

Sandy H g Gazette

111th Fighter Wing

Pa Air National Guard

Willow Grove Air Reserve Station, Pa.

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September 2008



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EFAC BEEF & BEER REMINDER

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. Open to all.



Ulchi Freedom Guardian exercise in Korea
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CONGRATULATIONS!



A1C Aaron M. Thieroff
111th Maintenance Sq., Munitions Section
Basic Military Training - Honor Graduate

A1C Ashley B. Thieroff
111th Maintenance Sq., Munitions Section
Basic Military Training - Honor Graduate

Both airmen were recognized for their outstanding performance in basic military training. This award is given to airmen who consistently achieve excellence in dorm and drill performance, physical training, war skills and military studies.



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RETIREEES

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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.

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

The deadline for submissions to the September issue of the Sandy Hog Gazette is Sep. 15. E-mail articles and photos for consideration to: pa.111fw@pawill.ang.af.mil.

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Newest member to the 111th FW family

Michael Lee Rapone, born Jun. 27 weighing 8 lbs. 8 oz. 21 1/2 inches long. Parents are Maj. Geno Rapone, 201st RED HORSE Sq. Det. 1, and wife Tanya.

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

Cover photos:

Staff Sgt. Tod E. Lorah, Staff Sgt. Christopher Murphy, Senior Airman Tania S. Breneman, and Senior Master Sgt. Curtis J. Craigle, members of the Copper Wire Job Cougar Team, install copper cable during an Operational Readiness Inspection here Aug. 16.

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Alvin Farrow

Members of the 111th Medical Group are briefed by the IG team at a Health Services Inspection outbrief here Aug. 17.

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Marie Harmon

Tech. Sgt. Elisabeth A. Matulewicz, 111th Fighter Wing, heads to an underground bunker during exercise Ulchi Freedom Guardian 08 at U.S. Army Garrison-Youngs, in Seoul, South Korea on Aug. 20.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Stephen Hudson

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

Maintain your focus and adapt!

By Col. Paul W. Comtois
111th Fighter Wing

It has been quite some time since I contributed to the Sandy Hog Gazette. Amazing how time flies! I hope I have kept everyone informed as we have traveled this BRAC path for over three years now and a lot of information has flowed. On to my mission, this article and what is on my mind. For those that know me well, they know that I have many maxims or rules of thumb that I throw out there every once in a while. Some examples are the "5% rule is always in effect" and "100% contact followed by 100% response." I am a relatively simplistic thinking individual and I like to summarize things into simple terms as there is just so much information and action surrounding all the changes, inspections, and deployments we have and continue to experience.

For this article—based on how I titled it—one of my favorite maxims is "Survive or Die!" It may sound harsh, but that thought has carried me through many difficult situations in my life—situations we have all experienced in one way or another. So as I anxiously await the results of our inspections, pray all is well with our many deployers, and drive through the pains of trying to work manning document issues and other challenges, "Survive or Die!" is always on my mind.

Anytime I get a little down and think I am struggling, I think of Coach Jimmy V. For those of you not familiar with this story, Coach Jim Valvano was the men's basketball coach at North Carolina State and won the 1983 NCAA tournament even though the odds were clearly stacked against his team—a number six seed in the tournament. Not only did they win, they won by beating the infamous "Phi Slama Jama" team—the Houston Cougars. The shot of him running around the court after his team won in the last second looking for someone to hug is pretty comical, but the story doesn't end there.

Fast forward to ten years later when Coach V. gave a speech at the ESPY awards—an ESPN broadcast sports awards show. This highly emotional speech is dotted with statements that will surely move anyone! (You can search the internet for

"Jimmy V. Speech," "1993 ESPY awards", etc., to find a link to that speech) Why this speech is so emotional is that he gave this speech in the midst of his battle with cancer—in fact he succumbed to metastatic bone cancer two months later. As I said, many amazing parts to this speech, but my favorite part was when he stated, "Don't give up, don't ever give up!" Great advice and simple words to keep you motivated.

So here we are—three years after BRAC—still wondering exactly what is going to happen. We have all experienced a significant blow to our psyche. To me, there is only one response—Survive or Die! So the bottom line for me and this article is, we all have experienced challenges, but right now we collectively as the 111th Fighter Wing are experiencing a significant challenge together. In the words of Coach V., Don't give up, don't ever give up! I ask everyone to keep the faith, continue doing



Col. Paul W. Comtois

the amazing things you are doing, and take care of each other, and thank your families and your employers for their unending support. Find whatever it is that motivates you and stick with it. With that attitude, we will defeat any challenge thrown our way. Thank you for taking the time to read this article and most importantly thanks for your service!



Reenlistment takes place on Bagram flightline

Staff Sgt. Nicholas P. Fanelli, 111th Operations Flight, is reenlisted by Capt. Scott D. Harron as Lt. Col. Bill Griffin and Lt. Col. Timothy O'Toole, both of the 103rd Expeditionary Fighter Squadron look on. All are deployed to Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan in support of the continued war against terrorism.

Globalization and the flattening of the world

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

Did you know that the world is flat? Or maybe I should ask, have you read *"The World is Flat"* by Thomas L. Friedman. If you have not read it, I would suggest that you do. This is a good book for Airmen to read whether you are a Baby Boomer or a member of the Millennium Generation.

The book will provide you with a deeper understanding of globalization and the effect it is having on the world we live in today. I believe that it will open many people's eyes to things they never knew concerning globalization in the workforce, financial markets and politics. Additionally, the book provides a historical perspective on how we got to where we are and the author's vision of where we are going in the future.

Did you know that Indian accountants in India do many American's tax returns?

Did you know that an Indian Doctor in India may be reading your MRI or CAT scan while you sleep?

Did you know that Japan is outsource-

ing to China?

Did you know that China's goal is to beat the US at its own game?

Did you know that China and India produce more scientists than the US?

Did you know that as technology advances, outsourcing increases, and worldwide competition for jobs increase?

I believe that those of you that have children will find this book particularly interesting. The understanding of globalization that you gain from reading *"The World is Flat"* may help you better prepare your children to compete in the new world job market. Your child's future and standard of living may be influenced with the knowledge you gain.

The topics discussed in this book may seem rather deep. However, it is important for us as members of the military to have a familiarity with these important issues for our own situational awareness.

The knowledge gained from reading



CCMSgt Ralph C. Braden

"The World is Flat" will enhance your understanding of the statements made by our leaders (both military leaders and politicians). It will create a deeper understanding of our focus on embracing diversity, the importance of awareness of cultural differences and how globalization may affect us in our military and/or civilian lives.

This knowledge is important for us in the Pennsylvania Air National Guard as we may deploy to just about anywhere in the world at a moment's notice.

USAA expands its membership eligibility

Now all military retirees and any service members honorably discharged after 1995 and their families can join USAA. An additional three million now have access to USAA.

Citing steady growth in financial strength and operational capacity, USAA announced that effective immediately, membership is now expanded to include:

- Military retirees, regardless of when they retired
- Military personnel who were honorably discharged on or after Jan. 1, 1996
- Widows or widowers of military personnel killed in action while eligible

After they join, spouses and children of the above may also be eligible for membership.

"Today, USAA is stronger than at any time in our 86-year history, which enables us to offer the benefits of USAA membership to more military fami-

lies than ever before," said Joe Robles, USAA's President and CEO. "Having served as an Army Private and many ranks along the way to Major General, it gives me great personal satisfaction to know that another three million former service members and their families now have access to all that USAA offers."

USAA began as an officer-only association in 1922, opened to enlisted personnel in 1996, and today serves 6.4 million current and former military members and their families. Throughout its history, USAA has played an important role in helping military families with their financial needs, providing them with insurance, investments and banking products as well as financial planning and advice.

Who is eligible for USAA membership?

- Military personnel
- Active duty and retired service members of the U.S. Armed Forces (Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine

Corps and Coast Guard) or in the Selected Reserve or National Guard; or those honorably separated in 1996 or later from active duty, Selected Reserve or National Guard.

- Cadets, Midshipmen, and officer or warrant officer candidates in government-sponsored programs leading to a commission.
- Family members
- Adult children, widow(er)s, and un-remarried former spouses of USAA members.
- Widow(er)s of officer and enlisted personnel who were killed in action while eligible.

Additionally, USAA life, investment and retirement products are also available to each member's extended family, who are not eligible for USAA membership. USAA made this change to help members secure the financial welfare of their extended family members; for example, an aging parent for whom a member is providing care.

For more information about USAA, visit usaa.com.

A Career of Transformation

By Chief Master Sgt. Frederick Lang
111th Security Forces Squadron

We have all gone through transformation in our Air Force careers, some changes having little impact—but others altering every aspect of how we accomplish the mission. One of my first experiences was the AF uniform change in the middle 1970s, along with the new enlisted rank insignia that identified the “Top Three” with a “rocker”. This included the commencement of the rank of Senior Airman which increased the professional military education training requirements prior to being nominated for non-commissioned officer status.



CMSgt Frederick Lang

As Airmen, we have endured the MAJCOM transformations from Tactical Air Command (TAC) and Strategic Air Command (SAC) to Air Combat Command (ACC), Military Airlift Command (MAC) to Air Mobility Command (AMC), etc. Most recently, the Air Force logo was completely modified. None of which were bigger than the A-Staff function changes that restructured the entire service. Will this be the final set of changes? Of course not, and the constant “tweaking” of strategic organizational structure is a mainstay rather than a rarity.

In my 32 years in the security forces career field, our transformations have been huge. We have endured four complete name changes since 1947 and today we remain the largest single AFSC in the Air Force. When I enlisted in 1975, the career field was split between security and law enforcement, both separate AFSCs with completely different missions. Now one AFSC (3P0XX) identifies all force protection, base defense, aircraft security, combat arms, and resource protection for the entire Air Force.

The post I assumed in 1975 is still manned today without interruption. Today, Airmen standing their post may be preventing a different kind of threat from a totally different kind of enemy. Tactics, techniques, and procedures along with new technology have improved the way we conduct daily operations.

What has not changed is our standard of professionalism as Airmen in the greatest Air Power in the world. The security police general orders that I accepted over 32 years ago are still valid and are demonstrated every day, every shift, at every air base. They are as follows:

I will take charge of my post and protect personnel and property for which I am responsible until properly relieved.

I will report all violations of orders I am instructed to enforce and will call my superior in any case not covered by instructions.

I will give the alarm in case of disorder or emergency.

One thing we can count on is “change”. But the basic fundamentals that were instilled in us long ago never waiver. Some things never change.

Photo by Senior Airman Ricardo Cruz



Hero at the right place, right time

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

Staff Sgt. Philip S. Skitek, 201st RED HORSE Sq. Det. 1, enjoys putting up signs. He has been doing it for 25 years since right after high school. On a sunny March morning in Ventnor, a city in Atlantic County, N.J, it was business as usual for Skitek until the unthinkable happened!

“I was working at a nearby storefront when I heard a crash,” said Skitek.

Shop owner Sumi Bharoocha was unloading supplies from a truck when a car smashed into it, pinning her underneath the truck.

“It was a severe leg injury. One of her legs was partially severed with loss of blood,” he said.

Skitek and other responders worked quickly in securing items to create a makeshift tourniquet.

“We used sticks, rags, ice, whatever we could find and worked as a team,” he explained.

They applied a tourniquet and comforted the victim until rescue workers arrived minutes later.

“Paying attention to self aid buddy care really helps. You never know when you may use it to save a life,” said Skitek. “I am happy I was at the right place at the right time.”

This is not the first time Skitek has been at the right place at the right time.

“There have been other times in his life where he has performed in a heroic manner,” said Lt. Col. Joseph Mezatesta, 111th Mission Support Group commander. “Every squadron needs a Phil Skitek.”

Although Skitek’s actions were heroic, he doesn’t consider himself a hero.

“I did what any other person would have done,” he said humbly.

270th EIS breathes sigh of relief after UCI, ORI

By Tech. Sgt. Jonathan White &
Tech. Sgt. Elisabeth A. Matulewicz
111th FW Public Affairs Office

UNIT COMPLIANCE INSPECTION

The Inspector General (IG), Headquarters Air Combat Command (ACC), conducted a Unit Compliance Inspection (UCI) of the 270th Engineering Installation Squadron Aug. 12-14. The IG found the unit "Compliant."

During a UCI, an inspection team verifies the unit's compliance with public law, executive orders, Department of Defense, Air Force, ACC and Air National Guard directives based on ACC staff-approved Compliance and Standardization Requirements Lists (C&SRL).

UCI INDIVIDUAL SUPERIOR PERFORMERS

MSgt Christopher Fusco
MSgt Michelle M. Moyer
MSgt Jeffrey T. Olavarria
MSgt Cathleen A. Rayshich
SSgt Evan C. Kent
SSgt Joseph W. Markawicz
SrA Dakota E. Kauffman

OPERATIONAL READINESS INSPECTION

Immediately after the UCI, the IG team conducted an Operational Readiness Inspection (ORI) of the 270th EIS Aug. 15-20. The unit received an overall rating of "Excellent" for its first ever ORI, during an outbrief held Aug. 20.

Based on this grading system; Outstanding was the highest achievable grade followed by Excellent, Satisfactory, Marginal, and Unsatisfactory.

According to the report: "The 270th EIS was well prepared for this inspection. Unit command and control was exceptional and superb leadership by unit NCOs kept members focused and highly motivated. The unit's ability to survive and operate (ATSO) readiness was particularly commendable."

"Phase I lasted for one day and tested the unit's initial response," said Lt. Col. Michael Kierod, 270th EIS commander. "The scope of inspection was the unit deployment control center, passengers, cargo,



Members of the 270th Engineering Installation Sq. review their deployment folders during Phase I of an operation readiness inspection here Aug. 15.

mobility bags, mobility equipment, and weapons. Phase II dealt with employment, mission support, and ATSO."

The 270th EIS achieved an outstanding rating for ATSO.

Chief Master Sgt. John Fleming, 270th EIS Chief of Workload, gave credit to members of the 111th Fighter Wing, 253rd Combat Communications Group from Otis ANGB, Cape Cod, Mass., 201st RED HORSE Squadron, and other engineering and installation squadrons.

"The 111th and 253rd understood the processes and things we needed to do to get spun up. We used the information collected from staff assisted visits and applied this information to mini classes," said Chief Fleming.

Fleming said the OREs and ORI gave young airmen an opportunity to step up. He referenced how the IG awarded coins to two of the 270th Airmen for stellar performance. Airmen rising to the occasion weren't limited to members of the 270th EIS.

"We also have a moulage specialist from Keesler Air Force Base," said Fleming.

Moulage is the art of applying mock

injuries for the purpose of training. Senior Airman Cassandra Ann Days, a dental assistant with the 81st Dental Squadron has been a member of the Keesler AFB Moulage team for approximately a year and a half. Fleming noticed her talent while TDY at Keesler and requested her assistance for the ORI.

"This is my first time working with a guard unit," said Days. "It's a family atmosphere here. There seems to be more of a team effort which is nice. I've never seen anything like this!"

Fleming said that several OREs and ORI helped fine tune the processes with their mission.

"The attitude has been excellent throughout if not outstanding. I'm so proud that I'll put this unit up against anyone!" Fleming added.

The 270th Engineering Installation Squadron is one of fifteen combat ready Air National Guard EI squadrons responsible

(continued on next page)



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Marie Harmon



Staff Sgt. Christopher Murphy labels the fiber optic termination housing Aug. 17 during an ORI.

for mobilizing and deploying worldwide, with authorized resources and supporting assets to accomplish the engineering, installation, reconstitution, replacement of communications-computer systems and air traffic control and landing systems.

ORI TEAM SUPERIOR PERFORMERS

Copper Wire Job Cougar Team

SMSgt Curtis J. Craigle
TSgt Michael S. Mandes
SSgt William C. Gallagher III
SSgt Marinko Lemut
SSgt Tod E. Lorah
SSgt Darryl D. Oliver
SrA Tania S. Brenneman

Unit Command & Control Team

Lt Col Michael R. Kierod
2nd Lt James Vallely Jr.
CMSgt James D. Pusey
MSgt Michelle M. Moyer
MSgt Thomas F. Rauch
TSgt Antonio D'Ambrosio
SSgt Charlie Y. Lau

ORI INDIVIDUAL SUPERIOR PERFORMERS

2nd Lt James Vallely, Jr.
MSgt Peter Guidotti
TSgt Chuck D. Biresch
SrA Jason P. Koscielski
A1C Mark S. Wojdylo, Jr.

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Marie Harmon



111th MDG excels in HSI

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



A team from the HQ Air Force Inspection Agency, Directorate of Medical Operations, conducted a Health Services Inspection (HSI) of the 111th Medical Group here from Aug. 14-17. The unit was awarded a rating of "Excellent" and overall everyone was pleased.

According to the report, "The 111th Medical Group has weathered Congressional Base Realignment Commission changes under skilled leadership of an experienced commander, supported by a cohesive executive committee, in lock-step with highly supportive wing leadership."

The inspection team focused on various areas to include: force fitness, aerospace medicine management, medical management, training, organizational management, medical readiness planning and deployment processing.

"I've been through many inspections with F-4s, F-16s, civil engineering and now medical and I have to say the HSI was the most intense inspection I've been through," Master Sgt. Marion Livesay, 111th MDG education and training supervisor, explained.

"We worked together as a team and offered help to one another," said Lt. Col. Patricia McFarland, 111th MDG Chief Nurse. "It really brought us together as a military family."

"Attitude is key," said Capt. Elizabeth Topol, 111th MDG Credential Manager. "If you feel confident that you've done your best, the inspectors will see that. We were fortunate to have the support of the wing and flexibility from its members to come in to accomplish many taskings."

"Unit commanders and health monitors played a key role by insuring their personnel came up for physicals, immunizations and post-deployment assessments," said Lt. Col. Preston Smith, 111th MDG Administrative Officer.

In light of the joint interagency installation vision of Willow Grove, the team also noted that "The 111th Medical Group is poised to become a national standard in the Air National Guard as an interagency capability and may evolve as a vital component of the 111th FW's vision as an eastern seaboard regional federal interagency national disaster staging and logistics center."

A HSI evaluates how well an Air Force Medical Service program is functioning and provides this data to senior leadership. It also assesses the ability of Air Force medical units to fulfill their peacetime and wartime missions, and includes supporting medical care and the host wing's overall mission.



Seoul: where old meets new

Ulchi Freedom Guardian 08: a lesson in joint, combined operations in Korea

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



On Aug. 12, I flew 17 hours around the world from Philadelphia, Pa. to Seoul, South Korea to participate in Ulchi Freedom Guardian (UFG 08), an annual joint defensive exercise involving US and South Korea service components from across the Republic of Korea (ROK) Aug. 18-22. The exercise, formerly called Ulchi Focus Lens, began in 1975 and is based on computer-simulated war scenarios involving approximately 56,000 ROK troops and 10,000 US servicemen and women, many who are brought in to augment the forces stationed here.

The purpose of UFG 08 is to improve the South Korea-US Combined Forces Command's ability to defend South Korea against outside attack. But this year's UFG was a **historical milestone**. It is the first time ROK leadership has taken the lead in the exercise and the US is serving in a supporting role. This is in preparation for the April 2012 transfer of operational control of forces in the Korea Theater from the US to the ROK.

After a long flight over Canada, Alaska, the Bering Sea and Russia, I arrived at the base and in-processed at the US Army Garrison-Yongsan Joint Reception Center. The men were bused to Camp Coiner and lived in field conditions. They slept in large tents and used portable toilets and a shower trailer. The women were dropped off at

the base gymnasium. We slept in sleeping bags on military issued cots situated on an indoor basketball court. We took turns using the sinks, toilets and showers in the locker rooms. Everyone ate their meals at the Army dining facilities and lugged their dirty clothes to one of several laundromats. We walked a lot and sometimes took a shuttle bus to get around. Oh how we take the amenities of home for granted!

After several days of training, we transitioned onto 12-hour shifts and the exercise kicked off. Every night, I put my Kevlar helmet on my head and clipped my canteen and gas mask carrier to my web belt I wore around my waist. I walked to the armory, picked up an M-16 rifle and headed toward a security check point. At an underground bunker, I received a shift turnover briefing from the day shift public affairs team. After carrying a rifle slung over my shoulder this entire week, I can now say my M-16 is my new friend and I've been officially greened.

During the exercise, I worked as a public affairs specialist on the night shift at Command Center Seoul at USAG-Yongsan. I worked with a staff sergeant from the 169th Fighter Wing, South Carolina Air National Guard. We logged significant events into a journal and relayed the information onto our public affairs counterparts at three different locations. We helped de-

velop themes and messages and questions and answers handouts for senior leadership to brief US and ROK general officers. We continually sifted through information and determined if and how we would react or if we needed to wait until additional information became available. From a public affairs perspective, I saw first hand how important it is to counter enemy propaganda before it affects perception. It's eye-opening to see how timely, accurate information drives how effective a mission is and how erroneous, incomplete information can impact the war effort.

We had the chance to venture into downtown Seoul to shop and eat authentic Korean cuisine. As you walk down the streets, there are rows of small stores selling purses, luggage, tailored suits and shirts, pottery and jewelry. There are ethnic and fast food restaurants and you smell the small piles of trash lining the sidewalks. We ate lunch in Itaewon-dong, a major trading area, and the food was delicious. I tried kimchi, beef bulgogi and sampled everything placed in front of us. The Korean people were very hospitable and made us feel at home. But, we had a difficult time asking the waitress where the restroom was. Once in the restroom, there are signs posted telling us not to flush toilet paper. We found out later it was because the plumbing there can not handle it. With over 28,000 US troops stationed in Korea, the Koreans have become accustomed to our ways.

We visited the large outlying structures and ornate throne of Gyeongbok Palace in
(continued on next page)

Insa-dong. The palace dates back to 1395 and is located in an art and antique district. In contrast, the toilets on the grounds were simple, daintily tiled holes in the floor. They were clean but luckily I did not have to use them. As we left the grounds, groups of Korean police officers flanked every side of the palace square. Some were holding riot shields and batons and we got nervous. We left at once only to find out later on they were staging in preparation of Korea's Liberation Day, a holiday similar to our Independence Day. August 15 marks the date of the official surrender of Japan to the Allied in 1945, the end of a 35-year colonization of Korea by the Japanese. Three years later, the date also marks the establishment of the Republic of Korea.

The day got more stressful once we climbed into a taxi cab and headed back to the base. A few minutes into the trip, the driver turned around and asked us for directions. We didn't know and he didn't understand English. We wondered if we were ever going to make it back onto base. The driver eventually stopped and asked a couple for directions. They looked stumped. But after one of us flashed a military ID card, they pointed the driver in the right direction.

There were three challenges I faced in Korea: the weather, shopping and the distance it is from home.

It's humid all day and most of time it is overcast. It rained almost every day and I saw the blue sky for only a few moments. After it rains, there is no relief. It immediately heats up and becomes humid again. It's the tail end of the rainy season here and there are always puddles or water flowing somewhere. The grass and trees are a lush green. There's an occasional light breeze and people shield themselves from the sun with umbrellas.

It was hard for me to enjoy shopping in the stores which was probably good for my credit cards. They rarely attach price tags to the goods and it becomes a hassle to ask how much something costs. You're told one price for one item, a second price for two or more items, a third price if you pay cash instead of credit, and sometimes a fourth price as you walk away. Some people enjoy bargaining, but I did a lot of window shopping or buying items on base.

When you are serving in Korea, you really feel a world away. We are 13 hours

ahead of the East Coast so people back home are living your yesterday. You're heading to work just as everyone at home is going to bed. Because of this, I can better understand the sacrifice our active duty counterparts go through being stationed here. I found the best way to stay connected with my family and friends has been by email. This is why the base library and internet cafes are popular places.

Overall, I really enjoyed being an

exercise augmentee and helping support UFG 08. I learned a lot about the military and foreign policy and have a better understanding of our role in the international community. When working long hours during an exercise, there comes satisfaction from a job well done. Going to Korea was a once-in-a-career opportunity I won't soon forget.

Kunganghaseyo. Dangsineul chook-bokhapnida. Take care and God bless.

New DoD travel card issued by Citi®

DoD's current Government Travel Charge Card (GTCC) contract with Bank of America ends this year. As the Travel Card Program transitions to the new SmartPay® 2 contract, all government travel cardholders will receive new cards during the summer of 2008, beginning in August or September.

The new GTCCs will be ready for use on November 30, 2008, after the current cards issued by Bank of America expire on November 29, 2008 at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST). Your new GTCC will be mailed to your mailing address on file with Bank of America, so please ensure it is current. If you do not receive your new travel card by October 31, notify your Agency Program Coordinators (APC) Master Sgt. Collins at ext. 1345, Senior Master Sgt. Leimbach at ext. 1333, or Staff Sgt. Hollis at ext. 1395.

If you are scheduled to move, please make sure that your address is updated in the database. Your new Travel Card will be sent to the address on file. Any mail that is sent to an incorrect address will be returned to sender. APCs will not have the option to forward the mail to your new address.

Traveling during the cutover

If you will be traveling during the cutover (November 29-30, 2008), you should charge all official travel expenses up to, and including, November 29, 2008, on your current Bank of America GTCC. Travel expenses incurred from 12:00 a.m. EST on November 30, 2008 should be charged to your new GTCC issued by Citi®.

Important Note: Remember to verify receipt of your new travel card to ensure that you will be able to use it on November 30, 2008. You can verify receipt of your card by phone or online anytime after August 15. The contact information will be on a sticker that is affixed to your card. As part of the receipt verification process, you will be asked to accept the Cardholder Agreement Terms & Conditions. You must agree to the Terms & Conditions in order to use your new Travel Card.

Transition checklist for cardholders

Cardholders will need to pay all outstanding, undisputed charges on their Bank of America GTCC before November 29, 2008.

No credit balances can remain on the current Bank of America GTCC after November 29, 2008. If your Bank of America GTCC has a credit balance, call the phone number on the back of the card to request that it be sent to you.

After the cutover, Bank of America will continue to accept and receive payments for charges previously made on its cards.

What to expect

Since the new card will also be VISA branded, you'll have the same worldwide charging privileges that you currently have. Charge limits will remain the same and Agency Program Coordinators will have the authority to raise limits to meet mission requirements.

Links for more information

Your primary contact for transition information is your APC. Cardholders can visit www.defensetravel.dod.mil; www.gsa.gov/smartpay; or send questions to dtmotc@dtmo.pentagon.mil.

By Jean Moretti

Wing Family Program Coordinator

VA Announces Online Claims

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) will now accept online applications from veterans, survivors and other claimants for disability compensation, pension, education and vocational rehabilitation and employment benefits without the additional requirements of submitting the signed paper copy of the application.

VA will process the applications through its VONAPP (Veterans online application) website at: www.vabenefits.vba.va.gov/vonapp/main.asp

As always you can find more information on the VA by visiting www.va.gov or calling (800) 827-1000.

The Moving Wall

This replica of the Vietnam Memorial will be at the Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex & Expo Center in Harrisburg, Pa. Sept. 19-21.

For more information, visit: www.themovingwall.org.

Act 83

This law took effect on 21 Feb 06. Act 83 amends Pennsylvania's Military and Veterans Code by adding a new provision (51 Pa.C.S. § 7309(d)) to extend health insurance coverage for returning Guard and Reserve soldiers who were full-time students. Guard and Reserve members who were full-time students have been ordered to extended tours of active duty. When they returned and re-enrolled in school, some found that they were too old to be covered by their parents' health insurance. If their studies had not been interrupted by military service, these Guard and Reserve members could have completed their studies with health insurance coverage under their parents' policies. More information at: www.ins.state.pa.us/ins/lib/ins/enforcement/ACT_83.pdf.

Student Loans

Check out website: www.pheaa.org or www.aessuccess.org if you are a family member handling the affairs of a deployed military member. Both sites are laded with information about your qualifications as a military member on Active Duty.

Post 9/11 Veterans Education Assistance Act of 2008

The new GI bill will update education benefits for all veterans who have served at least 90 days of active duty service post 9/11 and have not already used up all their education benefits. More info at: www.gibill2008.org or www.gibill.va.gov.

Military One Source

What can Military OneSource do for you? Real help, anytime, anywhere 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. This interactive Web Site includes referrals to military and community resources, informative articles, web seminars, Pod casts, financial calculators, access to consultants and much more. Military One Source has many free educational materials including booklets, CDs and audiotape to help you with a large range of topics including all phases of the deployment cycle, dealing with relationship issues, or financial guidance. Order your free copies online or by phone. Military One Source is available for all active-duty, Guard and Reserve (regardless of activation status), and their families.

Visit www.militaryonesource.com or call (800) 342-9647.



Lunch & Learn event conveys RED HORSE opportunities

By Staff Sgt. Gordon Beecroft
111th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

The 111th Recruiting Office and 201st RED HORSE Sq. (RHS) Det. 1 hosted a Lunch & Learn event on Aug. 16 to inform current 111th FW members of the job opportunities available at the newly established RED HORSE Squadron.

Approximately two dozen members not currently serving with the RHS attended the event. The guardsmen had the opportunity to speak with current RHS members, read available job descriptions, speak with recruiters about transitioning, as well as watch a video explaining the RED HORSE mission.

"Our intent is to keep as many people in the unit, and fully man the RED HORSE Squadron by Dec. 31, 2009." said Maj. Geno Rapone, commander of the 201st RED HORSE Sq Det. 1.

The 111th Recruiters and the RHS are planning future events to continue to inform 111th members of the opportunities available. For more information, please contact Master Sgt. Matt Giacobbe, Recruiting Office Supervisor, at (215) 443-1515.

Statewide News:

View newsletters of our sister units:

193rd Special Operations Wing
"The Scope" **NOW ONLINE**
<http://www.193sow.ang.af.mil>

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

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

MOVING UP & MOVING ON

PROMOTIONS

To Master Sergeant

Timothy J. Gallagher	270th EIS
Todd E. Greiser	103rd FS

To Technical Sergeant

William A. Benson	111th LRS
Anthony D. Boragina	111th LRS
Jeffrey M. Davis	111th SFS
George P. Houck Jr.	111th SFS
Jason L. Koder	111th MXS
Frank M. McHenry	270th EIS
Daniel S. Melot	111th MXS
Eric M. Myers	111th SFS
Richard R. Shelton	111th MXS

To Staff Sergeant

Adrian G. Albino	111th SFS
Sean C. Beebe	111th MXS
Gary P. Buoniconti II	111th MXS
Tania S. Brenneman	270th EIS
Michael A. Disori	111th MXS
Christopher W. Irwin	111th MXS

RETIREMENTS

111th Logistics Readiness Squadron

MSgt Nancy J. Cassidy 21 years

ACCESSIONS

Capt Seth M. Foulkes 201st RHS

ENLISTMENTS

A1C Ethan J. Dewey	111th OSF
A1C John M. Ficks VI	201st RHS
A1C Dyana L. Gray	270th EIS
A1C Devin M. Jackson	270th EIS

REENLISTMENTS

TSgt Marc J. Berger	111th SFS
MSgt John J. Ciarlante Jr.	111th SFS
MSgt Daniel D. Wehr	111th LRS
TSgt James F. Brennan Jr.	201st RHS
TSgt Russell J. Coles	111th MXS
TSgt Carolyn A. Debuque	111th FW
TSgt David A. Morrow III	111th MXS
SSgt Charles P. Brown	201st RHS
SSgt Robert W. Bunch	111th OSF
SSgt Nicholas P. Fanelli	111th OSF
SSgt Dennis J. Klinger	111th AMXS
SSgt Nicholas G. Parrella	111th MXS
SSgt Alicia Singh	111th MDG
A1C Jacqueline M. Dowd	103rd FS

EXTENSIONS

MSgt Louis R. Cujdik	201st RHS
MSgt Stephen T. Dewey	111th SFS
MSgt Joseph A. DiSpaldo	111th SFS
SSgt Randall L. Blank	111th SFS
SSgt John C. Lawrence	270th EIS
SrA Jesse M. Schuch Jr.	111th SFS

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UTA MENU (111TH DINING FACILITY)

Sat. Sept. 6

Pasta and meatballs, Vegetable lasagna
Glazed carrots, Green beans
Garlic bread
Salad bar, Assorted desserts

Sun. Sept. 7

Barbeque chicken
Mashed potatoes and gravy,
Corn, Broccoli and cheese
Dinner rolls and butter,
Salad bar, Assorted desserts

SEPTEMBER 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 Auditorium.

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:

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

**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.

STREET TALK

With everything that went on this summer, what will you remember most?



Staff Sgt. Anitra S. Collins
111th Logistics Readiness Sq.

"Going on a safari in St. Croix and then coming back home to find out I had just become a new auntie."



Staff Sgt. Arteeve L. Burch
111th Logistics Readiness Sq.

"How much I sacrificed for the sake of accomplishing my goal of getting into graduate school."



Senior Airman Gislaine Exantus
111th Logistics Readiness Sq.

"My most memorable moment of the summer for me would be purchasing my own car. A brand new 2008 Honda Civic."

See photos from recent
111th Fighter Wing events at:

Y:\111fw Shared\Photos
2008



Staff Sgt. Jennifer M. Kozminski
111th Logistics Readiness Sq.

"The time I went with the unit to Eagles Training Camp and had my football signed by Brian Westbrook; that was an accomplishment because of the line. Also, I had my picture taken with Trent Cole, David Aikers and A.J. Feeley."

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

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