At one point, the boy had to be

revived. As his condition slowly stabilized, Hungarian officials discussed the possibility of transporting him to Hungary for surgery and rehabilitation, but they realized the Hungarian government lacked the aircraft and qualified staff necessary to move him.

Colonel Doby, who grew up in Hungary, bridged talks between Hungarian and American officials helping arrange the boy's transport to Budapest. Arranging the mission required secretary of defense approval.

The boy's parents gave the OK to

by Staff Sgt. Jason Lake



Abbas Jabbar, a 13-year-old Iraqi, smiles as he is moved into a Hungarian ambulance at the international airport at Budapest, Hungary. A dozen crewmembers aboard a C-17 Globemaster III helped move him to Hungary after he was injured when he ran in front of a Hungarian convoy patrolling near Baghdad, Iraq.

take him to Hungary and told Colonel Doby, "This is God's will." Shortly after arriving in Budapest, the young patient gave everyone a smile and thumbs up.

Looking back on the experience, Tech. Sgt. **Shane Larson**, an aero-medical evacuation technician on the flight, said he was glad to help move the boy because it "shows the citizens that we're here for them."

— Staff Sgt. Jason Lake
332nd Air Expeditionary Wing
Public Affairs

Medics treat more than 620 in Cambodia

KEP, Cambodia — U.S. military medics treated more than 620 patients and scheduled 100 surgeries midway through their work in a small hospital complex in Cambodia in May.

"Ten hours after the mission started, the surgery schedule was fully booked with 100 cases," said Lt. Col. **Diep Duong**, team leader for a 20-member blast resuscitation and victim assistance mission that was in Cambodia for about two weeks.

The team saw about 150 patients a day and performed about nine surgeries a day, Colonel Duong said. The majority of patients were people with burn injuries, thyroid problems and hernias.

"The majority of surgeries were procedures to restore functions in limbs or to relieve pain," she said. Surgeons also fixed cleft palates and lips to help children eat and swallow normally.

One woman suffered from burns to more than 40 percent of her body. She received the burns in a propane gas explosion about three months ago.

"If we weren't there she would've died," said Lt. Col. (Dr.) **Jim Walter**, an emergency medicine physician with the Virginia Air National Guard's 149th Fighter Squadron in Sandston, Va. "There was nothing available for her.

by Master Sgt. Adam Johnston



Lt. Col. (Dr.) Gerald Tanner (left) and Army Capt. (Dr.) Erick Martell assess patients in a hospital compound in Kep, Cambodia. The doctors were part of a 20-member blast resuscitation and victim assistance mission sponsored by U.S. Pacific Command that treated more than 620 patients. Dr. Martell is a surgeon assigned at Tripler Army Medical Hospital in Honolulu, Hawaii, and Dr. Tanner is an anesthesiologist at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo.

She had no money, and she couldn't travel. If we would've arrived a week later, she wouldn't be here."

Capt. (Dr.) **Jason Rosenberg**, a reconstructive plastic surgeon, said the burned woman will have scarring and some loss of function with her hand, but he was sure she'll live through it.

Dr. Walter said the work he per-

formed was why he became a doctor.

"This is true medicine," he said. "Although you stay here for 16 hours a day, the work is tiring, but it makes you realize why you became a doctor. That's something you sometimes forget in the States."

— Master Sgt. Adam Johnston
18th Wing Public Affairs

Airmen destroy grenade launchers

TALLIL AIR BASE, Iraq — More than 600 rocket-propelled grenade launchers collected by coalition forces throughout southern Iraq were destroyed by Airmen of the 407th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron in May.

In order to destroy the launchers explosively, it would've completely exhausted the unit's C-4 resources, said Capt. **Doug Tip-pet**, explosive ordnance device flight commander.

"With unexploded ordnance littering the ground everywhere at

Tallil, it wouldn't have been a wise decision to deplete our entire supply of plastic explosives," he said.

The cost of C-4 is \$7.50 per block, but acquiring and receiving the explosive is difficult because of current demand and manufacturing limitations.

After some experiments, structural craftsmen determined the launchers could be destroyed using a welding torch, so the craftsmen made a work table to hold the launchers while they were torched. After the weapons were rendered useless, they were buried.

— Lt. Col. Dave Maharrey
407th Expeditionary
Civil Engineer Squadron

by Senior Master Sgt. Fernando Adams



A structural craftsman from the 407th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron destroys a rocket-propelled grenade launcher. The squadron's Airmen destroyed more than 600 launchers collected by coalition forces throughout southern Iraq.