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Front Cover: *SSgt Samuel Rogers*



BASH, IT'S NOT JUST FOR THE BIRDS ANYMORE

When you hear "Bash," what comes to mind? If your answer is "Bird Strikes," then you aren't seeing the whole picture, and there's a lot you're missing. BASH (Bird/Wildlife Avoidance and Strike Hazard) programs have grown and are evolving to encompass all wildlife that pose a hazard to aircraft operations. The programs consider not only wildlife within the confines of the airfield but also in the neighboring areas. It includes predatory birds, their prey, the nuisance flocking birds (gulls), migratory geese and ducks, but also beaver, coyotes, deer, moose, rabbits, etc.

The main focus of BASH remains the bird hazard; however, Wildlife Biologists from the Department of Agriculture's Wildlife Services Division in conjunction with the individual bases are beginning to treat each airfield as its own ecosystem to map and design an effective BASH program based on that base's requirements. The first half of this issue of THE COMBAT EDGE focuses on BASH to educate aviators on the changes to the programs and bring attention to the upcoming

BASH Conference in Baltimore, Maryland, September 13-16. The agenda and details concerning the conference are on the Bird Strike Committee USA website at <http://www.birdstrike.org/birds.htm>

Many people may not be aware that the Pacific Air Force (PACAF), unlike other commands (USAFE, AMC, and ACC), does not publish its own safety magazine. Since its infancy, THE COMBAT EDGE has served as PACAF's voice on safety, but it has never published an edition dedicated solely to the PACAF Theater of Operations. The second half of this month's issue features articles written by PACAF service members about safety in general and theater-specific safety topics. For future planning, August 2005 is designated as our next PACAF Edition. Between now and June 2005, the challenge to our PACAF readers and Safety Offices is to fill that magazine from cover to cover with PACAF specific Flight, Ground, and Weapons safety articles.

Remember: Keep safety proactive – make it your Combat Edge!

Colonel Creid K. Johnson,
ACC Director of Safety



Photos by Mr. Tom Olexa