

Sandy H g Gazette

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

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Guardsmen take 'a little bit of home' to Afghanistan

Page 6



Wing hosts Tuskegee Airmen Youth Day

Page 7



Learning the ropes vital at Hawk Mt. Ranger School

Page 8



111th SFS deploys to Japan

Page 9

Pa. Freemasons donate calling cards to Wing deployers



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Elisabeth A. Matulewicz

On behalf of the Pennsylvania Freemasons, R. W. Grand Master Stephen Gardner presents two hundred 300-minute international calling cards to 111th FW Commander Col. Paul W. Comtois for deployed guardsmen leaving for Afghanistan July 27. The calling cards were purchased with funds donated to the "Change for the Troops Program." Throughout the year, service men and women from Pa. units will receive calling cards as they deploy into the war zone.



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

Contact us:

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Submissions:

The deadline for submissions to the September issue of the Sandy Hog Gazette is **Aug. 22**. E-mail articles and photos for consideration to: pa.111fw@pawill.ang.af.mil.

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Senior Airman Sara E. Schwartzberg, 111th Maintenance Sq. and her teddy bear wait alongside of approx. 160 guardsmen from the 111th Fighter Wing deploying to Afghanistan on July 27.

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Elisabeth A. Matulewicz

Diamante Astellero from the Summer Transportation Institute, Cheney University, Pa. sits in the pilot seat of an A-10 jet while Shane Walker and Edward Shepard, from Young Minds that Soar and the Delaware Police Athletic League, waits their turn to get in during the 111th Fighter Wing hosted Tuskegee Airman Youth Day on July 19th.

Photo by Master Sgt. Patrick Cashin

Tech. Sgt. Matthew P. Youngers removes an obstruction from his line during a Team Commanders Course at the Hawk Mountain Ranger School on July 17.

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Elisabeth A. Matulewicz

Senior Airmen Thomas Stern and Kelly Eaton, both of the 111th Security Forces Squadron, reach the summit of Mount Fuji on July 6 during a recent deployment to Japan.

Did You Know?

The Sandy Hog Gazette is available online on the 111th FW public website:
www.111fw.ang.af.mil

Lessons from Camp Lejeune

By Lt. Col. Claudia S. Malone
111th Communications Flight

It's 6:30 a.m. on June 29th and I'm on vacation. I'm running along one of the trails that wind for miles throughout Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. As I approach the end of a bridge over an inlet, I reach a point where overgrowth has reduced the trail space to only a few feet. Suddenly, a squad of marines, jogging in pairs, all dressed in camouflage pants, combat boots, and t-shirts, appears at the choke point. To make room, I quickly step back as far as I can without completely falling into the underbrush, and the startled marines in the first element jostle to re-position themselves to make their way single file past me and over the bridge. The leader, who has been running along side them, falls in line and yells ahead, "Make it right!" A few seconds later, they've all successfully passed and I continue on my way.

I saw evidence of this kind of conditioning everywhere. Later that same day, I saw some marines running on base fully geared up with pants, long sleeved shirts, flak vests, boots, and carrying rifles. A day earlier, I had noticed a couple of young marines dressed in PT gear and wearing backpacks, jogging in the field along a busy highway that borders the base. Their shirts were soaked.

When I got back home, I told a friend of mine who is a Sergeant Major in the Marine Corps what I'd witnessed at Camp Lejeune. What I said didn't surprise him. I won't say anything here that would constitute an OPSEC violation, but it's common for services to establish "build up" periods and locations for soldiers/airmen/marines/sailors to use to prepare to deploy.

In Camp Lejeune's case, it's also the headquarters for the II Marine Expeditionary Force (II MEF), one of three MEFs in the Marine Corps. The II MEF marines and sailors provide an impressive self-sustaining package that can project offensive combat power ashore and in combat.

Why do I say all this? A couple of simple reasons come to my mind.

These warriors are all on the same team and are taking personal responsibility for preparing themselves for their role on that team. Whether they're a member of the II

MEF or from another unit, whether they're on the offensive line or in a supporting role, it doesn't matter. The men and women work out on their own time and know that if they're not in top shape they won't be able to contribute in their own special way.

Also, when you've experienced the "real thing"—even if it is in a training environment—your body and mind will adjust faster and it will take less effort to proceed when it actually happens for real. One article on their public web site described how the II MEF Simulation Center is used to "practice operations...and get a feel of what it is like using less than 40 people to represent thousands." Their most recent simulation exercise familiarized several [NCOs] with combat leadership. One participating sergeant said he believed the exercise was a good opportunity to feel what it is like to make decisions while receiving fire. He added it was interesting to see the big picture of how one decision can really affect the outcome of a battle.

Some of you may be thinking, "Aren't these fundamental lessons we learned in basic training and in our first leadership courses? Tell me something I don't know!"



Lt. Col. Claudia S. Malone

They'd be valid and logical questions. These lessons ARE simple and easy to understand. There's a reason they're taught early on in your military career. I think they bear repeating because when put into practice, they've been proven to yield successful results.

The marines at Camp Lejeune understand, appreciate, and make real these lessons. I'm proud to know that when the A-10s from the 111th Fighter Wing provide close air support to marines like this, we're protecting another service that is among the best in our military.

Vote with a Veteran Program

"Vote with a Vet" is a unique program conducted by the PA Departments of State, Education, and Military and Veterans Affairs, designed to encourage voter participation in Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania Veterans who agree to submit a completed biography can participate in the Vote with a Vet program. In addition, family members or friends of deceased veterans may submit a "Deceased/MIA Veteran Biography Form" in honor of a deceased veteran.

Return your completed biography no later than COB Sept. 26 to:
Pennsylvania Department of State
Attention: Vote with a Vet Program
210 North Office Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

The goals of this program are to encourage voter participation among our high school voting-age youth, as well as to teach them about the sacrifices our veterans have made, and continue to make, so that we may live in a democratic society.

For more information visit the "Vote with a Vet" web site at: www.dos.state.pa.us/votewithavet/site/default.asp



Air University Associate-to-Baccalaureate Cooperative Program

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

If you have not heard, you can now earn a bachelor's degree through the Community College of the Air Force (CCAF). This is a great opportunity for Airmen to further their education. All course work may be done online when and where you choose.

The Air University Associate-to-Baccalaureate Cooperative Program (AU-ABC) became active on June 15, 2008. With AU-ABC, Airmen can now apply their Community College of the Air Force credits toward a bachelor's degree from a variety of universities and colleges. This can be done through the Air Force Virtual Education Center which links you to the new AU-ABC program.

The vision of the Air Force is to provide distance learning and bachelor degree opportunities to all Airmen. It also meets the Air University's near-term goal of providing enhanced educational opportunities for our enlisted force. The Air Force Portal acts as the gateway to the AU-ABC program which allows students to do everything online.

To participate in the AU-ABC program, registrants must be active duty Air Force, Air Force Reserve or Air National

Guard. However, degree requirements can be completed after a member retires or separates from the service.

Students use their Common Access Cards to access the Air Force Virtual Education Center (AFVEC) through the Air Force Portal. Once you access the AFVEC webpage you click on the AU-ABC link that displays information about all the AU-ABC programs.

Participating college and university homepages are also linked to the AU-ABC page. Information about admissions and AU-ABC enrollment is available on the site. Currently, there are 71 bachelor degrees offered by the colleges and universities involved in the program that cover every CCAF degree program with more being added all the time.

At the time this article was written, none of the universities in the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) were participating in the AU-ABC program. However, it was stated by leadership from the Air University that they are adding new universities all the time. I will contact the Air University to endeavor to have at least one of the PASSHE universities added to



CCMSgt Ralph C. Braden

the AU-ABC program.

Again, this is a great opportunity for you to further your education. There are costs involved in attending these universities and colleges to attain your bachelor's degree. However, if one of the PASSHE Schools was to become a participant in the AU-ABC program, Pennsylvania Airmen may be able to utilize their state educational benefits to help pay for a baccalaureate degree.

If you are interested in having one of the PASSHE universities added to the AU-ABC program, please contact the Air University to request it be added to the program.

First Shirts

By Bruce D. Callander
Courtesy of Air Force-Magazine.com

Their lineage goes back a long way, and they play a vital role in today's Air Force.

Think of a military job that creates stiff personal demands, requires breaking with your primary career field, demands around-the-clock attention, and lasts only three years. Now note that the person holding this job is the first one to which a troubled Airman turns when he or she needs serious help.

You begin to grasp the importance of USAF's first sergeants—"first shirts," in Air Force parlance. You also grasp why, with Airmen deploying constantly and working at a very high operations tempo, the contribution of these top-level enlisted members is more important than ever.

In the Air Force, "first sergeant" is not

a grade but a special duty designation. He or she reports directly to the unit commander on matters of enlisted morale, welfare, and conduct, and is the chief enlisted advisor to the commander on all of these factors.

The position normally is filled by non-commissioned officers with the permanent ranks of master sergeant, senior master sergeant, or chief master sergeant. They can be identified by the diamond device that they wear on the center of their rank insignia.

CMSgt. Sandra Miller, the first sergeant special duty manager for the Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force, who today is CMSAF Rodney J. McKinley, said senior NCOs should consider a tour as first sergeant "not only for their career and breadth of experience but for [the sake of] the Air Force."

Specifically, the first shirt helps provide a commander with a mission-ready enlisted force and prepares enlisted person-



nel for deployments. He advises the commander on a wide range of topics including the health of his Airmen and their esprit de corps, discipline, well-being, career progression, and professional development. The first sergeant works with fellow senior NCOs and supervisory personnel to ensure equitable discipline.

He ensures that supervisors set an appropriate example for subordinates and provides guidance. He oversees training in leadership, customs and courtesies, dress and personal appearance, self-discipline,

(Continued on next page)

Donations anyone? Help the Ronald McDonald House

Story by Senior Airman Ricardo I. Cruz
111th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

To get something like this started takes commitment and determination.

Chief Master Sgt. Alan Van Norman asked Junior Enlisted Field Advisory Council (Jr. EFAC) members to find a way to give back to the Ronald McDonald House. Jr. EFAC president Staff Sgt. Charlotte Baker, 111th Fighter Wing, and Jr. EFAC member Staff Sgt. Talita Acevedo, 111th Mission Support Flight, took the challenge and started a clothing donation drive to benefit the children and families cared for by the Ronald McDonald House. For sick, helpless children and families, the Ronald McDonald House serves as a safe haven and supplies them with food, toys, clothing, and shelter. But the Ronald McDonald House can't do it alone.

There's a good feeling that comes from helping others, Sergeant Baker explained. "The Ronald McDonald House is always there for us. It's time for us to be there for them. A lot of Airmen in the unit have children of their own, so it really hits home. As an organization, we can act as a catalyst for positive change in the surrounding community. I'd like to see more events like these come out of the EFAC."

There have been a lot of donations but the Jr. EFAC still needs more help. The following new items are still needed: pajamas,



t-shirts, underwear, socks (sizes 4/Small to 16/XXLarge, items can be unisex). Monetary donations are also accepted. Make all checks payable to the Ronald McDonald House. All cash donations will be combined as a single donation from the wing.

Drop boxes and point of contacts are listed below:

Bldg. 203 in the Personnel, Finance

Jr. EFAC President Staff Sgt. Charlotte Baker, 111th Fighter Wing, stands by one of several donation boxes placed on base that benefit children and families served by the Ronald McDonald House.

and Retention Offices.

Bldg. 320, Communications Plans area. See Chief Master Sgt. Alan Van Norman.

Bldg. 320, Maintenance Commander Support Staff area. See Tech. Sgt. Carolyn Starks.

Bldg. 307, 201st RED HORSE Sq. Det. 1 front desk area.

Bldg. 310 in the Orderly Room. See Tech. Sgt. Roberto Brabham.

The Ronald McDonald House is committed to the Wing and supports events such as the annual holiday party. We need to stand up and help as much as we can. We can make a difference, one donation at a time. For more information, contact Staff Sgt. Charlotte Baker at: (215) 443-1395 and Staff Sgt. Talita Acevedo at: (215) 443-1311.

adherence to standards, drill and ceremony, and safety. The first sergeant helps enlisted members adapt to the military environment and adjust to the organization and manages care and upkeep of unit dormitories and adjacent grounds. He coordinates with supervisors to schedule unit functions, duties, leaves, and passes.

The Search for Top-Notch NCOs

Equally important, a unit's first sergeant works closely with the relevant command chief master sergeant—the senior enlisted advisor to the commander at the level of wing, numbered air force, and major command—to ensure airmen are prepared to execute their missions.

"In effect, the first sergeant is a facilitator," said Miller.

First sergeants are selected through a combination of application and nomination. Once an NCO applies, the application goes through a wing command chief, to a wing commander, and if on active duty, to a major command chief, and on to the Military Personnel Center. Sometimes, a nominee will not be released from his primary career field. Assuming the applicant is released, however, the NCO is scheduled to attend the First Sergeant Academy at Maxwell AFB, Ala.

As a special duty assignment, the first sergeant job is in competition with a number of other special duty jobs, all of which

are looking for top NCOs. A first sergeant is critical in a squadron. "That's why it is so important to keep the jobs full," said Miller.

Some NCOs are fearful that a tour as first sergeant will slow their advancement in their primary careers and delay promotions. The facts show this is not so. "I think any time you do a special duty," said Miller, "any time you take on that extra responsibility, you become a better senior NCO." She added that NCOs who have done a tour or more as a first sergeant are more likely to be promoted. The scope of experience gained as a first sergeant provides a boost.



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Guardsmen take 'a little bit of home' to Afghanistan

By Tech. Sgt. Elisabeth A. Matulewicz
111th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Approx. 160 guardsmen with the 111th Fighter Wing woke up early Sunday morning and boarded a flight headed to an undisclosed location in Afghanistan July 27. Family and friends showed up to support them and wish them well as they deployed to support the continuing war on terrorism. This is the 111th's fourth wave of deployers sent to Southwest Asia this year.

Maj. Gen. Jessica Wright, Adjutant General of the Pa. National Guard, Maj. Gen. Stephen M. Sischo, Deputy Adjutant General of the Pa. Air National Guard, and State Command Sergeant Major Donald Shiner bid farewell to the guardsmen as they boarded the aircraft.

In attendance were: Congresswoman Allyson Schwartz (D-Pa. 13th District), Mr. Brendan Flynn (representing Congressman Patrick Murphy [D-Pa. 8th District]) and Representative Rick Taylor (D-Pa. 151st District). Several news and print media representatives were also present.

Since 9/11, the Wing has deployed several times in support of the war on terrorism, most recently a four month deployment which began in the summer of 2007.

Maj. Gen. Jessica L. Wright, Adjutant General of the Pa. National Guard, bids farewell to Senior Master Sgt. Frank L. Rabena, Jr., 111th Aircraft Maintenance Sq. and 160 guardsmen heading to Afghanistan.

Guardsmen complete final outprocessing prior to deploying to Afghanistan.



Senior Airman Megan T. Cobb, 111th Logistics Readiness Sq., spends her last few moments with family prior to deploying to Afghanistan July 27.



Family and friends wave goodbye to guardsmen boarding an aircraft headed for Afghanistan.



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Elisabeth A. Matulewicz



Captain Rich “Sheriff” Peace, from the 100th Fighter Squadron, Montgomery, Alabama gives an F-16 briefing to a group of adults and children from the Summer Transportation Institute, Cheney University, Pa. July 19.

has flown a Cessna 172 RG.

“They train us to fly and get us ready for whatever careers we’re going into.” said Hooper. “How many kids do you know that fly? My friends are like, you don’t even know how to drive a car!” Hooper said that she wants to obtain her pilot’s license and would like to one day be a Coast Guard diver.

“Today’s been fabulous. The kids’ eyes are wide open because most haven’t seen anything like this before,” said Derrick H. Pitts, President of The Greater Philadelphia Chapter of Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. “These kids get to see what the Air Force does and get close to the planes, an experience they haven’t had before. Maybe it’ll spark an interest to pursue this later in their lives.”

The youth programs in attendance were: Young Minds That Soar, the Franklin Institute Science Museum, the Delaware Police Athletic League, the Caring Place of Allentown Pa., Summer Transportation Institute from Cheney University, and other Tuskegee Airmen Inc. youth programs. Also present were the U.S. Air Force and U.S. Air Force Academy.

Wing hosts Tuskegee Airmen Youth Day

By Tech. Sgt. Jonathan White

111th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Several youth organizations and service members participated in Tuskegee Airmen Youth Day here July 19. Some activities included: life support training, operation of night vision goggles, and speaking through the intercom of a military aircraft. Those attending were treated to a living piece of history.

Guest speaker Charles T. Cross, Tuskegee Airman and President of Negro Airmen International Incorporated (NAI Inc.), spoke to the children about the history of the Tuskegee Airmen, participating in aviation, and the critical importance of education and staying in school.

According to Cross, “Everybody wants to be a hero. Easy things are accomplished by everybody, but the more difficult things are accomplished by those who have the perseverance, determination, and the skills in spite of what they may encounter.” He further stated that, “There’s nothing in this world you can’t do if you want to do it.”

Many individuals are capitalizing on the opportunities created for them by Cross and other Tuskegee Airmen like him.

Maj Kimberly Scott of the 446th Air-lift Wing, Air Force Reserve, located at McChord Air Force Base is one of these individuals. She is a KC-135 and C-17 pilot who has attended the convention for approximately the last four years.

“It has been just amazing. I went to the Air Force Academy and flew the KC-135 and C-17. There are so few African

American female pilots; it really helps girls to see other women flying. I hope I can have the same positive impact on someone else that the people who went before me had on me,” said Scott.

The positive impact of Cross’ message and Scott’s achievements can be seen in youths like Diamond Hooper of Tomorrow’s Aeronautical Museum. The 15 year-old high school sophomore from Compton, Calif. participates in a flight program that teaches young people how to fly. Hooper



USMC Maj. Gregory Butcher from NAS Pensacola, FL T-6A, explains the instruments inside of a T-6A to Regna Felder and her sister Janese Felder, from the Summer Transportation Institute, Cheney University, Pa.

Learning the ropes vital at Hawk Mountain Ranger School



Tech. Sgt. Matthew P. Youngers and Staff Sgt. Matthew C. Haas remove obstructions from their lines during a Team Commanders Course at the Hawk Mountain Ranger School July 17.

Ranger grades, Advanced Ranger, Expert Ranger,” said Civil Air Patrol (CAP) Rope Instructor Lt. Col. Robert Gardner. “The students receive certification for Rope I, II and III which is a fire safety course and they earn a certificate from Lehigh Carbon Community College in Allentown, Pa.”

When training in a rope rescue, safety is key.

“Our equipment, rules and regulations are straight out of the Fire Academy, and follow National Fire Protection Association 1006 standards,” said Gardner. “All of the equipment, techniques and tower safety meet the standards.

The training has real world implications. “We can handle emergencies,” said Gardner. “Some hikers are climbing and one falls and they can’t walk out or can’t be extracted without putting a stokes basket over the edge to get the person up. If someone falls into a quarry, we teach them to do a slope evacuation.”

(continued on next page)

Story and photos by Tech. Sgt. Elisabeth A. Matulewicz 111th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Tech. Sgt. Matthew P. Youngers and Staff Sgt. Matthew C. Haas, both of the 111th Maintenance Squadron, attended the Team Commander Course 12-20 July at the Hawk Mountain Ranger School (HMRS) in Kempton, Pa.

A variety of classes taught during the day included: equipment and techniques used in team searches and rescues, navigation, cutting tools, survival, first aid and buddy care, and woodsmanship skills. The students then participated in a field training exercise where they’re evaluated in order to graduate the school and receive Ranger Grade certification. The emphasis: leadership and followship, character building and team work.

“I’ve learned basic mechanical advantages which help with the rope rescue situations, both low and high slope angle rescue and the basics of rope repelling,” said Youngers. “The basics of my harness and how it’s setup, how to get over obstructions in your line and continue on, types of knots, safety issues to pay attention to, and communication with team members.”

The course is both physically and mentally challenging.

“We PT with the whole squadron,” Youngers explained. “After PT, we run the obstacle course and do the morning run, and then start the rope work. In between the rope work, they feed in classes and keep you busy. We’re sleeping out in tents.”

“You want to make sure you’re doing everything correctly so you don’t injure yourself or others around you,” said Youngers. “The whole time when you’re up there, the longer it takes to figure it out, the longer you’re up there hanging off of your body weight.”

There are several reasons why people sign up for the course.

“They’re looking for a challenge or to earn Ranger grade, 3rd, 2nd, 1st class



Students conduct a one person rescue called a ‘pick off’ during a Team Commanders Course at the Hawk Mountain Ranger School July 17.



Belayers monitor the main lines of students rappelling down a 70-foot tower during a Team Commanders Course at the Hawk Mountain Ranger School July 17.

A one person rescue is called a ‘pick off’,” CAP Capt. Heather Phillips explained. “A person repels down, attaches the patient’s harness into their system and lowers the patient down.”

“A belayer is a person who monitors the main line,” CAP Lt. Col. Jeff Riley explained. “They have the ability to slow or stop a rappeller’s descent.”

“People descending from the towers are depending on their belayers to be there as an extra safety precaution,” said Youngers. “If a person is coming down the side of the tower and their break hand slips and they’re sliding down the rope, the people on the ground put tension on the rope and it locks up their descent device.”

The last couple days have been a little bit tougher for Sergeant Youngers. “With battling poison ivy, doing the physical exercises and the rope work – it’s physically demanding.”

“It’s been a good experience,” said Youngers. “I’ve made a lot of friends. And [it’s interesting] to see what the Civil Air Patrol members are doing. Here they are training and taking these classes all on their own.”

Hawk Mountain Ranger School is the longest running search and rescue school in the nation. HMRS is located approx. five miles from the town of Hamburg in Berks County. It was established in 1956, encompasses seventy-seven acres, and the Appalachian Trail runs through the training area. It’s operated by the Civil Air Patrol’s Pennsylvania Wing’s Operations Section. The Civil Air Patrol is a volunteer, non-profit auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force.



111th Security Forces Sq. deploys to Japan

By Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Schurr

111th Security Forces Squadron

On June 29, twenty four members of the 111th Security Forces Squadron deployed to Japan. Fourteen personnel were assigned to the 18th SFS at Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, Japan with a mission to support and provide additional supervisory personnel during a multi-day open house, an event that visited by over 67,000 Japanese civilians and 25,000 U.S. personnel. The other ten security forces personnel were at Yokota Air Base outside of Tokyo, Japan. Their mission was to support the 374th SFS during the G-8 conference under increased Force Protection Conditions. The Yokota team had the responsibility to provide security for the National Airborne Operations Center (NAOC) and routine security functions. The NAOC aircraft is a Protection Level 1 resource that was in place to support President Bush while attending the conference.

While off duty, five airmen answered the call of a unique challenge. On July 6, Senior Master Sgt. William Schweitzer, Master Sgt. Stephen Dewey, Senior Airman Kelly Eaton, Senior Airman Thomas Stern and I (shown above) set out to reach the summit of Mount Fuji. Mt. Fuji is a dormant stratovolcano that lies just west of Tokyo. It is the second largest free-standing mountain in the world; it rises 12,388 feet above sea level. These five airmen began their climb at 5:20 a.m. from Station 5 at 2,562 feet. The average ascent to the summit from this point is between five to seven hours. In a near record climb, Airman Stern crested the summit at approximately 8:45 a.m., just three and a half hours after he started. Airman Eaton was the second person to make it to the summit at noon in a respectable time of about six and a half hours. The remainder of the team made it to various altitudes of 10,500 feet or higher, without reaching the summit.

At 1:00 p.m., all personnel began their descent to return to the rally point at Station 5. The descent was a series of switchbacks from the summit down to 2,600 feet. The majority of the path was covered in loose volcanic rock and steep angles of various degrees. During the treacherous descent, Mt. Fuji was swallowed up by clouds that limited visibility to several feet. The rain followed making visibility even worse, and then came the lightning and thunder making the descent extremely dangerous. At approximately 4:30p.m., 11 hours and 10 minutes after beginning the trek Senior Airmen Stern and Eaton returned triumphantly from the summit and were greeted by the remainder of their team. All of them agreed that it was an arduous and extremely rewarding adventure that will stay with them for life. On July 24, all twenty four members returned home after a successful mission with memories of new experiences, some from higher altitudes.



Harley Davidson Local 175 makes a donation to deployers

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Gordon Beecroft
111th Maintenance Squadron

International Association for Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM) Local 175 from the Harley Davidson facility in York, Pa. collected and delivered \$3,500 worth of goods to the 111th Fighter Wing July 23 for distribution to approx. 160 deploying guardsmen.

Master Sgt. Brian E. Zarilla, a quality assurance specialist with the 111th Maintenance Sq. here and at Harley Davidson saw an opportunity to raise support for the upcoming deployment to Afghanistan. He and seven members worked with the IAM Local 175 to solicit donations from the residents, and businesses in the York and Lancaster area.

In appreciation for their efforts, Chief Master Sgt. Ross Barford of the 111th Maintenance Group presented each of the seven members with a certificate of appreciation and a 111th FW coin. While on base, the union toured the hanger and had the opportunity to sit in an A-10.

"You don't have to support the war, but we must support the [men and women] overseas," said Deb Biser, a retired worker from Harley Davidson.

IAM represent over 730,000 members and aims to protect the rights of workers and maximize their potential. The Harley Davidson manufacturing facility in York, Pa. is the largest HD facility and employs over half of its production workforce.

Officials release facts about new G.I. Bill

By Staff Sgt. J. G. Buzanowski
Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

Department of Defense and Veterans Affairs officials are working out the details of a new education benefit recently approved by Congress that goes into effect August 1, 2009. The new education bill, commonly called the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill, will govern payment and reimbursement plans for veterans and service members who seek to further their education. The new plan will be open to most service members who served on active duty after Sept. 11, 2001. This includes people who haven't been eligible for the Montgomery G.I. Bill, such as Air Force Academy or ROTC graduates, those who declined to participate in the program and those whose service started before it went into effect in 1985, said Rita Hughson, chief of education and training at Bolling Air Force Base, D.C.

TUITION -- The Post-9/11 G.I. Bill will cover tuition with payments sent directly to the school. The formula for determining the amount of tuition and fees paid will be based on the highest cost of a state-supported bachelor's degree program.

HOUSING -- A housing allowance will be made available to prior service members who attend as civilian full-time students. The rate will be that of a staff sergeant with dependents.

BOOKS & SUPPLIES -- A maximum of \$1,000 per year will be allotted to the member to cover the costs of books and supplies needed for classes. The stipend will be divided by terms, so if someone attends a two-term school, the allotment will be \$500 per semester, whereas the student will receive \$333 if they attend a three-semester school.

TUTORING -- \$100 a month for 12 months will be available for tutor programs should the service member require extra help outside of his or her studies.

AVAILABILITY -- Service members can take advantage of the program up to 15 years after they are honorably discharged or retire from the service.

CERTIFICATION -- An extra \$2,000 is available to pay for one license or certification test as approved by the VA.

In addition to the listed benefits, a portion of the tuition stipend, as well as the tutoring allowance, may be available for service members to transfer to family members.

For more information, visit the Air Force Portal virtual education center at: <https://www.my.af.mil> or the VA Website at: www.gibill.va.gov.

Fully Paid Outward Bound Wilderness Excursions for OEF/OIF Veterans

Outward Bound, an international non-profit outdoor education program, is offering fully funded outdoor adventure excursions to all OEF/OIF veterans. It doesn't matter what your current military status is (active, inactive, discharged, retired) - you're eligible to attend as long as you deployed in support of OEF/OIF combat operations while in the military.

These five-day excursions offer adventure activities such as backpacking, rock climbing, canyoneering, canoeing, and dog sledding in beautiful wilderness areas in Maine, Texas, Colorado, California, and Minnesota. Scheduled courses from Sep 08-Feb 09 are listed below, and future courses will be scheduled soon. All expedition costs for lodging, equipment, food, and instruction are completely funded by a multi-million dollar Sierra Club grant, including the participants' round-trip transportation between home and the wilderness site. The excursion is offered at no cost to the participant.

To sign up for one of the prescheduled courses, please contact Doug Hayward at (866) 669-2362, ext. 8387, or simply e-mail him at: obvets@outwardbound.org. To learn more about the OEF/OIF program, visit the website: www.outwardboundmilitary.org/outwardboundmilitary/veterans.html.

PROMOTIONS

To Chief Master Sergeant

Christian J. Haas 111th MXS

To Technical Sergeant

William A. Benson 111th MSF
Lolita M. Reels 111th MDG

To Staff Sergeant

Brian C. Baker 111th LRS
Rodney Boynton 111th LRS
Silmer A. Carmona 111th MSF
Peterwest I. Emina 270th EIS
Francis E. Ezokas 111th MXS
Jennifer M. Kozminski 111th LRS
Darron J. Lessane 111th MXS
Jared M. Moore 111th SFS
Jerome A. Robbins 111th LRS
Michael A. Schantz 111th MXS

RETIREMENTS

270th Engineering Installation Sq.

TSgt Delmar Jarman 37 years

111th Operations Flight

MSgt Wilma N. Hilliard 28 years

ENLISTMENTS

SSgt Luis R. Leon 111th SFS
SSgt Brian R. Loeb 111th SFS
SSgt Michael S. Mumper 201st RHS
SrA Stephen G. Minnis 270th EIS
SrA Tiffany L. Vann 111th MDG
A1C Holly L. Niro 111th OSF
A1C Clarence K. Walker 270th EIS
A1C Timothy J. Zagra 201st RHS

UTA MENU (AT PITCAIRN CLUB)

Sat. Aug. 16

Veal parmigiana, Baked chicken
Parsley Ziti Aioli, Green beans
Dinner rolls and butter,
Salad bar, Assorted desserts

Sun. Aug. 17

Barbeque chicken, Filet of flounder
Mashed potatoes, Pa. Dutch noodles
Blend of carrots, squash, green beans
Dinner rolls and butter,
Salad bar, Assorted desserts

AUGUST UTA WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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

Catholic Service will be held at 10:00 in Bldg. 203 Room 203.

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

FY08 UTAs:

16-17 August 2008
6-7 September 2008

FY09 UTAs:

4-5 October 2008
1-2 November 2008
6-7 December 2008
10-11 January 2009
7-8 February 2009
7-8 March 2009
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

Are you in violation of AFI 26-2903?

Dress and Personal Appearance of Air Force Personnel

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

CELL PHONE USE:

Walking and talking in uniform is NOT PERMITTED. Members will not walk in uniform while using cell phones, radios, hands-free headsets unless required in the performance of official duties using a government issued device.

EARRINGS:

Small spherical, conservative round diamond, gold, pearl, or silver earrings with any uniform combination and worn as a set. If member has multiple holes only one set of earrings will be worn in the lower earlobe.

SUNGLASSES:

Fashion sunglasses or wearing sunglasses on your head in uniform is a NO, NO. Conservative ornamentation on non-prescription sunglasses or eyeglasses is allowed and frames may be black or brown material or gold or silver wire. Brand name glasses may be worn with small logo on frames or lenses. Logo must be same color as frames or lenses. Conservative wrap around sunglasses may be worn. Conservative, clear, slightly tinted or photosensitive lenses are permitted. Faddish styles and mirrored lenses are prohibited. No sunglasses (to include darkened photosensitive lenses) in formation. Not worn around

the neck or on top/back of head or exposed hanging on the uniform.

NAILS:

Single colors (that compliment skin tone) and French manicure only. Do not apply designs to the nails or apply two-tone or multi-tone colors on duty excluding French manicure. Some examples of extreme colors include but are not limited to, purple, gold, blue, black, bright (fire-engine) red, and fluorescent colors. Nails will not exceed 1/4 inch in length past tip of finger.

Statewide News:

View newsletters of our sister units:

193rd Special Operations Wing
"The Scope"

Y:\111fw Shared\Newsletters - Sister Units\193rd Special Operations Wing\

171st Air Refueling Wing
"Tanker Times"

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

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

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

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

STREET TALK

What was your most memorable moment on a deployment?



Command Chief Master Sgt.
Richard W. Mertz Jr.

"At a conference when after watching a recruitment video the Airman's Creed came on, everyone at the conference from Chief Master Sergeants overseas to the Command Chief Master of the Air Force stood up proudly and recited the Airman's Creed."



Master Sgt. Clem McLaughlin
111th MSG/CEF

"Assisting in the retraining of 75 Iraqi Fire Fighters at the Civil Aviation Iraq at the Baghdad International Airport from July to Nov of 2003. "



Lt. Col. Donald W. Landis
111th SFS/CC

"During the Katrina Deployment we had some displaced kids sing the national anthem to the deployed Airmen. [It was] one of the best feelings I ever had in a deployed area."



Technical Sergeant Jesse Painter
111th MSG/CEF

"It was Operation Enduring Freedom where I was able to shake hands with Jay Leno and meet a Miami Dolphins cheerleader, who was actually a former Marine."



Master Sergeant Chris McCormick
111th MSG/CEF

"When I was in Baghdad International Airport, I went to sleep after a 12 hour shift to wake up to a Mardi Gras parade with floats, beads and coins."

EFAC BEEF & BEER OPEN TO ALL

Come out Sat. Sept. 6 at 5 p.m. to the Willow Grove VFW Post #3612, 305 W. Moreland Rd. Willow Grove, Pa. Admission is \$20.

See photos from recent
111th Fighter Wing events at:
Y:\111fw Shared\Photos\
2008\

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

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DEFENDING FREEDOM

