

Sandy Hog Gazette

111th Fighter Wing

Pa Air National Guard

Willow Grove Air Reserve Station, Pa.

Volume 13 Issue 2

February 2008

2007 Outstanding Airmen of the Year for the 111th Fighter Wing



Senior NCO of the Year
Master Sgt. Richard Eggles
111th FW Financial Office



NCO of the Year
Tech. Sgt. Kenneth Tillotson, Jr.
270th Engineering Installation Sq.



Airmen of the Year
Senior Airman Troy Hummel
111th Maintenance Squadron



STATE LEVEL WINNER
First Sergeant of the Year
Master Sgt. Walter Milewski
111th Mission Support Group

OAY story on page 6

STATE LEVEL WINNER
Honor Guard Manager of the Year
Staff Sgt. Daniel Melot
111th Maintenance Squadron



The Sandy Hog can be viewed on our public website: www.pawill.ang.af.mil

Inside this Issue

SECAF: Year of Achievement	2
Command View	3
Promotions & Retirements	3
CCM Perspective	4
Chief's Corner	4
Historian's Corner	5
Enlistments/Re-enlistments	5
2007 Airmen of the Year	6
Discounted tickets at ITT	7
111th FW Honor Guard	8
Inclement weather	8
Retiree Activities Office	9
MSgt Muth receives coin	9
Family Readiness Gp. News	10
Moms on the Move	11
Sandy Hog reader survey	11
Cub Scout Pack 577 tour	12
Black History Month	12

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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.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.

Make 2008 The Year of Achievement

Happy New Year! I am so proud to begin another year serving with all of you as Secretary of this great Air Force. You performed magnificently as an Air Force in 2007, and our nation needs you to have a repeat performance in 2008. As we begin this new year together, I want us all to set the personal and organizational goals necessary to capitalize on last year's efforts and make 2008 The Year of Achievement.

Set Your Goals for the Year

I encourage each of you to set personal goals that will take care of your mind, body and your family so you are ready to defend our great nation today and in the future. Additionally, each organization should set goals focused on accomplishing their specific missions with excellence and taking care of their people. To accomplish the Air Force Mission, General Moseley and I need every unit and individual to continue to develop, maintain and sustain the Warfighter Edge so you are prepared to fight alongside our Joint brothers and sisters anytime, anywhere.

Achieving Our Air Force Goals

In 2008, our Air Force will continue to train and equip warrior Airmen to fight and win the current war while also preparing our Air Force for the uncertain future. This year we will also continue to achieve results towards the Air Force Goals I previously established. For example, we will achieve successful results in the critical modernization of our aging aircraft inventory by putting the top two Air Force acquisition priorities on contract -- the new air refueling tanker and the new Combat Search and Rescue (CSAR) helicopter.

As we set the stage for the future, we will also break new ground by applying innovative technologies in areas such as alternative energy and cyberspace. Building on last year's certification of the B-52 to fly on synthetic fuel and the first-ever transcontinental flight on 'synfuel' by a C-17, we are taking aggressive steps to certify the entire fleet to reduce dependence on foreign oil. We will also achieve a major step towards providing global effects across our air, space and cyberspace domains when the new Air Force Cyber Command (AFCYBER) reaches Initial Operational Capability status targeted for October 2008. This new command will lead our cyberspace forces and ensure dominant air, space and cyberspace power for the 21st century. All of the program successes we see in 2008 will result from incredible efforts by our Guard, Reserve, Active Duty and Civilian Airmen. In 2007, you did an excellent job of planting the seeds -- let us all set goals to achieve and harvest the results in 2008!



Honorable Michael W. Wynne
Secretary of the Air Force

Submissions: The deadline for submissions to the March issue of the Sandy Hog Gazette is Feb. 10. E-mail articles and photos for consideration to: pa.111fw@pawill.af.mil.

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.

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A brand new year before us

By Lt. Col. Michael Regan

111th Aircraft Maintenance Sq.

We find ourselves yet again with a brand new year before us. Each year, we make resolutions to change some things about ourselves and start the year off fresh. It's a time honored tradition. By the time you read this article, most of the resolutions that you made will have already been revised or broken. (On that point, I'm sure that I'm speaking only for myself.) The noble ritual of making resolutions is a good one. It causes us, if only for a short time, to re-evaluate our priorities. We resolve to do things like exercise more, eat the right foods and to spend more time with our families. Even if we stick to only one such resolution, we and those around us are better off, and that's a good thing.

The turning of the year is also an appropriate time to look back at the previous one. We should take stock of our accomplishments, as well as to remember our challenges. Calendar year 2007 was certainly a busy one for us here in the Wing. (Actually, I'm having a very hard time remembering any calendar year that hasn't been busy.) We participated in a major AEF deployment, sent individuals and groups of all sizes of people to various places all over the world, in direct support of the Global War on Terror, and we had the great fortune of welcoming them all back safely.

The path of our future is never clearly laid out. We just seem to think that it is. Uncertainty is usually a scary thing. Donald Rumsfeld, the former Secretary of Defense, summarized it best when he said: "As we know, there are known knowns. These are things we know we know. We also know there are known unknowns. That is to say we know there are some things we do not know. But there are also unknown unknowns, the ones we don't know we don't know." (Go ahead, read it again. It makes a lot of sense, actually.) I could not have said it better myself!

We have a tough road ahead in 2008 and beyond. Each of us as individuals have some decisions to make regarding the implications of BRAC. I'm very proud of the fact that we are committed to supporting and respecting each and every individual decision that is made.

In spite of BRAC, we must stay focused on keeping an eye on each other. This is especially important because the plate for 2008 is full. We have another major AEF deployment and several very important inspections in front of us. We must get these things right. That will take focus from all of us.

My resolution for 2008 is embrace change and to keep a positive disposition, even though it is sometimes hard to do so. A positive attitude goes a long way, especially when it isn't so easy to maintain one. It's also contagious, so a few people with a positive attitude can make a difference.

No one person has all of the answers regarding what lies ahead. If we stay focused and positive, we will survive it.

Over time, most of us have become used to our day to day lives. We find comfort in doing the same things over and over again. The reason usually given is: "I've done it that way for years...why change now?" Change also brings plenty of new opportunities. We have the opportunity to step out of our comfort zones, to try something new, to take our professional and private lives to the next level. We should do so.

James Gordon, M.D., a noted behavioral practitioner, said: "It's not that some people have willpower and some don't. It's that some people are ready to change and some are not." Are you ready?



Lt. Col. Michael Regan

PROMOTIONS

To Lieutenant Colonel

Jeffrey J. Godfrey 103rd FS

To Staff Sergeant

Randall L. Blank	111th SFS
Justin M. Gross	111th CF
Jason P. Kelly	111th AMXS

To Chief Master Sergeant

David J. Soldano 111th LRS

To Senior Airman

Raymond J. Branson	111th CF
Jonathan M. Garrett	111th SFS

To Master Sergeant

Timothy J. Ragan 111th LRS

***Photos of Chief Master Sgt. Soldano's and Master Sgt. Ragan's promotions may be found on the Y drive, under 111th Shared, Photos, in the 2008 folder.*

To Technical Sergeant

Matthew Youngers 111th MXS

RETIREMENTS

Col. Donald E. Carmeans	111th MSG	37 years
Lt. Col. Thomas A. Klisch	111th MSF	37 years
CMSgt John A. Kensey	111th CF	30 years
SMSgt Brian K. Hoover	111th MXS	32 years
MSgt Ronald A. Braun	111th SFS	28 years
MSgt Michael Sapanara	111th MOF	24 years
MSgt Shannon D. Robinson	111th CF	20 years
TSgt Deborah D. White	103rd FS	21 years

The only constant is change

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

I have three favorite sayings that I would like to share with you that I believe 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 to each of you as American Airmen. The sayings follow:

The only constant is change.

Chance favors the prepared mind.

Leadership is action, not position.

This month I will discuss the first saying: The only constant is change. The rate of change in our society and in the military has increased dramatically during my career. I have learned to accept change as part of life and do my best to adapt to it as quickly as possible. We in the National Guard have faced many changes since 9/11.

You don't have to be a psychic to know that the Global War on Terror, budget constraints, Air Force downsizing, and recapitalization are going to change the way we do business going forward. We will have to adapt to change quickly to overcome these challenges.

Our Army brothers and sisters in arms in the Pennsylvania National Guard are being heavily tasked to fight the Global War on Terror. What this tasking means to us in the Air National Guard is that we will be called upon to assist in state emergency response situations because our Pennsylvania National Guard Soldiers are deployed fighting the war.

Expect to be tasked during state emergencies and do not be surprised by the tasking. The Air National Guard must step up to this challenge, assist where we can and work jointly as a Pennsylvania National Guard team to accomplish these state emergency missions when they happen.

The only constant is change. I want to thank you for all you do and all you are going to do as we adapt to the changes that confront the Pennsylvania National Guard. Please extend my thanks to your family and employer for their support of your service. We all realize that without your families support you can not do the great work you do for the Pennsylvania Air National Guard, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and our Nation.



**Chief Master Sgt.
Ralph C. Braden**

CHIEF'S CORNER

Future successes

By Chief Master Sgt. Alan Van Norman
111th Communications Flight

Much of what you do in your daily routine either at work or home is goal-oriented, or you know you are doing it because it is the right thing to do. Either a supervisor, co-worker, a bill you receive in the mail, a spouse, or a better half, has asked you to do something or meet an obligation. You make choices in all of these situations and hopefully have met the obligation.

In the upcoming two to three years we are all going to be faced with many obligations and major decisions. How you meet these obligations is largely up to you. In your professional life here in the unit, your career development courses, promotion eligibility, preparation for deployment, or career planning is up to you. You should continue to meet and exceed all of these obligations. The rule of thumb with promotions has always been, "You may have to wait on the system, but don't make the system wait on you." Much of the information you need is out there but you have to look and research. There are individuals out there such as your supervisors that can help you. The BRAC Action Group can help answer your BRAC questions simply by emailing the

group at: 111FW.BRAC.AG@pawill.ang.af.mil.

There are three councils, the Chiefs' Council, the First Sergeants' Council, and the Enlisted Field Advisory Council, that will be more than happy to help you with as much as you can think of. Mrs. Jean Moretti is always available to you, working in the Family Readiness Group. Certainly the list goes on, but the point is you don't have to make the decisions on your own.

The 111th Fighter Wing needs each and every one of you. A motivated, well-informed group of individuals makes a fantastic team and helps in the common goal. Many challenges lay ahead; all have answers. If you hear a rumor, ask; if you don't know the facts don't start or continue the rumor. Our future success in this Wing started the day you signed the paperwork to join our team!

The 111th Fighter Wing congratulates CMSgt Van Norman on his selection in January as President of the Chiefs' Council.



**Chief Master Sgts. Alan Van
Norman and Jenny Pappas**

From jet to propeller aircraft

By Master Sgt. Ralph J. Perrie
Wing Historian

In 1962, the 103rd Fighter Squadron, flying the F-89 Scorpion, began the transition to become the 103rd Combat Airlift Squadron, flying the C-97 Stratofreighter. A new mission given to the unit was the transportation of troops and cargo over long distances, primarily overseas. The new mission would augment the Military Air Transport Service (MATS).

The unit's 770 officers and enlisted were now engaged in a re-training to make them ready for their global duty by July 1963. Also at this time, the unit was preparing to move into a new base headquarters at the Willow Grove Air Reserve Station. The larger, heavier C-97 aircraft needed additional ramp and hangar space for activities thus the move to Willow Grove. At this time the 111th Combat Airlift Group was commanded by Col. Edgar R. Owens of Malvern, Pa.

In early 1964, monthly transport missions began to Tachikawa AB, Japan. Also that year, the unit was tasked to fly over 14,000 pounds of clothing to earthquake victims in the Azores. During the summer, the 111th and their C-97s airlifted seven ANG Tactical Fighter units to and from their training sites.

As part of the Eastern Transport Air Force (EASTAF), four of our unit aircraft and crews joined with 29 Air Guard units and departed for bases in Europe and the Azores. More and more, the 111th and other guard units took over responsibility for mission assignments of MATS aircraft. In 1965, aero medical airlift missions began with assignments in the United States, South America, Central America and later to Southeast Asia and Europe.

WARTHOG ADDITION



Newest member of the 111th Fighter Wing family

Marcus Elijah McRavion, born Dec. 12 at 10:34 p.m. weighing 6 lbs. 9 oz. Parents are Capt. Beth McRavion, 111th Medical Group, and Darryl L. Williams, Sr. Marcus is home enjoying all of the attention he is getting from his big sister, Ebona' Jadyne.

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

ENLISTMENTS

MSgt George C. Chester	111th SFS
MSgt Patrick D. Kerr	111th MXS
MSgt James P. Slavin	111th LRS
SSgt Monique K. Munro-Harris	111th MDG
A1C Cody C. McCauley	111th SFS
A1C Keith P. Schuch	111th SFS
A1C Derrick S. Smith	111th SFS
A1C Kevin R. Sweeney	111th CES
A1C Kyle A. Wink	270th EIS
Amn Michael G. Rice	111th CES

RE-ENLISTMENTS

CMSgt James F. Finn	111th SFS
CMSgt John L. Fleming	270th EIS
CMSgt Thomas R. Gillespie	111th MXS
SMSgt Nicole M. Fulton	111th FW
SMSgt Jeffrey C. Hanson	111th MXS
SMSgt Anthony R. Ross	111th CES
SMSgt Donn T. Taylor	111th MXS
MSgt Michael J. Davenport	111th MOF
MSgt Scott M. Hamilton	111th MXS
MSgt Jeffrey S. Irvine	111th SFS
MSgt Andrew J. Jarosz	111th MXS
MSgt Mark H. Katzmann	111th OSF
MSgt Joseph O. McCarthy	111th MXG
MSgt Clement E. McLaughlin	111th CES
MSgt Michael C. Mowers	111th MXS
MSgt John A. Prostka III	111th MXS
MSgt John W. Robinson	111th LRS
MSgt Charles Wiacek	111th MXS
MSgt Stanley E. Woods	111th CF
TSgt Joseph J. Galada III	111th AMXS
TSgt Dale S. Ojea	111th AMXS
TSgt Robert B. Peifer	111th EIS
TSgt Donald A. Shawley	111th MXS
TSgt Mark A. Sillhart	111th LRS
TSgt Joseph J. Smith	111th MOF
SSgt Andrew J. Benedictus	111th MXS
SSgt Kevin D. Bliem	111th AMXS
SSgt William J. Davis	111th MXS
SSgt Nicholas P. Fanelli	111th OSF
SSgt Ralph P. Fusaro Jr	111th MXS
SSgt Tara M. Kamm	111th MXS
SSgt Victoria C. Lemut	111th MXS
SSgt David A. McLaughlin	111th MXS
SSgt Robert A. Pomante	111th LRS
SSgt Sean A. Smith	111th SFS

2007 Outstanding Airmen of the Year for the 111th Fighter Wing



Senior NCO of the Year
Master Sgt. Richard Egges
111th FW Financial Office



NCO of the Year
Tech. Sgt. Kenneth Tillotson, Jr.
270th Engineering Installation Sq.



Airman of the Year
Senior Airman Troy Hummel
111th Maintenance Squadron

Master Sgt. Egges is a financial management craftsman assigned to the 111th Finance Office. He has made large strides in influencing a complete turnaround in customer service procedure and creating a more cohesive Financial Management team. Sergeant Egges was handpicked to represent the National Guard Bureau as the Accounting representative for the Automated Reserve Order Writing System (AROWS) core team. This team travels nationwide to assist and train other units on AROWS. He oversaw and spearheaded the development of the 111th Fighter Wing's first Junior and Senior Enlisted Field Advisory Councils. He was the driving force of the wing's first ever Sports Day, which provided an immeasurable positive impact on the morale of our airmen. He is an active member of EANGUS and the Air Force Sergeants Association (AFSA).

Tech. Sgt. Tillotson is a unit education and training craftsman with the 270th EIS. Prior to cross-training into education and training, he played an integral role in devising a Unit Career Advisor interview plan which helped increase the retention rate for the squadron to 100% for First Term Airmen for two years. He was handpicked by leadership to attend the 2007 Air National Guard Enlisted Leadership Symposium. He is the 2007 recipient of the Air Force Association Pitsenbarger Award for Outstanding Community College of the Air Force Graduate. He serves as Co-Chairman of the 111th FW Senior EFAC and was instrumental in its founding. He is a lifetime member of the Air Force Association, VFW, and AFSA. He is a member of the EANGUS and an active contributor to his high school alma mater, the American Cancer Research Center and the Jeff Gordon Foundation.

Senior Airman Hummel's sound maintenance practices and in-depth knowledge as an avionics systems journeyman contributed to sustained reliability rates of avionics electronic warfare systems and airworthiness above 92 percent. During the Combat Shield evaluation, his superb skill resulted in all systems passing, exceeding the Air Force standard of 75 percent. He takes an active role in identifying shortcomings in advance preventing work stoppages and barriers to operations, saving the wing several thousands of dollars. His initiative and "can do" attitude promotes a team effort amongst shop personnel. He is a member of the Philadelphia Police Department and ran their "Operation Thanksgiving" fundraising event to provide dinners to needy families. He volunteers countless hours for his church, Faith Tabernacle in Philadelphia. Airman Hummel is a member of EANGUS.

Technician Service Awards

Technician Service Award recipients are located on the Y drive, under 111th Shared, Photos, 2007, in the "2007 Dec 14 Certificate of Service recipients" folder.



**First Sergeant of the Year
Master Sgt. Walter Milewski
111th Mission Support Group**



**Honor Guard Manager of the Year
Staff Sgt. Daniel Melot
111th Maintenance Squadron**

STATE LEVEL WINNER

Master Sgt. Milewski voluntarily deployed to Yuma, Arizona in support of Operation Jump Start. During the flight to Arizona, he administered emergency first aid to a member who had passed out. Later that year, the command chief and chiefs selected him to deploy to Afghanistan to serve as first sergeant for Maintenance. Sergeant Milewski serves as an Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS) voting board member as well as national voting delegate. He volunteers with organizations such as Our Lady Help of Christians and the Philadelphia Fire Department. He is an active member of the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), Elks Lodge, AFSA and the Polish Police Association. Since October of 2002, he has been an active participant of the 111th Honor Guard.

STATE LEVEL WINNER

Staff Sgt. Daniel Melot is an aircraft structure maintenance craftsman assigned to the 111th Maintenance Squadron and top performer of the 111th FW Honor Guard. He devoted over 100 hours and traveled over 4,100 miles to perform military honors. He served as NCOIC for 14 of 28 details and recruited and trained five new members into the honor guard. He was selected by the State Command Sergeant Major to be a member of the PA Governor's Elite Joint Color Guard. He volunteers and fundraises for numerous organizations and tutors elementary/middle students in math and reading. He is the founder of Shippensburg University 9/11 Memorial Foundation and active member of the junior Enlisted Field Advisory Council (EFAC), American Legion, VFW, AFSA, EANGUS and the Pennsylvania National Guard Enlisted Association.

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

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

Upcoming Shows On Sale Now
Monster Jam-Wachovia Spectrum
Feb. 15-17.

Trip to NY to see Grease, Mar. 5 \$125.

Harlem Globetrotters, Mar. 9.

Stars on Ice, Mar. 13

My Fair Lady, Academy of Music,
Phila, Mar. 16 at 6:30 p.m. \$63 ea.

David Copperfield, Academy of Music,
Mar. 16 at 6:00 p.m., \$58 ea.

Annie, Academy of Music, Parquet
Seating, Mar. 23 at 6:30 p.m. \$61 ea.

David Copperfield, Academy of Music,
Parquet Seating. May 16.

The Color Purple, Academy of Music,
Balcony seating. June 22.
Only 6 tickets left!

Mama Mia! Academy of Music, Par-
quet seating. July 27-Limited seating!

Events & Ticket Specials

Tee Time Golf Books \$49.95 ea.
Ski Tickets - call for pricing.
Philadelphia Flyers \$51.00 ea.
Philadelphia Sixers \$41.00 ea.

Sign up for the following:

Philadelphia International Auto Show
Phillies Baseball, March
Philadelphia Flower Show
Champions on Ice
Ringling Brothers Circus, April

For more information, call I.T.T. Office
at (215) 443-6082.

111th FW Base Honor Guard needs you

By Capt. Scott Harron
Honor Guard Commander

So you think you know about the Base Honor Guard, keep reading! You used to be a member of the Honor Guard, keep reading! You heard that it will consume all of your time, keep reading! You think they just do funerals, keep reading!

What I have learned in my short tenure as the Honor Guard Commander is that I did not know what the Honor Guard was all about. I have spoken to current and past members and here is what I have learned. All joined for different reasons but the resounding response centered on “giving back to the Wing, the Air Force and the veterans that came before us”.

The Base Honor Guard creed is, “To Honor With Dignity”. This means that first and foremost we must maintain our history and exceptionally high standards as we honor those that have served. The Ceremonial Guardsmen that participate in Military Funeral Honors will continue to be the cornerstone of the Base Honor Guard Program.

However, we also participate in military and public ceremonies across the state of Pennsylvania (and beyond) representing the Air Force and the 111th Fighter Wing as we proudly post the colors. This may interest some of you. Others may be interested in our participation with VFW, American Legion and other veteran related organizations, or joining the Drill Team. As I stated earlier, we need you.

Lastly, I am a true believer in mentors and those of you that have served in the past are welcome to return and contribute to the team as a trainer/mentor. Your past training and knowledge are in great demand.

The Air Force Honor Guard Web Site states, “The Ceremonial Guardsman is an individual of good reputation, having integrity, ethical conduct and exhibiting standards which merit respect; responsible for protecting and overseeing the maintenance of standards on and off duty”. It is truly an occupation which requires outstanding devotion and commitment to duty. The men and women volunteering to be Ceremonial Guardsmen are among the sharpest in the Wing! If you are ready to submit yourself to the highest professional standards of your career, consider joining the 111th Fighter Wing Base Honor Guard.

Feel free to contact me at (215) 443-1423 or email me at: scott.harron@pawill.af.mil. For more information, visit the Air Force Honor Guard at: www.honorguard.af.mil



Col. Paul W. Comtois, 111th FW commander, presents Lt Col Jacqueline Siciliano, 111th Mission Support Flight commander, with a plaque Jan. 5 in appreciation of her time as 111th FW Honor Guard Commander. She served in this role from Jun. 2000 until Dec. 2007.



A Reminder about Inclement Weather

In the event that we experience inclement weather you can find out about the status of the Wing's operation by:

- Listening to radio station KYW, 1060 AM. They will announce that the Willow Grove Air Reserve Station is closed or has a delayed reporting time in effect. Remember that the Willow Grove Navy Air Station Joint Reserve Base (NAS JRB) is the Navy portion of the base – not the Air Force side.

- Checking the recorded message at (888) 463-6882 or (215) 443-1688. These are dedicated lines reporting work status for the 111th FW.

No matter what the situation at the base, assess your particular circumstances and take an appropriate safe course of action. If the roads are unsafe in your area, stay home, and contact your supervisor to discuss the situation.

Additional photos located on the Y drive, under 111th Shared, Photos, 2008 in the “2008 Jan 05 Lt. Col. Siciliano Honor Guard” folder.

RETIREE ACTIVITIES OFFICE

Senior Enlisted Leaders,

I frequently have the opportunity to interact with our Air Force retirees. Earlier this year I had the privilege of addressing the 34th meeting of the Air Force Retiree Council. I thoroughly enjoy each occasion to listen and share the experiences of the men and women responsible for shaping and establishing our Air Force. I was proud when I assured them the same outstanding qualities they exemplified during their active service – professionalism, devotion to duty, and bravery – are the same traits reflected in today's Airmen.

Our Chief of Staff, General T. Michael Moseley, clearly recognizes the importance of our 680,000-plus retired Airmen. They may have hung up the uniform, but they haven't stopped serving. Last year, the CSAF sent a letter to the MAJCOM commanders urging them to recognize and support our retirees, many who actively volunteer throughout the commands. The retiree motto is "still serving" and these volunteers work in Retiree Activities Offices (RAO), clinics, libraries, and other support outlets on installations worldwide. Our retirees provide more than a million hours of volunteer service each year to our active-duty, retiree Airmen, and their families.

I urge you to visit your installation's RAO. Take this opportunity not only to thank them for their continued service and let them know what they can do for you, but to offer your support as well.

Our retirees are still a vital and productive part of us -- remember "American Airman, Lifetime Member" is more than a slogan; it's a way of life. As the creators of the Air Force's rich heritage, our retirees will always be Airmen. I ask all of you to remember this and recognize our retirees – they've earned and deserve our continued support.

Warmest regards,

Rodney J. McKinley

Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force



CMSgt Rodney J. McKinley

Willow Grove Retiree Activities Office

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

*** CORRECTION * 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.



Congratulations to... Master Sgt. Robert E. Muth, 270th EIS

Master Sgt. Robert E. Muth, Team Chief of the 270th Engineering Installation Squadron's Cable Install Team, was presented with a coin for excellent performance from Lt. Gen. Gary North - Commander, 9th Air Force and U.S. Central Command Air Forces and Maj. Gen. Maurice "Maury" Forsyth - Deputy Combined Forces Air Component Commander, U.S. Central Command; Deputy Commander, Air Force Forces; Vice Commander, 9th Air Expeditionary Task Force, Air Combat Command, Southwest Asia.

Sergeant Muth's team was widely spread over Qatar, Iraq and Afghanistan and has just returned from a three-month deployment.

By Jean Moretti

Wing Family Program Coordinator

Support the FRG

Join the FRG volunteers as they plan upcoming events and help increase awareness of the National Guard among families.

FRG meetings are held on Sunday of UTA from 1-3:00 p.m. in Building 203, Room 107. The dates for FRG meetings in 2008 are: Feb. 10, Mar. 2, Apr. 6, May 4, Jun. 8, Jul. 13, Aug. 17 & Sep. 7. For more information please contact Jean Moretti, Wing Family Program Coordinator, at (215) 443-1409 or e-mail: jean.moretti@pawill.ang.af.mil

Looking for a New Meal Idea?

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.

National Military Family Assoc. Military Spouse Scholarships

NMFA's Joanne Holbrook Patton Military Spouse Scholarships are awarded to military spouses to obtain professional certification or to attend post secondary or graduate school. Scholarships normally range from \$500 to \$1,000 and may be used for tuition, fees, and school room and board. Spouses of uniformed service members (active duty, National Guard and Reserve, retirees, and survivors) of any branch or rank are eligible to apply. Applications will be accepted online through March 15.

For more information or to sign-up to receive education updates, visit www.nmfa.org/scholarship

Pa. National Guard Child & Youth Program

View the latest newsletter available online at our 111th FW public website: <http://www.pawill.ang.af.mil/frg.asp>

Commissary Scholarship Applications Available

Applications for the Defense Commissary Agency's 2008 Scholarships for Military Children are now available in commissaries worldwide. The \$1,500 scholarships are for children of active-duty and retired military, as well as children of Guard and reserve Soldiers. Applicants must plan to attend an accredited college or university full time in the fall of 2008. The deadline to apply is Feb. 20. Applicants, or their sponsors, need not live at an installation that has a commissary. Applications and further eligibility requirements are available in commissaries and online at: www.commissaries.com or www.militaryscholar.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.

The program is valid for one complimentary single-day admission per person, per year, to one of the previously listed Anheuser-Busch Adventure Parks. Visit www.herosalute.com to learn more.

Military OneSource

Visit the Military One Source website at: www.militaryonesource.com to view useful information and resources to help you balance your work and family life. Access installation news, discussion boards, money saving tips and archived webinars. Order or download free recordings, articles and booklets. Career help for military spouses: a new partnership between the Departments of Defense and Labor provides help for spouses for education and training in portable careers.

Effective Jan. 14, Military OneSource offers free access to tax preparation software.

NGB-Family Program

The National Guard Bureau-Family Program website is your "one-stop shop" for information on programs, benefits and resources pertaining to family readiness and programs focused on family, youth and community initiatives. Visit www.guardfamily.org to learn more.



Guardsmen bring holiday cheer to local veterans home

More photos of the visit to the Delaware Valley Veterans Home are located on the Y drive, under 111th Shared, Photos, 2007, in the "2007 Dec 17 Delaware Valley Veterans Home Visit" folder.

Moms in the Military Highlighted

A video highlighting some of our military mothers can be found on the Moms on the Move website: www.momsonthemove.tv and also on our site on the AF Portal. A longer version of this video will be shown nationally on a date yet to be announced.

Photos of this event are available on the Y drive, under 111th Shared, Photos, 2007, in the "2007 May 19 - Moms on the Move" folder.



Way to go!

One of our troops made the Winter issue of the PA Guardian magazine, a statewide publication of National Guard news.

Look for Senior Airman Belitza Hernandez, a medical technician for the 111th Medical Group in the "Daughters of Molly" story.

You can view the magazine online at: <http://guardians.aqppublishing.com>

Statewide News

Want to know what our sister units are doing?

Take a look at their newsletters.

193rd Special Operations Wing www.paharr.ang.af.mil

171st Air Refueling Wing Y:\111fw Shared\Newsletters - Sister Units

111th FW Chapel Services

Protestant Service will be held on Sun. Feb. 10 at 8:30 in Building 320, Maintenance Conference Room.

Roman Catholic service will be held on Sun. Feb. 10 at 10:00 in Building 300, Dining Facility.

Navy Chapel Services

Members are welcome to attend Protestant Service at the Base Chapel on Sun. Feb. 10 at 9:30.

Roman Catholic Mass

Members are welcome to attend St. Joseph's RC Church (corner of Rt. 611 & County Line Rd.) on Sat. Feb. 9 at 8 a.m. or 5 p.m. Also on Sun. Feb. 10 at 7:00, 8:15, 9:30, 11:00 or 12:30.

Raffle for a FREE Air Force track suit Feb. 29

By Tech. Sgt. E. Matulewicz
111th FW Public Affairs

Please complete this Sandy Hog Gazette Reader Survey for a chance to win a free Air Force track suit. Your direct line to provide us feedback, suggestions and comments on ways we can improve the Sandy Hog Gazette newsletter. **Deadline for sending in your entry form is Feb. 28. The raffle drawing will be held Feb. 29.**

Completed surveys can be sent to one of the following addresses:

E-mail: pa.111fw@pawill.ang.af.mil or
111th FW/PA SURVEY
Bldg. 203 Room 250
1051 Fairchild St.
WGARS, PA 19090-5203



1. What is your favorite feature in the Sandy Hog?

2. What is your least favorite feature in the Sandy Hog?

3. What items or stories would you like to see in the Sandy Hog?

4. How satisfied are you with the Sandy Hog (circle one)

Very Satisfied

Somewhat Satisfied

Neutral

Somewhat Unsatisfied

Very Unsatisfied

5. Additional comments or suggestions:

** Name and phone number should you win:



Just Hangin' Around

A Cub Scout from Pack 577, Thomas Fitzwater Elementary School in Willow Grove, takes a ride in a parachute harness during a base tour Jan. 5 as Tech. Sgt. Steven C. Ehrmann, 103rd Fighter Squadron Aircrew Life Support section, looks on.

Black History Month

By Tech. Sgt. Elisabeth A. Matulewicz
111th FW Public Affairs

February is Black History Month, a time to honor important people and events in African-American history. People who struggled to obtain inherent rights we enjoy today. I'd like to highlight two pioneers from the 20th century.

Mae C. Jemison (1956-) Astronaut, Physician

Born in Decatur, Ala., Jemison enjoyed science, especially astronomy. Her family moved to Chicago where she graduated high school in 1973. She was accepted into Stanford University on a National Achievement scholarship and graduated with a dual major in chemical engineering and African-American studies. She entered Cornell University Medical College and obtained her M.D. After several years in the medical field, she decided to follow her childhood dream. In 1985, she applied for admission into NASA's astronaut training program. The Challenger disaster delayed the selection process and she reapplied. In 1987, she was one of 15 chosen from about 2,000 applicants and the first African-American woman ever admitted into the program. In 1992, she flew into space aboard the Endeavor on mission STS47.

Ralph J. Bunche (1904-1971) Diplomat, Statesman

Born in Detroit, Bunche worked his way through college, traveled and taught at Howard University (1928-1941). He wrote *A World View of Race* (1937). He served in the Office of Strategic Services (1941-1944) and the State Department (1944-1947). From 1947 until 1971, he worked for the United Nations. He was the acting mediator for the UN Palestine Commission (1948-1949) and won a Nobel Peace Prize for his work. He later became under-secretary and under-secretary-general for the UN. As an expert in colonial affairs and race relations, he directed UN peacekeeping efforts in the Suez, the Congo and Cyprus.

PENNSYLVANIA AIR NATIONAL GUARD

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UTA MENU

Sat. 9 Feb.

***Celebrating Black
History Month***

Chicken wings, Ribs
Macaroni & cheese
Collard greens
Black eyed peas
Dirty rice
Vegetable beef soup
Salad Bar
Assorted desserts

Sun. 10 Feb.

Roast beef & gravy, Ham
Oven baked potatoes
California mix
Minestrone soup
Salad bar
Assorted desserts

To the Family of:

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