



PHOTOS BY STAFF SGT. CRAIG SEALS
Lt. Col. Tod Fingal, 522nd Fighter Squadron commander, speaks with a group of Turkish pilots during a meet and greet event following the opening ceremonies at Falcon Air Meet 2006 (FAM06).



A Turkish pilot speaks with his crew chief before the launch during the scramble competition.



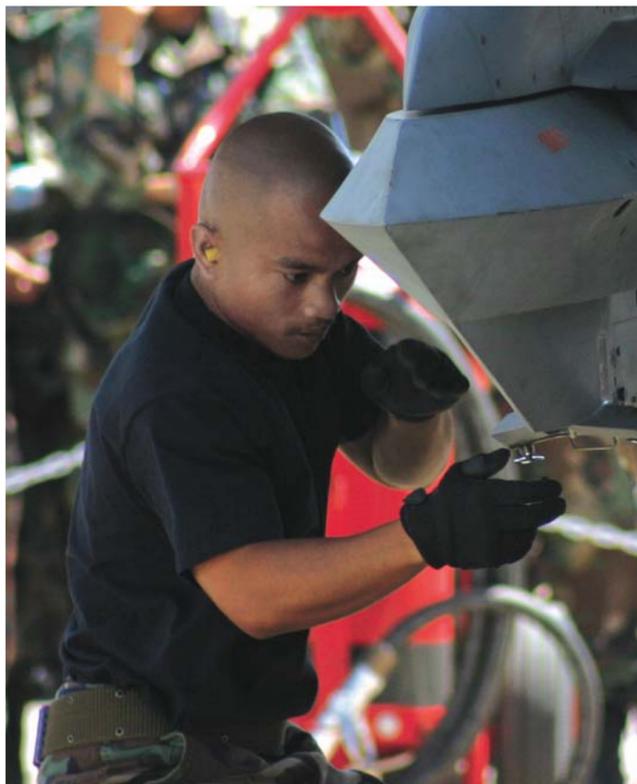
A Turkish pilot waits for the signal, ready to sprint to his jet during the scramble competition at Falcon Air Meet 2006. The scramble competition consisted of a pilot and two crew chiefs launching an F-16 as rapidly and safely as possible.



Capt. Charles Coffman, 522nd Fighter Squadron flight doctor, and Staff Sgt. Martin Jensen, 27th Medical Operations Squadron, take an inventory of their supplies after getting settled at base camp for FAM06



Senior Airman Ernesto Sierra (far right), 522nd Aircraft Maintenance Unit, positions the weapons loading vehicle under the direction of Staff Sgt. Isaac Salazar (far left), 522nd AMU, as Senior Airman Leonard Parungao (middle), 522nd Aircraft Maintenance Unit, works on the fuse of a previously loaded munition during the bomb loading competition at FAM06.



Senior Airman Leonard Parungao, 27th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, prepares the mounts for the munitions on an F-16 during the bomb load competitions in Jordan during Falcon Air Meet 2006. Cannon won three trophies and tied for the top spot in the competition.



Master Sergeant Eric Butt, 27th Civil Engineer Squadron, performs a repair on a voltage adapter at the base camp at FAM06. The efforts of Sergeant Butt and the rest of the civil engineer crew kept the base camp powered and running throughout the exercise.



Airmen walk through the ruins of Jerash, a second century A.D. Roman city, during a sightseeing trip in Jordan. The group visited Mount Nebo, which, at its peak, housed a church dedicated to Moses. Those who went on the trip were hand-selected by their supervisors as outstanding performers during FAM06.

FALCON AIR MEET

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Squadron was a member of the set-up and maintenance crew for the compound's communication network.

"My job was setting up and maintaining the ground to air communication system with pilots in flight and to provide Land Mobile Radio communications throughout the air base that allowed anyone within the confines of the air base to communicate with one another or to communicate with the operations building," said Airman Luu.

Once the main body personnel, aircraft and maintainers were in country and in place, the Fireballs competed in a series of friendly competitions with the other air forces in order to test the overall skill of pilots and maintainers from each country as well as gain a better understanding of each other and how they operate.

Events included a scramble competition, a large force employ-

ment exercise, a bombing competition, a formation flying event and a bomb loading competition.

The countries were graded on the maintainers' and pilots' performances in each event.

The opening ceremonies for the competition included a briefing from Prince Feisal Bin Al Hussein, followed by a meet and greet that allowed Fireball pilots to mix with their counterparts from the competing countries in the interests of fostering a sense of teamwork.

The first official day of the air meet was the scramble competition in which each country launched two aircraft under timed conditions. Each aircraft had two crew chiefs and a pilot. Teams were timed and graded on speed and accuracy of a successful and rapid launch.

The second event was the bombing competition where each country launched four aircraft on a bombing run of the royal Jor-

danian air force's bombing range.

The bombing competition was followed by the formation flying event and the large force employment competition. Each country was tasked and graded on their successful and rapid deployment of four aircraft per country. While in the air during these events, pilots engaged in mock combat maneuvers with their Jordanian and Turkish counterparts.

The Fireballs, representing Cannon Air Force Base and the United States, took home trophies for the maintenance competition, formation flying and they tied with the Royal Jordanian Air Force for the top overall spot in the competition.

"I have been, and continue to be, proud of the performance of all the Cannon personnel that participated in this event," said Colonel Fingal. "They should all be proud of the work they've done."