

Sandy H g Gazette

111th Fighter Wing Pa Air National Guard Willow Grove Air Reserve Station, Pa.

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March 2008



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Submissions: The deadline for submissions to the April issue of the Sandy Hog Gazette is Mar. 14. E-mail articles and photos for consideration to: pa.111fw@pawill.ang.af.mil.

Attn 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 Community Manager at (215) 443-1410.

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.

Initiative, innovation does pay off

By Lt. Col. Barry Orbinati

111th Maintenance Squadron

Have you ever worked on a project that you estimated to take a few hours, and because of multiple layers of people doing the same job, or just ridiculous amounts of red tape, this simple task took days? After banging your head against the wall, you said to yourself “why don’t they do it this way, or they should just do this.” There’s a solution to your frustrations. The Air National Guard Suggestion Program allows you to submit your idea or suggestion to improve a process, upgrade a piece of equipment, or just save time in doing your job and receive cash awards if your suggestion is accepted.

ANGI 38-401, Suggestion Program, tells you what ideas are eligible and how to submit an idea. Ideas can be tangible savings that save the government money or intangible benefits that improve a process by saving time or cutting manning requirements to do a task.

The suggestion program starts with an individual or group coming up with an idea. They must then outline a specific area for improvement, state the workable solution and determine the benefits from their idea. A suggestion cannot be vague and deal with generalities or opinions. The idea becomes a suggestion when submitted on an AF Form 1000 to the unit Suggestion Program Manager (SPM). Our Wing’s SPM is Master Sgt. Nancy Worthington, 111th Mission Support Flight HRO office. The suggestion first goes through the owner of that area (NGB, depot, AFPC) for review to determine its necessity and if it actually can be used without affecting another area not thought of. After the idea is authorized, the Wing SPM has 30 days to submit the idea to our State HRO.

Suggestion awards are based on how much the idea will save the government or



Lt. Col. Barry Orbinati

unit in a one year time period, and pay up to 3% of that savings. Suggestions can pay up to a maximum of \$10,000 for NGB level suggestions and even more for Air Force wide programs. For a good example, please refer to the below article about Master Sgt. Dave Austin.

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Alvin Farrow



Innovative idea worth \$10,000

By Lt. Col. Barry Orbinati

111th Maintenance Squadron

Col. Paul W. Comtois, 111th FW commander, presents Master Sgt. Dave Austin, 111th Maintenance Squadron, a check for \$10,000 for his development of an A-10 fuel systems tester Feb. 10. The award came from an idea that Sergeant Austin submitted to the the NGB Suggestion Program in April 2007. They determined his idea would save close to \$600,000.

Sergeant Austin, NCOIC of the 111th Maintenance Squadron Fuels shop, developed his tester to replace the current tester which is no longer available for purchase. The tester must be used whenever any of the three wing pylons that carry the external fuel tanks on the A-10 are installed. The cost to produce the tester through a private company was nearly \$600,000 and the unit’s cost would be around \$100,000 each. Sergeant Austin used locally purchased items and developed a tester that could do all the required functions and be made locally with a unit cost of just over \$1,600. He drastically cut the time to field the tester from more than 2 years to only 6 months.

Sergeant Austin also wrote the applicable technical data for the use of the tester to test multiple systems on the A-10’s fuel system. While troubleshooting an A-10 fuel cell problem, Depot field engineers examined the tester he developed and took its plans back to Hill AFB, Utah. They told him to submit an AFTO Form 22, Technical Manual Change Recommendation, for its use. Earlier this year, the Depot authorized the use of the tester and incorporated it in the latest technical data.

Sergeant Austin’s second idea, an External Fuel Tank Certifier, has cleared state and Guard Bureau levels and is being evaluated at the Depot’s Tank Management Office for use on multiple airframes.

Change favors the prepared mind

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

As I stated in last month's article I have three favorite sayings that I would like to share with you that I believe they are relevant to all Airmen. I will expound on each of these sayings, what I think that they mean to me, and how they relate to the Pennsylvania Air National Guard and each of you as American Airmen. The sayings follow:

The only constant is change.

Change favors the prepared mind.

Leadership is action, not position.

This month I will discuss the second saying: Chance favors the prepared mind.

When I was a Private in the Army, I never dreamed that I would rise to a position of leadership such as Chief Master Sergeant let alone State Command Chief Master Sergeant. However, I must say that I have done three things that enabled me to move up the ranks in three different branches of military service. I completed

my Professional Military Education (PME) for advancement on time or ahead of time, I performed whatever job I was assigned to the best of my ability, and I always did more than what was required of my position.

These three things opened doors that others assumed were closed. I have been promoted several times in my military career because I was prepared, did my best, and did more than just what was required of the job. Others assumed there was no room for promotion and did not take the time to prepare and therefore were not ready when a promotion opportunity presented itself.

Moral of the story: Do your PME, do the best you can do at whatever job you are assigned, and do more than what is expected/required of your position.

Chance favors the prepared mind. Be prepared at your annual feedback session. Keep track of your accomplishments



CCMSgt Ralph C. Braden

throughout the year. Highlight your accomplishments and discuss them with your supervisor during your annual feedback sessions.

Thank you for your service to the Pennsylvania Air National Guard. I am very proud to serve the outstanding American Airmen of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

CHIEF'S CORNER

111th FW in our blood, hearts and minds

By Chief Master Sgt. Thomas R. Gillespie
111th Maintenance Squadron

I would like to start my article with a question for you: Has this Fighter Wing gotten into your blood? I know that my blood flows with high octane aviation fuels, solvents like Naphtha, MEK, DD-680 (which by the way are no long authorized for use), along with various greases, graphites, oils and overall grime. This was long before all of the protective measures were implemented. We were issued a headset, heavy leather gloves, long johns, and if you were willing to sell you soul, a parka.

Probably by now you are asking yourself, where the heck is he going with this? What I've described so far was a physical connection to this Wing. Things like having your fingers tingle for hours after using solvents, cutting yourself with your (issued) pocket knife, or running safety wire through your frost bitten finger while safely wiring a fuel bowl on a 0-2A

in the frigid March winds. The blood still flows and the physical pain is gone but those connections are still there. What this Wing has gotten into is my heart and my mind. The recollection of my first drill on December 22, 1974 is still fresh in my mind, and can be verified by my good friend, beginning that day, SMSgt Frank Rabena. I was very nervous while looking for the crew chief room. The nervousness disappears when the crew chief "room" turned out to be a group of lockers on the hangar floor surrounding a picnic table with bench seating. The hangar doors were wide open and a stiff wind was blowing. My nervousness was replaced by a deep chill which lasted for hours, since it took that long for the heating system to catch back up. That was the first day of many.

My mind is full of very good to very bad memories and my heart has been both



CMSgt Thomas R. Gillespie

overjoyed and extremely sad. I believe there is more of each for me to experience. Since we will all be affected by, dare I say, BRAC – remember one thing: You and I have this Fighter Wing in our blood, our hearts and our minds. Most of all, this Fighter Wing has "you" in its history. Be proud, smile often, frown a little, but remember that we are all in this together; WE are the 111th Fighter Wing!

117th Bomb Squadron activated for WWII

By Master Sgt. Ralph J. Perrie
Wing Historian



In earlier days, the 111th Fighter Wing had two flying squadrons, the 103rd and the 117th. This is the story of the 117th during WW II.

In June of 1942, the 117th Bomb Squadron was activated for World War II. The bombardment squadron from Philadelphia went to war and became part of the first medium bomb squadron to operate from North Africa. In North Africa, the 117th became part of the 440th Bombardment Squadron. At the time, the squadron flew the Martin B-26 Marauder. Operations in Algeria, Tunisia, Sicily, Naples, Rome-Arno, Northern Appenines and Southern France all heard from the 117th. The Squadron participated in the first air attacks on Rome, led the first daylight air strike by medium bombers against targets in Southern France, and accomplished a precision bombing raid on military targets in Florence.

In 1946, the squadron came back to the United States and was deactivated and redesignated the 117th Bombardment Squadron (Light) and again allotted to the Air National Guard.

(Excerpted from "The Tailspinner," 4 Dec 1952, and "Combat Squadrons of the USAF, WW II -1982)

CHAPLAIN'S PEN

New members in Chaplains' Office

By Lt. Col. Rhonda Cushman
111th FW Chaplains Office

We are pleased to introduce Chaplain 1st Lt. John Caudle, the newest member of our 111th FW Chaplains' Office. Chaplain Caudle comes to us with prior military service and enthusiasm for his new role as a military chaplain. We are also pleased to welcome Staff Sgt Susanna Gyger who joined our staff of Chaplain Assistants in December. The Chaplains' Office is located in Bldg. 203, Room 204-205 on the second floor. For more information, call (215) 443-1534.

Worship Schedule for March

Protestant Worship will be held on Sun. Mar. 2 at 8:30 a.m. in Bldg. 320, Maintenance Conference Room. Catholic Mass will be held on Sun. Mar. 2 at 10 a.m. in Bldg. 300 Dining Facility.

Religious holidays and observances during Lent

Palm Sunday - March 16

Good Friday - March 21

Easter - March 23



Chaplains 1Lt. John Caudle and Lt. Col. Rhonda Cushman standing along side of Staff Sgt. Jason Stehly.



Father Chambers, our auxiliary Chaplain from Villanova, prior to Catholic Mass.

Chaplain Assistants
Staff Sgt. Jason Stehly, Staff Sgt. Susanna Gyger and Tech Sgt. Sherri Barfield.





270th EIS engages in ORE, preps for ORI

Story and photos by Tech. Sgt. Jonathan White
111th FW Public Affairs

Members of the 270th Engineering Installation Squadron, 111th Fighter Wing, and 253rd Combat Communications Group from Otis ANGB, Cape Cod, Mass., participated in an Operational Readiness Exercise (ORE) here Feb. 9-10.

Guardsmen trained on the ability to survive and operate (ATSO), self-aid buddy care (SABC), identifying and reporting explosive ordnance, and engineering

installation procedures. The second of three scheduled OREs, Operation Cracked Bell II was conducted to prepare the 270th for its first Operational Readiness Inspection (ORI) slated for Aug. 2008.

"OREs and ORIs are new concepts to us," said Chief Master Sgt. John Fleming, 270th Chief of Workload.

Around July 2005, the 270th became members of Air Combat Command.

"In the past, we had Operational Compliance Inspections. Now that we fall under ACC, we must participate in OREs and ORIs. This is a new area in which we must get personnel up to speed. We have experienced members from the 111th and 253rd helping us with these exercises," said Fleming.

The 270th has been communicating with members of the 253rd for approximately a year. Senior Master Sgt. Richard M. Lunetta, Air Traffic Control Superintendent, was one of seven guardsmen from the 253rd assisting the 270th with Exercise Evaluation Team (EET) duties.

"I serve as another set of eyes to help with ATSO and ensure participants are complying with exercise rules of engagements," Lunetta explained.

Lunetta has prior training and knowledge in ACC requirements for OREs and ORIs.

"I've done the same thing for air traffic control units," he added. "We are thankful for the 270th's hospitality and we look forward to helping the 270th earn an outstanding rating."

Results from this exercise will identify the strengths and weaknesses of the unit. "The unit must fix its weaknesses so it can remain world-wide ready for combat missions," said Fleming.

"Our people's attitudes have been very good," Fleming added. "I am very proud of these guys. They are hitting it and getting it, and doing very well."

The third ORE is scheduled for June UTA. Duty hours will be extended to 12-hour shifts, which reflect the work hours for the actual Operational Readiness Inspection.



Free income tax assistance available

The Navy Fleet and Family Support Center is accepting appointments to assist service members and their families with federal, state and local income tax preparation from now through Apr. 15.

Appointments are available on Tue. and Wed. 4:30-7:30 p.m. and Saturdays 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. in Bldg 167. Call (215) 443-6845 or 6846 to schedule an appointment.

What do you need to bring to your appointment? All W-2s from employers, any 1099s you received for interest or dividend income, a list of all your deductions and taxes you paid, any miscellaneous expenses or receipts, a copy of your 2006 return and social security cards for yourself and your family members. The Navy Family Service Center is an e-file VITA site.



111th LRS members deployed worldwide

By Chief Master Sgt. David J. Soldano

111th Logistics Readiness Squadron

Several members of the 111th Logistics Readiness Squadron deployed last month to Manas AB, Kyrgyzstan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Shown are: Staff Sgt. Steve Neidert, Maj. Rich Citrino, Tech. Sgt. Roberto Brabham, Master Sgt. Scott Cline and Master Sgt. John Hoke.

Deployed members not shown are: Senior Master Sgt. George Jones, Tech. Sgt. Greg Patrone, and Staff Sgt. Finney Philip.

Maj. Citrino is the Aerial Port Officer in Charge. Tech. Sgt. Brabham is one of the administrative leads for the base. Senior Master Sgt. Jones, Master Sgt.

Cline and Staff Sgt. Neidert are aircraft refueling craftsmen. Master Sgt. Hoke, Tech. Sgt. Patrone, and Staff Sgt. Philip are supply support personnel. All should be returning between mid March and late April. The following members will be replacing them: Master Sgt. Roger Burke, Master Sgt. David Warren, MSgt Rich Bolton, Tech. Sgt. Ronald Coen, and Senior Airman Vanessa Cartagena.

For the last several years, the 111th LRS has been deploying members all over the world at a very high rate. With approx. 100 members in the unit, the 111th LRS has 20-30 personnel deployed at a given time. At this time, the 111th LRS has personnel deployed to Kyrgyzstan, Kuwait, Qatar, Iraq, and Germany.

Voting: a right and responsibility

Voting is both a right and a responsibility of citizens in our country. Do you know if you're registered to vote? If not, do you know where to get information to do so? For complete information regarding each state's voting requirements, check the following website: www.fvap.gov.

This website provides election information including dates, state-by-state requirements and access to all required materials. Those serving overseas, especially Iraq and Afghanistan and mobilized National Guard and Reserve units, may face additional challenges to participate due to possible delays in the delivery and return of their absentee ballots through the mails.

The website also provides the top 10 things to ensure your absentee ballot is counted (if you vote this way). The Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) covers the voting rights of members of the Uniformed Services (on active duty), members of the Merchant Marine, their eligible family members, and citizens residing outside the United States. The Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) carries out the responsibilities of the Act by informing and educating U.S. citizens worldwide of their right to vote, fostering voting participation, and protecting and enhancing the electoral process at the Federal, State and local levels. The procedures and deadlines to vote absentee vary from state to state.



Come rain, come snow, come sand?

Tech. Sgt. Charles "Chuck" Flynn, 111th Services Flight, deployed to Baghdad, Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Standing on the right of him is Senior Master Sgt. Guilding, a recruiter from Minot AFB N.D.

Airman Battle Uniform is here!

By Capt. Rebecca Selby

111th Mission Support Group

In the coming months, many members will receive their Airman Battle Uniform (ABU) as they prepare for deployment. As with every new uniform, you'll need to understand the guidance on how to wear the uniform BEFORE you show up to work in it!

The Cliff Notes version on how to wear your uniform is as follows:

All ABUs, all the time in 2011. All BDUs must be retired by October 2011.

Patches? We don't need no stinking patches! The only thing you have to sew on your uniform is your rank, name tape, the USAF tape, and mandatory badges/shields (Chaplain, Aeronautical, Force Protection, and Fire Protection). Your occupational badge is optional (although encouraged). Sister service badges are not authorized.

No more baseball caps. The only authorized hat is the ABU hat and currently authorized berets. The only unit that can wear an organizational hat is our RED HORSE Squadron once they stand-up.

Tan t-shirts only. Throw away that cache of black t-shirts you have, you don't need them anymore.

Black, Tan, or Green Boots? Black boots are not authorized under any circumstances, Tan boots will be authorized until October 2011, and Green boots are good from now until eternity...well actually, just until we get yet another new uniform.

The color of your socks is determined by the color of your boots. If you are wearing the tan boots, you can wear green or black socks. If you are wearing the green boots, you can wear green socks ONLY. That's right folks; I didn't mention white socks so don't wear them. Ugh!

Don't just throw your uniform into the wash! The ABU is a wash and wear item which means DO NOT starch, hot press, or dry clean the uniform. Doing so is actually prohibited since you will damage the permanent press and near Infrared (nIR) features. Additionally, you need to take some special care in how you wash the uniform at home. Make sure you wash it in warm water with detergent containing no optical brighteners (see box to the right for a list) or bleach and tumble dry at low heat.



Just for Officers. The Commander Insignia is NOT authorized on the ABU and the rank on your ABU hat must be subdued; absolutely no shiny rank on this uniform.

Uniform questions can be directed to 111th Mission Support Flight personnel or contact me at (215) 443-1199.

Detergents you can use with the ABU

All Detergent Free & Clear
Allens
Bi-O-Kleen
Charlie's Soap
Cheer
Cheer Free
Country Save, Liquid
ECOS Free & Clear
Exchange Select Cold Water Wash
Nature Clean
Oxy-Prime, Powder
Planet Ultra
Seventh Generation
Sportwash
Sun & Earth, Liquid
Surf, Powder
Washeze
Woolite, Original & Dark

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.

Upcoming Shows On Sale Now
Trip to NY to see Grease, Mar. 5
\$125.

Harlem Globetrotters, Mar. 9.
Lower level, Wachovia Center,
Phila. Only \$18.00 ea. Usually
\$40-45.00 ea.

Stars on Ice, Mar. 13. Lower level,
Wachovia Center, Phila. \$45.00 ea.

Ringling Brothers, Barnum & Bailey
Circus. Discount dates: April 16, 19
and 20. Call for pricing.

Events & Ticket Specials
Tee Time Golf Books \$49.95 ea.
Ski Tickets - call for pricing.
Philadelphia Flyers \$51.00 ea.
Philadelphia Sixers, Center court,
Second level. \$41.00 ea.

Sign up for the following:
Phillies Baseball, March
Champions on Ice

ARPC releases 2008 Guard, Reserve Personnel Fact Sheets

The Air Reserve Personnel Center has released the 2008 Guard and Reserve Personnel Fact Sheets. This publication offers information on a variety of subjects including pay charts, promotion and retirement information, entitlement benefits and assignment information. The publication is available online at: www.arpc.afrc.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-080205-035.pdf

For more information, call (800) 525-0102, or e-mail arpc.contactcenter@arpc.denver.af.mil.

Changes in retiree funerals

Manpower reductions, high ops tempo, and an increasing number of retiree funerals have ushered in changes in funerals supported by Air Force honor guards. The formal 10-person funeral detail has been reduced to 7 people. One NCO is in charge of the funeral and the number of firing party members is reduced to three.

Arlington National Cemetery

Expansion plans over the next 10 years are expected to keep the cemetery open for burials through 2060. Planned land purchases and contracts to control drainage will provide room for 14,000 ground burials and 22,000 inurnments. For more information, visit: www.arlingtoncemetery.org

Veterans' State Cemetery Expanded

The Department of Veterans Affairs has awarded a 3.7 million dollar grant to expand Maryland's Cheltenham Veterans Cemetery. The grant will provide an additional 2,434 full-casket sites, 1,087 in-ground cremation sites and 1,056 columbarium niches for cremation remains. Nearly 50,000 veterans and their families reside within the service area of this cemetery. Information on VA burial benefits can be obtained from national cemetery offices at: www.cem.va.gov or by calling (800) 827-1000.

Tricare Hospice Care

Tricare Hospice Care is available to beneficiaries to provide care for terminally ill patients with a life expectancy of six months or less. Hospice, in conjunction with your regional contractor, is responsible



for the arrangement of all care. Only Medicare certified hospices are authorized to provide covered services to Tricare beneficiaries. Regional contractors can identify authorized providers. There is no deductible for hospice care. For more information, visit: www.tricare.mil/mybenefit/

Jr. Enlisted Field Advisory Council Bulletin

By Staff Sgt. Charlotte Baker
111th FW Finance Office

The Jr. EFAC welcomes questions sent to us concerning enlisted members E-1 to E-5. One frequently asked question stems from recent announcements of pending realignment as we look towards a new mission. Many airmen are in mission-critical fields or are receiving student loan repayment benefits and are appropriately concerned.

“What happens if a member is currently receiving incentives such as a cash bonus or Student Loan Repayment Program (SLRP) and their position is eliminated under BRAC?”

According to information received from the NGB's BRAC Community of Practice, incentives such as those named above will continue if the member decides to cross train into another AFSC (does not have to be a bonus eligible AFSC). If

a member transfers to another ANG unit, their incentives will continue and transfer with them. If the member decides to leave the ANG they will not be responsible to pay any money back.

In order to continue enrollment in the Education Assistant Program (EAP), members must stay in either branch (Army or Air Force) of the National Guard in Pennsylvania. If an enrollee leaves the PA Guard before the six (6) year enlistment is complete, the Adjutant General has the authority to forgive repayment of EAP. This will be decided on a case by case basis. All others not forgiven must repay all monies received.

Additional information on bonus receipt, incentives and other benefits is available by calling the Retention Office at (215) 443-1311.

Jr. EFAC POCs:

Jr. EFAC President:

Staff Sgt. Charlotte Baker, 111th FW/FM (Full-time) ext. 1354

Jr. EFAC Vice President:

Staff Sgt. Jessica Rice, 111th MSF (Traditional) ext. 1378

Jr. EFAC Secretary:

Senior Airman Patrick Salmon, 111th MSG (Traditional) ext. 1735

Willow Grove Retiree Activities Office

The Willow Grove RAO is located in Bldg. 203, Rm. 154, and can be reached at (215) 443-1072.

Upcoming Annual Retirees' Reunion Dinner

A reunion of current and past members of the 111th Fighter Wing will be held on **Mon. April 7** at 6:30 p.m.

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.

FAMILY READINESS GROUP NEWS

By Jean Moretti
Wing Family Program Coordinator

Cookbooks available

Pick up a copy of the latest 111th FW cookbook stock full of delicious recipes for only \$10. Give Jean Moretti a call at (215) 443-1409 or stop by to see her in Building 203, Room 150 before they're all gone.

FRG Meetings

The FRG is inviting speakers to their monthly meetings to education members on a variety of topics. More information to follow.

Our Military Kids Grant

Do you have school-aged children who play sports? Or do they take dance, music or art classes? Maybe they would like to try something new... like karate? Could your child benefit from a tutor?

If the answer to any of these questions is YES, our Military Kids grant program may be able to help. The grant pays the fees for youth sports, fine arts and tutoring programs for children of deployed Reserve and National Guard parents.

The grant will cover up to six months of instruction, lessons or tutoring with a maximum award of \$500 per child. This grant is a way of recognizing the sacrifices the entire family is making while the soldier is deployed overseas.

To learn more about this program, and how you can apply for a grant, please visit www.ourmilitarykids.org.

Free Anheuser-Busch Theme Park Admission

The "Here's to the Heroes" program offers service members and their families free admission to SeaWorld (Orlando, San Diego, or San Antonio), Busch Gardens (Tampa Bay or Williamsburg), Sesame Place, Water Country USA, and Adventure Island.

To be eligible active-duty, selected reserve and National Guard service members must either register online at: www.herosalute.com or at the entrance plaza of participating parks, and present a Department of Defense photo ID. As many as three direct dependents of military personnel are also entitled to free admission. Dependents may take advantage



of the offer without their service member, though an adult must accompany minor dependents, and dependents ages 10 and over must present a valid dependent ID.

Identity Theft

The Navy Federal Credit Union representatives kicked off the FRG Educational Series with speaking to the members on Identity Theft. Stolen identities are used

up to 30 times, with most victims only discovering the theft after they've been turned down for a loan or contacted by a collection agency.

While deployed, place an Active Duty Alert on your credit report. The Active Duty Alert is effective for one year unless you ask for it to be removed sooner.

To learn more about ID theft and how to deter, detect, and defend against it, visit: www.ftc.gov/idtheft.

WARTHOG ADDITION



Newest member of the 111th Fighter Wing family

Alida Quinn Doty, born Jan. 10 at 6:51 p.m. weighing 7 lbs. 8 oz. Parents are Staff Sgt. Brendan Doty, 270th Engineering Installation Squadron, and wife Kera. Mom and baby are both doing great.

If you know of any recent births, e-mail us: pa.111fw@pawill.af.mil

PROMOTIONS

To Technical Sergeant

Robert E. Bivenour	111th MXS
Michael L. Dean	111th MXS
Marie D. Harmon	111th FW
Richard B. Jordan	111th CES
Kevin W. Kochanski	111th CES
Steven Miller	111th MSF
Calvin T. Renfro	111th CES
Michael P. Tedesco	111th MXS
Kenneth Urbach	111th MXS

To Staff Sergeant

Clarence Christie	111th MXS
Ryan M. Collins	111th SFS
Daniel R. Dawson	111th CES
Dustin L. Grow	111th CES
Luis E. Molina-Gomez	111th CES
John P. Pryor	111th MXS

To Senior Airman

Wilfredo Gonzalez	111th MSF
Peter T. Gottshalk II	111th CES

To Airman First Class

Brittany L. Stone-Smith	111th MSF
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RETIREMENTS

111th Civil Engineering Squadron

MSgt Walter G. Neumann 20 Years

111th Maintenance Squadron

MSgt Michael Bowen 20 Years

270th Engineering Installation Squadron

TSgt Harry W. Daniels III 40 Years

TSgt Anthony J. Pino, Jr. 36 Years

CUSTOMER SERVICE

Pass and Vehicle Registration is located at 2018 Itami St., Willow Grove ARS, Pa. 19090, in Bldg. 219. Services provided include vehicle registration, visitor passes, contractor processing, restricted area badges.

Operating Hours

Monday - Friday

8:30-12:00, 1:30-3:30

Drill UTA

8:30-3:30

For more information, please contact Tech. Sgt. Colleen McLain, 111th SFS, at (215) 443-1568.

COMMISSIONS

111th Fighter Wing

1st Lt John Caudle

EXTENSIONS

111th Medical Group

SSgt Jody L. Johnson

111th Mission Support Group

MSgt Howard W. Evans

111th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

TSgt Joseph J. Galada III

SSgt Danita C. Jones

111th Maintenance Squadron

MSgt John A. Prostka III

TSgt Matthew C. Haas

111th Security Forces Squadron

CMSgt James F. Finn

MSgt Jeffrey S. Irvine

270th Engineering Installation Squadron

CMSgt John L. Fleming

111th Communications Flight

TSgt Kenneth Carter

ENLISTMENTS

111th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

SSgt Angela Giroud

SSgt Brian Giroud

A1C William Michael

111th Civil Engineering Squadron

SMSgt Douglas Alleman

MSgt Anthony Anstead

MSgt John W. Myers

SrA Eli T. D'Angelo

111th Maintenance Squadron

SSgt Kristopher Paul

111th Security Forces Squadron

TSgt Timothy Diehl

SSgt Michael Binkley

SSgt John Wolf

A1C Anthony Fleming

270th Engineering Installation Squadron

SSgt Lawrence Paoletti

A1C Pareshkumar Brahmabhatt

A1C Riccardi Gregoire

111th Communications Flight

A1C Benjamin F. Rivell

IN BRIEF

DOD officials select new government travel charge card

Department of Defense officials announced the selection of Citibank to provide travel charge card services for its members under the General Services Administration's umbrella SmartPay® 2 master contract Jan. 16.

The new official travel cards will activate on Nov. 30, 2008. DOD currently has 1.2 million card holders who accounted for 61 percent of total government-wide travel spending in 2006.

The estimated value of the DOD travel card task order over a 10-year period is \$40 billion, based on projected travel card spending.

The mandatory travel charge card provides travelers with many benefits such as no interest charges, delayed late fees and insurance benefits.

The Defense Travel Management Office (DTMO) was established in 2006 to serve as the focal point of contact for commercial travel within the DOD. The DTMO establishes strategic direction and centrally manages commercial travel programs, including the travel card program.

The DTMO will work closely with the current vendor, Bank of America, and Citibank to minimize any unforeseen interruption in travel card services leading up to the new card activation. Prior to the cut over, card holders will receive frequent communications about what to expect and individual requirements.

Statewide News

Want to know what our sister units are doing? Take a look at their newsletters.

193rd Special Operations Wing

171st Air Refueling Wing

www.paharr.ang.af.mil

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National Guard Bureau gets 4-star status

Courtesy of Army Times

The plan to elevate the chief of the National Guard Bureau to a four-star and raise the Guard's status within the Defense Department hierarchy became law on Jan. 28.

The National Guard Empowerment Act was included in the 2008 defense authorization bill, which President Bush signed Jan. 28. It establishes the Guard Bureau as a defense activity, taking it out from under the Army. It also calls for the chief of the bureau to be a four-star officer designated as principal advisor on Guard issues to the defense secretary and top military leaders, and allows the bureau chief to serve until he or she is 68 instead of 64.

Lt. Gen. H. Steven Blum has been Chief of the Guard Bureau since April 2003. His term is expected to end in April 2009. It's unknown if he will be nominated for the four-star position or if officials will wait until his successor is named.

As part of the new command structure called for by the law, the bureau would be responsible for coordinating on behalf of the



Pentagon with state adjutants general, other federal agencies and combatant commands on personnel, budgets and operations.

The defense policy bill increases the number of flag officer billets in combatant commands by five, to a total of 15, to make room for Guard and reserve officers to receive top assignments. One job — deputy commander of U.S. Northern Command — is specifically reserved for a Guard officer unless one is named as the commander.

However, the final plan falls a bit short of everything the Guard community had sought. The Guard will not have a seat on the Joint Chiefs, only an enhanced advisory role, and the Guard chief will have no authority over any funding or resources, though the bill demands a report on equipment shortages within Guard units.

But Guard officials were happy with the end product.



"This law is historic," said Maj. Gen. R. Martin Umbarger, chairman of the National Guard Association of the United States. The association represents Guard officers. "It sets into motion urgently needed reforms that will bolster the Guard's ability to accomplish its missions both here at home and abroad. Our over 455,000 soldiers and airmen — and those who will follow them — will benefit from this for years to come."

PENNSYLVANIA AIR NATIONAL GUARD
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1051 Fairchild Street
Willow Grove ARS, PA 19090

UTA MENU (AT PITCAIRN CLUB)

Sat. Mar. 1

Herb baked chicken
Meatloaf with gravy
Minced vegetables
Mashed potatoes
Dinner rolls and butter
Salad bar
Assorted desserts

Sun. Mar. 2

Top round of beef au jus
Baked tilapia
Mashed potatoes with gravy
White rice, vegetables
Dinner rolls and butter
Salad bar
Assorted desserts

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