

Sandy Hoag Gazette

111th Fighter Wing

Pa Air National Guard

Willow Grove Air Reserve Station, Pa.

Volume 14 Issue 4

April 2009

**Special feature: The future of the
111th Fighter Wing ...**



Air Force, Guard celebrates Women's History Month
Page 8



Wing Promotions
Page 11



RED HORSE beefs up
Page 7



ON THE COVER:

A KC-135 Stratotanker performs an in-air refueling mission on an A-10 Thunderbolt from the Willow Grove Joint Reserve Base.



Photo by Master Sgt. Patrick Cashin

AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Recruiting Assistance Program



Contact your local recruiters to find out how you can earn up to \$2,000
Master Sgt. Matt Giacobbe (215) 443-1515
Tech Sgt. Andy Raup (215) 443-1516



Commander
Col. Paul Comtois

Wing Executive Officer
Capt. Christine Munch

111th Fighter Wing
Pa. Air National Guard
Building 203 Room 250
1051 Fairchild Street
Willow Grove ARS, PA 19090

Tel: (215) 443-1500
DSN: 991-1500
Fax: (215) 443-1860

Website: www.111fw.ang.af.mil

ABOUT SANDY HOG GAZETTE

This funded Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services. Contents of the Sandy Hog Gazette are not necessarily the official views, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or the Department of the Air Force. The editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Public Affairs Office of the 111th Fighter Wing.

111TH FW MEMBERS

The Sandy Hog Gazette is no longer available in print. To have the Gazette e-mailed directly to you, please send your name and email address to: pa.111fw@pawill.ang.af.mil. Please put "Sandy Hog" in the subject line.

RETIREES

You will continue to receive a hardcopy unless you opt for an electronic version.

CONTACT US

The Public Affairs staff can be reached during UTA weekends at (215) 443-1504. For urgent inquiries, contact the 111th FW Wing Executive Officer at (215) 443-1410.

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

The deadline for submissions to the May issue of the Sandy Hog Gazette is April 16. E-mail articles and photos for consideration to: pa.111fw@pawill.ang.af.mil

Sandy Hog Staff

Public Affairs Officer

Capt. Renee Lillis

Public Affairs NCOIC

Tech. Sgt. Jonathan White

Public Affairs NCO/Layout & design

Staff Sgt. Julie Parker

Information Manager

Senior Airman Ricardo Cruz

Base Multimedia Manager

Tech. Sgt. Elisabeth Matulewicz

Photographers

Master Sgt. Pat Cashin

Tech. Sgt. Alvin Farrow

Tech. Sgt. Marie Harmon

Flight of Freedom

The Flight of Freedom Honors Ceremony will be hosted by the 171st ARW in Pittsburgh this fall. The 111th Fighter Wing will host the event in the fall of 2010.

Upcoming Annual Retirees' Reunion Dinner

A reunion of current and past members of the 111th Fighter Wing will be held on Mon. April 6 at 6:30 p.m. It's the 58th anniversary of the 1951 activation of the Wing!

The event will be held at Casa DiLucia Restaurant located at 14425 Bustleton Pike (intersection of Philmont Ave. and Bustleton Pike, (215) 677-6111). The cost of the affair is the cost of whatever you order. The food is excellent and reasonably priced. A cash bar will be available.

For more information, contact Vincent Celenza at: (215) 728-6008 or Gary Yudel at: (215) 364-0473.

Support and Services to merge, form the Force Support Squadron

**By Major Dean Mulherin
111th Mission Support Flight
Commander**

By now you may have heard that the Mission Support Flight and Services Flight will be merging into the Force Support Squadron (FSS) April 1. I'll first explain the rationale behind the merger, and then touch upon its impact on you as a customer.

The Air Force and Air National Guard have become leaner forces. As a result, our people have to make the best use of the resources they have. By combining the MSF and Services Flight under one umbrella, we will reduce overall costs and give our people more flexibility to respond to their customers. This is an effort to synergize our processes, improve customer service, and ultimately save money.

The new Squadron contains four flights: Force Development Flight, Manpower and Personnel Flight, Airman & Family Services Flight and Sustainment Services Flight. The merger will result in an FSS with an end strength of roughly 45 members. It is the next step in the Total Force concept, and will more closely resemble the current active duty Air Force structure.

So what does this mean to you as a customer? Not a whole lot; operations will pretty much remain the same, with most changes being transparent to you. Customers will continue

to go to the same places or offices to receive their services after the merger. Within the merger process initially, no manning cuts or additions will take place. Our missions remain the same and we will continue to provide agile combat support to the Wing and its members.

In a development unrelated to the merger, the Services Flight recently moved from the Headquarters building and is now located in Bldg # 232. They will have more space for their people there, which will aid them in training and day-to-day operations.

On a different note, here's an update on The Defense Integrated Military Human Resources System (DIMHRS). This is the comprehensive system that was supposed to integrate over eighty personnel and finance systems. Eventually, it will provide each service member with a single, comprehensive record that would feature self-service capabilities to empower service members to update portions of their personal information. The bottom line on this effort is that Air Force has backed off implementing the program this year, and has not released a new implementation date. This is probably good news for all of us considering the chaos of implementing a problematic



Maj. Dean Mulherin

product could have caused. So stand by for updates, but don't hold your breath. The good news is that when DIMHRS is eventually fixed and implemented, it will be a great program for all of its end users.

Like all of your Units, change abounds in the MSF as well. Captain Rebecca Selby recently transferred to the NJ ANG. She and her expertise will be missed. But with change comes new opportunities for success and growth.

The MSF remains committed to supporting your personnel needs in our ever changing landscape. Give us a call or stop by if you ever need anything.

"If we don't change, we don't grow. If we don't grow, we are not really living." -- Gail Sheehy

Scholarship available for returning war veterans

The Collegiate Consortium for Workforce and Economic Development received funding to establish a scholarship program for veterans from southeastern Pennsylvania and southern New Jersey.

The scholarships are for:

- Members of the Guard and Reserves who have been deployed in support of Operation Iraq Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.
- Veterans who have been awarded the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Iraq Campaign Medal, or the Afghanistan Campaign Medal.
- Military personnel adversely affected by closure and realignments at the Willow Grove Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base.

The program is designed to provide great flexibility to meet the candidate's need to:

- Begin or continue college education.
- Upgrade skills in a trade or occupation.
- Complete professional continuing education requirements missed while deployed.
- Undertake non-credit certificate programs.

The scholarships must be used for tuition and fees at one of the following member institutions:

Community College of Philadelphia

Delaware County Community College

Bucks County Community College

Camden County College

Montgomery County Community College

Drexel University

The scholarships will be limited to no more than \$3,000 for each recipient. Payment will be made

directly to the college. The tuition and fees can be used for: credit or non-credit courses, certificate programs, required continuing education programs, professional development courses, and many other training opportunities.

The scholarship program is setup with representatives at each school who will assist with both registration and enrollment or with the academic coordination of coursework (testing, grades, extensions, access, etc.).

The Collegiate Consortium for Workforce and Economic Development offers more than 4 thousand teaching faculty supporting more than 470 certificate, associate, bachelor, masters and doctoral programs. The variety of opportunities available should easily fit the Veteran's career plans. Military training and prior education will be assessed for college credits.

Please contact Cathy Obey or Tyrone Beach at (215) 218-3886 or by email at

obey@collegiateconsortium.org or

beach@collegiateconsortium.org or the school contacts below for further information;

— **Community College of Philadelphia**

Genesis Muse: (215) 751-8287, gmuse@ccp.edu

— **Delaware County Community College**

Annette Kelly: (610) 359-5356, akelly@dccc.edu

— **Bucks County Community College**

Amy Armstrong: (215) 968-8468, armstron@bucks.edu

— **Camden County College**

Christine Willse: (856) 374-4960, cwillse@camdencc.edu

— **Montgomery County Community College**

Tracey Wyrwas: (215) 619-7330, twyrwas@mc3.edu

— **Drexel University**

Melinda Moore: (215) 895-0909, mm98@drexel.edu

Free computer training available to military spouses, veterans

A 70-hour, self-paced online computer skills training course is provided at no cost to military members, spouses, and transitioning veterans in both English and Spanish. The training targets in-demand jobs in portable careers in the growing health care industry. The goal of the course is to help educate today's military

spouses, transitioning veterans and war wounded caregivers for tomorrow's workforce.

The course has a technology focus in hardware, operating systems, networking, the internet, desktop publishing, spreadsheets, databases, presentations and web design. The course offering is scheduled to begin April.

Scholarships for this course

are offered by Operation Life Transformed and Military to Medicine. There are 1,500 spaces available in this program and we have the opportunity to fill many of those spaces.

For more information, or to apply for a scholarship, email: students@lifetransformed.org or visit online at www.lifetransformed.org.

CCM Perspective: *The importance of training*

By Chief Master Sgt. Ralph C. Braden
Pa. State Command Chief

As many of you know, my civilian employer is US Airways. Flight 1549 ditching in the Hudson is one of those events that will remain vivid in my memory for a long time to come. The heart sinking feeling that I experienced when I saw the aircraft in the water on television and the sense of joy I felt when I learned that all the crew and passengers were all alive is very clear to me as I write this article.

As the story of the miracle on the Hudson was told and retold during the weeks that followed the ditching on Jan. 15, my sense of pride in this flight crew grew. Skill and luck played roles in this event.

When you listen to discussions concerning aircraft crashes you will likely hear the term "chain of events." Usually the links in the chain of events combine to bring about a disaster. In this case, the links in the chain of events combined to become the miracle on the Hudson.

There was a total of three minutes and thirty seconds from the time the birds were ingested in both engines until splashdown. Three minutes and thirty seconds is not much time. I am very thankful and very proud of what this experienced US Airways flight crew was able to accomplish. One hundred fifty-five passengers and crew surviving an aircraft water ditching is nothing short of miraculous. One link in the chain of events developing differently could have spelled disaster.

The first link in the chain of events after the birds were ingested was the crew's reaction. They reacted as

they were trained. With only three minutes and thirty seconds from engines out to splashdown there was no time to gather the crew together to brief them as to how they were to handle the emergency. The crew responded as they had been repeatedly trained to respond to an emergency situation. That is all they had time to do.



CCMSgt Ralph C. Braden

At a US Airways management conference, I received a briefing concerning Flight 1549 a few weeks after the event. It dawned on me while I was listening to the briefing that this is what we do in the Air National Guard. We train every drill weekend so that when the time comes and we only have three minutes and thirty seconds to react we know what needs to be done instinctively.

That is why we train the way we do. Mission success depends on how we react under stress. We need to be ready to react to situations as we were trained. Additionally, the time and effort you put into your training may save your life or the lives of fellow Airmen. Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger, captain of Flight 1549, began his flying career as an Air Force fighter pilot.

Top Achievers

Second Lieutenant Daniel Griffin
103rd Fighter Squadron

A-10 Pilot

Awards: Top Graduate & Superior Academic Achievement

In recognition as a top graduate for superior academic achievement and high standards of leadership, teamwork, and character.

Airman 1st Class Ryan M. Nestor
201st RED HORSE Sq. Det. 1

Heating Ventilation & Air Conditioning Apprentice

Awards: Top Graduate & Superior Academic Achievement

In recognition as a top graduate for superior academic achievement and high standards of leadership, teamwork, and character.

Senior Airman Richard W. Thomas
201st RED HORSE Sq. Det. 1

US Air Force Food Services Apprentice
Awards: Top Graduate & Superior Academic Achievement

In recognition as a top graduate for superior academic achievement and high standards of leadership, teamwork, and character.

Congratulations!!!

First Sergeant: Air National Guard — alive and well

By Master Sgt. Lamar R. Belton
111th Fighter Wing

In this time of economic hardship and high unemployment rates one institution has flourished, the Air National Guard. Despite reports that recruiting is down for the military, the ANG has been able to retain their current active force and increase manpower by effectively recruiting new members. During a meeting with ANG Chief Master Sgt. Richard Smith, I learned that as of Feb. 13, all basic military training slots allotted for the Air Guard in 2009 had already been filled. Chief Smith credits this accomplishment to recruiters and members of the acquiring units that make their jobs appealing to prospective members. The Air Guard's prosperity can also be attributed to the many benefits

offered by this branch of the military.

A few benefits and entitlements offered to unit members and member families by the Air Guard are the use of Base Exchange, Commissary, and Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) services and facilities. Health and insurance programs are also accessible as a benefit of membership. The main benefit that has helped increase enlistment in the Air Guard is the Educational Assistance Program (EAP) which is offered to members who enlist for six years of service. The Montgomery G.I. Bill allows the member to attend college full-time while serving in the Air National Guard. The member would receive over \$20,000 for school in addition to monthly pay. In addition to these federal payments, each state may

offer 100 percent tuition assistance, state tax deferment and reduced auto insurance benefits to their unit members.

Another factor that has allowed the Air Guard to prosper is flexibility. Many new recruits are drawn to the Air Guard because it allows them to participate in the military without the necessity of leaving their hometown. They view the Air Guard as an alternative to active duty. The Air Guard allows members to serve their country and fulfill their patriotic duty without feeling like they have given up civilian life.

The Air Guard is alive and well! If there is any doubt about this statement, take a look at the student flight during a drill weekend.

One look should put all skepticism to rest.

Family Readiness Group participates in regional workshop

By Jean Moretti
111th FW Family Program Coordinator

The 111th Family Readiness Group leaders attended the Pennsylvania Family Program Regional training on Mar. 7 held in Philadelphia, Pa. The objectives included: baseline guidance on establishing, maintaining and operating a Family Readiness Group (FRG) by defining rules, roles and responsibilities of a FRG, how to manage FRG meetings, as well as funding guidance, goals and tools for a successful FRG.

Special guest speakers represented the following organizations: Military & Family Life Consultant, Military OneSource, Veterans Administration and American Red Cross.

"A workshop with the Air Guard and Army Guard is always a challenge for us," explained Claire Dibelius, FRG Vice President. "This one was by far the most informative."

According to Ms. Dibelius, "Dr. Marquis, the state youth coordinator, shared information on the many available programs to assist our kids who are struggling

during a parent's deployment. We learned many different ways to fundraise and what resources are available in times of need so we can provide the best for all."

"Our FRG really has a lot going for us," said Ms. Dibelius. "We learned that we operate efficiently and thank you for allowing me the opportunity to attend this workshop."

"I found the workshop to be very informative," said Danielle Heidrick, FRG Secretary. "A lot of great information about the benefits available when military

members deploy. I enjoyed the youth portion of the workshop and was interested in the facts presented about the

difficulties children of deployed members are facing. I was shocked to hear about the large disconnect between school districts and military families. These children should feel like heroes not outcasts. The only downside was that there was not more information specific to the Air Force. Most of the information was geared toward the Army which at times was confusing.

Over all, I enjoyed the conference very much and look forward to more in the future."

"These children should feel like heroes not outcasts."

— Danielle Heidrick, Family Readiness Group

RED HORSE beefs up, prepares for future mission

By Staff Sgt. Julie Parker
Public Affairs

The Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy Operational Repair Squadron Engineer unit also known as RED HORSE, here was activated April 2008 in an effort by the Air Force to beef up RED HORSE across the Air Force and Air National Guard.

This increase and creating of more than 400 authorizations across the Total Force is in direct support of the Global War on Terror, and the 201st RED HORSE unit at Willow Grove Air Reserve Station is currently in the process of gaining the manpower and assets required to become mission ready by Dec. 31.

The missions of RED HORSE units are unlike any other missions across the Air Force and ANG. As combat-ready engineers skilled in mechanical, structural, heavy equipment and other career fields, the members organize, train and equip themselves for their role as a highly mobile, rapidly deployable, self-sustaining heavy construction and repair unit capable of supporting air power worldwide, and especially in remote operating environments.

Maj. Geno Rapone, 201 RHS commander, explained

by being self-sustainable the unit has its own support elements, including vehicle maintenance, finance, supply and medical personnel. “We are able to operate independently in austere environments. We are like a miniature Wing although, currently, the unit has more than 150 personnel, it needs 204 to be at full strength.

“We are looking for highly motivated people execute this mission,” he said, “and we still have plenty of openings to fill.”

In an attempt to streamline the entire military, the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process will directly affect the ANG members at Willow Grove. The 111th Fighter Wing is expected to begin downsizing June 2009 with the loss of the unit’s A-10 aircraft fleet. Without the aircraft, the mission of the 111 FW will change and jobs will become obsolete.

“The good news is that there is an opportunity to remain here at the base,” said Major Rapone, who encourages Guardsmen who are interested in joining the unit to speak with their supervisor and recruiters. “Since the announcement of the BRAC, many of our people are worried about job security. As other units are downsizing, we are growing.”

The unit’s mission is not one that comes without effort, however, between pre-deployment training and the time they are at their deployed location, RED HORSE members can be away from their home station up to seven months at a time.

In addition to fighting the Global War on Terror, RED HORSE guardsmen go to third world nations in support of humanitarian operations, improving basic living conditions in impoverished communities, constructing schools, medical facilities, roads and drilling wells.

Since the Air Force formed them in 1965, RED HORSE units have contributed to numerous humanitarian reliefs in the wake of natural disasters and have participated in numerous deployments across the globe. The National Guard has deployed its RED HORSE squadrons for wartime and homeland missions since 1972.



Photo by Master Sgt. Patrick Cashin

Chief Master Sgt. John Lauf holds the guidon immediately after the RED HORSE stand up ceremony April 2008. The unit is a mobile civil engineer response force to support contingency and special operations worldwide.



The Air Force celebrates Women's History Month

By Airman 1st Class Kenny Holston
435th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany (AFNS) — From banding together to serve their country during World War I to pushing for the 19th Amendment, women have played a huge part in defining America and the armed forces.

For more than a decade, American presidents have proclaimed the month of March as Women's History Month, with the goal of recognizing women and reflecting on the contributions they've made throughout history.

"The reason women's history is so important is because it's the same foundation on why we recognize other multicultural history months," said Col. Angela Thompson, the 435th Medical Group commander here. People learn additional information during these celebrations every year.

Women gained their first opportunity to enlist and serve in the armed forces in World War I as the number of wounded American war fighters grew and the military realized it would be beneficial to enlist women as nurses.

Through the battlefields of war -- when women fought for military enlistment -- to aiding men in war zones, women have continued to fight for their place in today's society, making history one step at a time.

"My leadership role is both challenging and exciting because the opportunities for women to lead

have quadrupled since my enlistment 25 years ago," Colonel Thompson said. "It's challenging because there are still a few people -- both men and women -- who still believe women are not capable of leading large organizations. There have been both supervisors and subordinates who have required me to prove that as a woman I am organized and an expert in my ability to influence those on my team."

Numerous women have paved the way with big and small triumphs for today's female

servicemembers. Some notable ones include Betty Gillies, who was the first woman pilot to qualify for the Women's Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron; and Sgt. Vanessa Sheffield, who was a C-130 Hercules maintainer in

the 1970s, a time when there were few women in the maintenance career field.

"I'm proud to benefit from the women who banded together throughout history, making it possible for me to be a pilot in the Air Force today," said Capt. J.J. Wolf, a 37th Airlift Squadron C-130 pilot.

"I haven't been in the Air Force for too long, but my mom who was a flight nurse in the Air Force tells me stories of how nursing among a few other career fields were the only options a woman had back in the day," Captain Wolf said.

"Now it seems the options are limitless. I love my job and do my best to continue to honor and make way for women each day I put on my flightsuit."

"I'm proud to benefit from the women who banded together, making it possible for me to be a pilot in the Air Force today."

— Capt. J.J. Wolf, 37th Airlift Wing C-130 pilot

Women's History Month luncheon held at local VFW

By Senior Master Sgt. Alice E. Jenkins
111th Mission Support Flight Superintendent

The 2009 Women's History Month Luncheon was held Mar. 15 at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #190 and the guest speaker was retired Command Chief Master Sgt. Valerie Benton, the Air National Guard's eighth Command Chief Master Sergeant. She was not only the first woman appointed to this position but the first black female and single mother.

The luncheon's agenda also included a panelist of women: Chief Warrant Officer Mary Sibrava, Chief Warrant Officer Brenda Jones, retired Chief Master Sgt. Jenny Pappas and Master Sgt. Andrea Henry. Each panel member represented women serving or had served in positions within the ANG. Although this event is normally coordinated by Chief Master Sgt. Beverly Jackson, the State Human Resources advisor, she will be



(From left to right) Chief Master Sgt. (Ret.) Jenny Pappas, Master Sgt. Alice Jenkins, Command Chief Master Sgt. (Ret.) Valerie Benton and Chief Master Sgt. Beverly Jackson attend a Women's History Month luncheon hosted at Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #190, March 8.

retiring next month and passed the torch on to Senior Master Sgt. Stacey L. Miller. Chief Benton's inspirational speech reflected on

her career. After the speech there was a presentation of gifts and those who attended wished Chief Jackson farewell and good wishes.

National Guard Day at **HERSHEY**PARK

Hershey Park is inviting the National Guard from Pennsylvania and surrounding states to attend a semi-private day at Hershey Park on Sunday, April 19 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The park will be closed to the general public on this day. This is a sweet opportunity and a great savings! The discounted price is \$21 per person with free parking, and tickets are free for children two years old and under. The regular ticket rate is \$51.95, and parking usually costs \$10. This event is open to all Army and Air National Guard members, retirees, Department of Defense personnel, and DMVA Commonwealth employees and families.

The tickets must be purchased online only for this event, and they cannot be purchased at Hershey Park's front gate the day of arrival. This special rate is only valid for admittance on April 19. Admission is via E-ticket ONLY, and tickets can be purchased the day of the event. Below is the link and the promotion code to obtain E-tickets;

Go to Website [https:// tickets.hersheypa.com](https://tickets.hersheypa.com). When prompted, enter promo code: 24681

Please contact Guest Services Call Center with questions or comments regarding the online program at (717) 534-3900 or by email at: onlinetickets@hersheypa.com.

Enlisted Field Advisory Counsel (EFAC)

Quarterly Event
Sponsored by Willow Grove VFW Post #3612

Please join us for food, fun and entertainment. The EFAC will be hosting a quarterly event following the Saturday UTA for all Wing members. The EFAC will be collecting three non-perishable food items for Philabundance (see desired items below) as an entrance fee for the event from each person.

Mission

Philabundance works to end hunger and malnutrition in the Delaware Valley by acquiring food and distributing it through organizations serving people in need.

History

Philabundance was founded as a non-profit food distribution system in 1984 to reduce food waste and fight hunger in the Delaware Valley. In 2005, Philabundance integrated with the Philadelphia Food Bank to become the region's largest nonprofit hunger relief organization.

Contact number: (215) 339-0900, Donation can be dropped off at 3616 South Galloway Street
<http://www.philabundance.org/about/about.asp>

Top Most Wanted Non-Perishables

1. Child Sized Retail Pack- shelf stable milk, juice boxes, snacks, veggies, etc.
2. Canned Goods- vegetables, tomato products, beans, etc.
3. Meals in a Can- pasta, soup, stew, vegetarian beans, fruit, etc.
4. Staples- sugar, flour, breakfast cereal, pasta, dried beans and grains.
5. Condiments- peanut butter, jelly, ketchup, mustard, dry non-dairy creamer.
6. Beverages- juice, dry or instant coffee, dry tea, Glucerna, Ensure.
7. Household Items- especially laundry detergent, dish detergent, and diapers.

When - April 4 from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Where - Willow Grove VFW Post #3612

(Officially Adopted the 111th Fighter Wing)

What - Hot Roast Beef, Potato Salad, Macaroni Salad, Cole Slaw, Relish Tray, Draft Beverages

Directions to the Willow Grove VFW Post #3612

- Leave the Navy gate
- Turn RIGHT on 611 (611S) - 4.6 miles
- Turn RIGHT onto ALLISON ROAD - 0.3 miles
- Turn LEFT onto W MORELAND ROAD / PA-63 - <0.1 miles
- End at 301 W Moreland Rd

Parking is limited at the VFW; overflow parking can be used on the opposite side of W. Moreland Road.

***** NEXT EVENT WILL BE A PARTY AT THE BASE POOL *****
***** JUNE 6 *****

International, Ticket and Travel (ITT)

Universal Orlando Resort's new Military Salute program is offering one free, two-park, seven-day unlimited admission ticket to all US active-duty (Army, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, National Guard or Reservists) and retired military service members with a valid military ID Card.

Active-duty, retired military personnel and their immediate family members can also purchase additional two-park, seven-day unlimited admission tickets with a valid military ID card for up to \$35 off the retail price. These tickets are also valid for admission to select Universal City Walk clubs and venues during the time period that the ticket is being used.

Active duty, activated or drilling reservist or National Guardsmen are entitled to free admission. You must register online or at the gate at the special military guest services area and show your current, valid military ID card. In addition to your free ticket, as many as three direct dependents (enrolled in DEERS) of military personnel are also entitled to free admission. Valid for one complimentary single-day admission per person, per year, to one of the following Anheuser-Busch Adventure Parks: SeaWorld Orlando, San Diego, or San Antonio, Busch Gardens Tampa Bay or Williamsburg, Sesame Place, Water Country USA, or Adventure Island. Not valid at Discovery Cove or Aquatica. For more information, visit: www.herosalute.com.

A special discount ticket website has been set-up for members of the military and their families to save up to \$8 off a ticket at Coco Key Water Resort in Mount Laurel, NJ. Log onto to: <https://tickets.CoCoKeyWaterResort.com>. When prompted, enter your special discount code: Naval Air.

The Armed Forces Vacation Club is a "space available" program that offers condominium vacations at resorts around the world for only \$329 per unit per week. Visit: www.afvclub.com and enter base code 159 when you register.

The Government & Armed Forces Travel Cooperative is a great way to save on rentals of recreation vehicles, vacation travel packages to Hawaii, Mexico, Caribbean, and Asia. Vacation condos range from \$244 per week, golf discounts, hotel rooms and more. Visit: www.govarm.com and enter base code 159 when prompted.

Sato Vacations has been servicing the military for over 50 years and offers great travel discounts and last minute deals. A portion of vacation and cruise sales is returned to your local MWR office. Visit www.satovacations.com and enter base code 159 when prompted, contact Sato Vacations at (877) 698-2554.

Phillies baseball tickets are now on sale for \$31 at ITT office, building 2, for the following dates:

* Apr. 19	1:35 pm	vs. San Diego Padres
* May 31	1:35 pm	vs. Washington Nationals
* June 21	1:35 pm	vs. Baltimore Orioles
* July 5	1:35 pm	vs. New York Mets
July 12	1:35 pm	vs. Pittsburgh Pirates
Aug. 9	1:35 pm	vs. Florida Marlins
Aug. 30	TBA	vs. Atlanta Braves
Sept. 13	TBA	vs. New York Mets
* Oct. 4	1:35 pm	vs. Florida Marlins

* denotes Promo Day

Need Your Help!

The Delaware Valley Historical Aircraft Association is in search of a maintenance manual for a 1F-84F-1 and -2 to be displayed with the F-84 which will soon be on display in the museum with 111th Fighter Wing markings.

If you have such a manual and are interested in donating it, please see Capt. Christine Munch in Bldg. 203, Room 208. For more info about the museum, please visit the following Website: www.dvhaa.org.

Teen Leadership Summit

The AFR/ANG Teen Leadership Summit is open to all 15-18 year old dependent teens of current Air Force Reserve or Air National Guard members. Applicants will be required to complete in its entirety the 2009 AFR/ANG Teen Leadership Summit application to include essay questions and Code of Conduct form located at the following Website: www.georgia4h.org/AFRANG-TeenSummit

PROMOTIONS

To Senior Airman
Justin Robbins 201 RHS, Det. 1

To Staff Sergeant
George Beane 111 AMXS
Megan Cobb 111 LRS
Michael Nice 201 RHS, Det. 1
Joseph Searle 103 FS
Tiffany Latri Vann 111 MSG

To Technical Sergeant
Derrick Allen 111 AMXS
Jed Reilly 201 RHS, Det. 1
Allison Shick 111 FW

To Master Sergeant
Kenneth Carter 111 CF
Stephen Lewis 111 CF

To Senior Master Sergeant
Michelle Moyer 270 EIS

RE-ENLISTMENTS

SMSgt Stephen Johnston 111 MXS
MSgt Marian Livesay 111 MDG
MSgt Timothy Ragan 111 LRS
MSgt Matthew Giacobbe 111 FW
SSgt Vincent Franchino 111 MXS
SSgt Edward Stewart 111 MXS
SSgt Gordon Beecroft 111 MXS

RETIREMENTS

MSgt Carl Biscontini 201 RHS, Det. 1
CMSgt Thomas Gillespie 111 MXS
MSgt Gregory Walton 111 MXS
CMSgt Frederick Lang 111 SFS
MSgt George Chester 111 SFS

UTA MENU DINING HALL

Saturday April 4
Chicken Cacciatore
Baked Ham
Green Beans Almondine
Buttered Noodles
Honey Glazed Carrots
Assorted Desserts

Sunday April 5
BBQ Beef Cubes
Mashed Potatoes
Steamed Rice
Mixed Vegetables
Assorted Desserts

APRIL UTA WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Protestant Service will be held at 8:30 a.m. in Building 320, Room 228. An additional Protestant Service will be held at 10:30 a.m. in Building 203, Room 203.

Catholic Service will be held at 10:00 in Building 203 Auditorium.

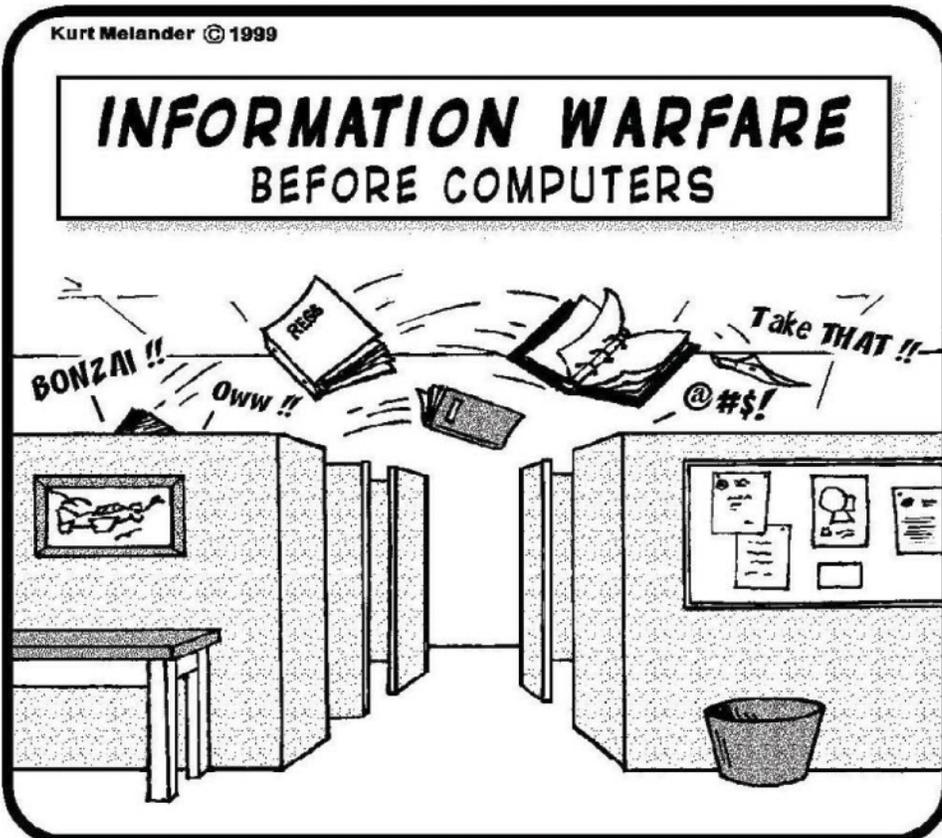
The Chaplain's Office is located in Building 203, Room 204-205 on the second floor and can be reached at (215) 443-1534.

FY09 UTAs:

4-5 April 2009
16-17 May 2009
(Armed Forces Day)
6-7 June 2009
11-12 July 2009
1-2 August 2009
12-13 September 2009

**NAS JRB Willow Grove
Information, Tickets & Tours
Office located in Bldg. 2
(215) 443-6082**

.....
**Tues, Thurs, Fri
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Wed & Sat 8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**



“What was the best April Fool’s prank you ever played on someone?”



“I put paper shavings from a hole punch in a friend’s AC unit in his car. When he turned it on, it looked like a blizzard in his car.”
— Staff Sgt. Megan Cobb, 111th Logistic Readiness Squadron



“When a supply troop was pulling stock off the shelf, I climbed through the other side, laying with my hands behind me so my head was the only thing sticking out. When he pulled the box in front of me, I screamed and he ran away. Scared him to death.”
— Chief Master Sgt. David Soldano, 111th Logistic Readiness Squadron



“I took glue chips and put them in a co-workers tool box then heated it up, so the box was glued shut. He was chipping away for weeks.”
— Tech Sgt. Tyrone Mitchell, 111th Fighter Wing

Statewide News:
View newsletters of our sister units:

193rd Special Operations Wing
“The Scope”
<http://www.193sow.af.mil>

171st Air Refueling Wing
“Tanker Times”
<http://www.171arw.af.mil>

Pa. Guardians Magazine
<http://guardians.aqppublishing.com>

National News:

On Guard Magazine
Published every Jan., April, July, Oct.
<http://www.ngb.army.mil/news/theonguard>

Airman Magazine
Published bi-monthly and now available online
<http://www.airmanonline.af.mil>

**PENNSYLVANIA AIR NATIONAL GUARD
111TH FIGHTER WING (ACC)
1051 Fairchild Street
Willow Grove ARS, PA 19090-5203**

To the Family of:

**FIRST CLASS
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Permit No. 1662
Phoenix, Arizona**

1-800-997-2264
GUARDING AMERICA,
DEFENDING FREEDOM
ANG
AIR NATIONAL GUARD

The future of our base update ...

Here is an update on what has been going on with regards to the flying mission. As I stated in the video for March Commanders' Call, the Pennsylvania Guard delegation did its annual visit to "the Hill" on March 3rd. Once again, out of all the issues in the Army and Air National Guard, Willow Grove was the number one area of concern (this is the 2nd time in the past 4 years). This meant that various levels of military officials discussed Willow Grove, our A-10 situation, and the future of the Joint Interagency Installation with every senator and congressman in Pennsylvania (Scott Roy, an assistant of Governor Rendell, was also a part of our visit and led numerous discussions).

As a result, a letter on the following page was drafted. This is significant as it was signed by every single senator and congressman ... that is no easy task, and I think happened only once prior as far as I can remember (again for us here at Willow Grove). So where to we go from here? As I have said before, we here have done everything in our power to help this situation ... we have done our job and we have done it very well. It is politics, and we are dependant on our politicians to engage Secretary Gates and the Department of Defense on down to the Guard Bureau, etc. General Wright, General Sischo, the Governor's office (and most definitely Governor Rendell) are also working hard on this matter. As the letter states, they are asking for a "hold" so that a future course can be plotted out for our unit. Obviously the objective is to keep a flying mission.

Of course another long standing point has been that the original BRAC law stated that we would keep all of our manpower, and clearly that is not the case as we have experienced. The point of end strength is also mentioned in this letter and many, to include Al Kinney and the Association of Civilian Technicians (ACT) have been making that point as well. Mr. Kinney and other ACT representatives just came back from their annual visit to Washington, D.C., and they too went around and spoke to every single senator and congressman.

But again ... we are at the mercy of our political representatives and Guard leadership to work a resolution. This is no easy task and certainly has no guarantees. Frustrating yes, but we have to keep everything in perspective. We have come a long way from "The 111th will be deactivated" and "The base is closing." Change has and will occur throughout the military and we will adapt to whatever our final mission(s) become(s). I can tell you General Wright, General Sischo, many others and myself ... recognize what the 111th is, a fantastic organization that has gone over and above. I hear comments from many outside our unit about the quality of people we have and what we have done. We surpass many other units, guard and active-duty, and our record speaks for itself. Just please continue to operate in a smart and safe manner and please don't stretch, scrimp, scrape or compromise anything. We continue to evaluate our flying operation everyday and depend



Col. Paul Comtois

on everyone to know their limits and say "uncle" if it comes to that. Everyone has something at stake here, and everyone has the right to speak up and say something ... I need that and absolutely expect people to express their concerns. We are in a difficult position, and I just don't want to see anyone get hurt ... nothing we do is worth that pain.

Hopefully, some more information comes my way soon as to what discussions will be taking place. We continue to work issues for the Joint Interagency Installation (JII).

Many may have seen a recent article about a State bill that is being pushed by State Senator Greenleaf and State Representatives Murt and Taylor, and all actions by way of Horsham politicians to clarify mission usage for the JII. As always... questions are good, rumors are bad, ask your questions, thanks!

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Secretary Gates,

The Pennsylvania Delegation is writing to you on a matter of great urgency. We understand that the Air Force plans to begin redistribution of A-10 aircraft from the 111th Fighter Wing, Pennsylvania Air National Guard, as early as April 2009 and that 11 of the unit's assigned aircraft are scheduled to be moved in the next few months. The remaining 6 A-10s assigned to the 111th are to be moved next year.

We strongly believe taking the A-10s from the 111th Fighter Wing is premature and ill-advised. There is no requirement to move these aircraft at this time. Although the BRAC Commission's Report directed redistribution of the 111th's A-10s, it did not require that it be done on any particular timetable. What's more, the BRAC Commission directed that the Air Force should maintain the end strength of the 111th Fighter Wing, but the loss of the unit's flying mission will result in loss of up to 80 full-time jobs and 140 military positions. Finally, the pending action completely overlooks the BRAC Commission's finding that strongly encouraged the Air Force to keep the A-10s at the 111th Fighter Wing.

Taking the A-10s from the 111th Fighter Wing is a serious mistake. The original recommendation to redistribute the unit's mission aircraft was based largely on the assumption that the airfield at Willow Grove would not be in operation after the Navy leaves the installation in 2011. However, legislation passed by Congress in 2007 and 2008 provided for the establishment of a joint interagency installation under state jurisdiction and control at Willow Grove. This installation will continue to include an operational airfield to be used by the Pennsylvania National Guard, other military units, other government agencies and associated users to support national defense, homeland security and emergency preparedness missions.

It makes no sense to strip this unit of its aircraft and reduce its capabilities at a time when our Nation and our Commonwealth need them most. There are sufficient A-10 aircraft in the Air Force to keep all 17 mission aircraft at the 111th Fighter Wing. The 111th has the well-trained, combat-experienced aircrews and maintenance/support-personnel to continue to operate the A-10s in a cost-effective manner. The new joint interagency installation offers the airfield and support facilities for the 111th Fighter Wing to continue flying without major capital investments.

We are asking that you issue an order delaying the start of the movement of A-10s from the 111th Fighter Wing. This action will give the Air Force the opportunity to reassess the capabilities of the Horsham Joint Interagency Installation and to consider alternative future flying missions for this unit. This actions will preserve the capabilities of this unit and the Air Force to carry out close-air support and related missions that the men and women of the 111th Fighter Wing have performed with great distinction for many years.

Due to the urgent nature of this situation, the Pennsylvania Delegation respectfully requests that you respond to our concerns within the next two weeks. We thank you for your attention to this matter and look forward to receiving your views. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of any assistance on this or any other matter.

Sincerely,

Senator Arlen Spencer
 Senator Robert Casey
 Rep. Allyson Schwartz
 Rep. Patrick Murphy
 Rep. John Murtha
 Rep. Jim Gerlach
 Rep. Robert Brady

Rep. Chaka Fattah
 Rep. Bill Shuster
 Rep. Paul Kanjorski
 Rep. Charles Dent
 Rep. Mike Doyle
 Rep. Joe Pitts
 Rep. Todd Platts

Rep. Glenn Thompson
 Rep. Jason Altmire
 Rep. Kathy Dahlkemper
 Rep. Chris Carney
 Rep. Joe Sestak
 Rep. Tim Holden
 Rep. Tim Murphy