

Sandy H g Gazette

111th Fighter Wing

Pa Air National Guard

Willow Grove Air Reserve Station, Pa.

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Willow Grove completes highly successful A-10 deployment

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Guardsmen returning from Afghanistan receive hero's welcome

Story and photos by Tech. Sgt. Elisabeth A. Matulewicz
111th FW Public Affairs Office

Approx. 200 guardsmen deployed to Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan returned home safely to Willow Grove ARS in three waves from Sept. 20-25. No matter day or night they were treated like celebrities with hugs and kisses, large signs crafted by families and friends, and interviewed by a variety of media outlets. A sigh of relief and happiness could be felt across the crowds at the homecoming, a stark contrast to the anxious, reserved farewell just two months prior.

While the possibility of future deployments is speculative, this mission was a huge success.



CONGRATULATIONS!



SrA Alex J. Tavarez
111th Communications Flight
Computer Systems Control
Apprentice Course

Top Graduate
Superior Academic Achievement

He was recognized as a top graduate for superior academic achievement and high standards of leadership, teamwork and character.



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111TH FW MEMBERS

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"Sandy Hog" in the subject line.

RETIREES

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

CONTACT US

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

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

The deadline for submissions to the September issue of the Sandy Hog Gazette is Oct. 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

Paige Isabel Dibelius, born Sept. 24 weighing 6 lbs. 8 oz. 21 inches long. Parents are Tech. Sgt. David A. Dibelius, 111th Medical Group, and wife Brooke. Mom and baby are doing well.

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

Cover photos:

Lt. Col. Bill Griffin, commander of the 103rd Fighter Squadron, talks to the media accompanied by his sons and daughter after returning home from a deployment to Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan, Sept. 23.

Photo by Tech. Sgt., Elisabeth A. Matulewicz

Friends and family cheer, wave flags and welcome home signs as guardsmen return from a deployment to Afghanistan here Sept. 20.

Photo by Tech. Sgt., Elisabeth A. Matulewicz

Staff Sgt. Norman E. Bauer Jr., 111th Maintenance Sq. is met by wife Bethany and son Matthew upon returning from a deployment to Afghanistan here Sept. 20.

Photo by Tech. Sgt., Elisabeth A. Matulewicz

Courtney Rafferty embraces her father, Staff Sgt. Michael T. Rafferty, 111th Maintenance Sq., after returning home from a deployment to Afghanistan here Sept. 20.

Photo by Tech. Sgt., Elisabeth A. Matulewicz

Did You Know?

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

Willow Grove completes possibly last A-10 deployment

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Rachel Martinez
455th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

The Pennsylvania Air National Guard unit stationed at Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Willow Grove will be transitioning to a Joint Interagency Installation as a result of the Department of Defense's 2005 Base Realignment and Closure recommendations. With the new mission coming onboard, the 111th Fighter Wing is scheduled to lose its fleet of A-10 Thunderbolt IIs beginning in the spring of 2009. As they wrap up their current deployment to Bagram Air Field, it could very well be their last combat deployment with their beloved "warthog."

During their 45-day rotation here, the 103rd Expeditionary Fighter Squadron, part of the 111th FW, gave it their all as they dropped more than 30,000 pounds of ordnance and fired more than 25,000 30 mm rounds while supporting the close air support mission over Afghanistan.

Lt. Col. Mike Shenk, 103rd EFS assistant director of operations has deployed six times with the 111th FW, and is completing his second rotation at Bagram.

"As far as kinetic ops, we are much busier this time," he said, comparing this deployment to his previous one in December 2002 and January 2003. "Everyone in the squadron has been a part of a mission that dropped bombs or shot the gun."

It's not necessarily dropping bombs the aircrew likes to do, it's having the opportunity to help troops on the ground.

"The A-10 air-to-ground mission gives us the opportunity to go out and do something specifically to help the guys on the ground. To be able to go out, take the pressure off, or get the enemy off of their back for even a little while is real gratifying," Shenk said. "It's not too uncommon to walk into the BX and run into some ground guys who ask us if we fly the A-10. They routinely tell us how much they appreciate us taking care of them."

Despite being the last A-10 deployment for this unit, spirits have remained high.

"It's been pretty impressive," said Lt. Col. Thomas Fennell, 103rd EFS mission planning cell chief. "Everyone focuses on the task at hand and the things we can con-

trol versus those we can't."

Fennell, who has flown the A-10 for 10 years and is also on his second deployment to Bagram, cites one mission in particular as testament to the focus of the squadron. Two traditional guardsmen, who work as commercial pilots the majority of the time, responded to a "troops in contact" call from French troops.

"Two airline guys, in their second deployment in one year, and yet their focus was on the mission at hand," he explained. "That just shows you the dedication of the unit, focus of the unit and skill level of the unit."

The reality that this could be the last time they will fly the A-10 in combat is not far from the pilot's minds.

"It saddens me that they are eliminating a combat squadron - a very capable one," said Fennell. "It's been one of the best combat squadrons I've been with."

That same sentiment can be heard around the 111th FW maintainers deployed to the 455th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

"It's kind of sad in a way," said Master Sgt. Gregory P. Farnack, an A-10 crew chief. "We've always done a good job everywhere we went."

Many of the 111th FW maintainers volunteered to deploy this time - for the chance to work on the A-10s in combat one last time.

"In case it is the last time, we wanted to come and go out on a high note," Farnack said.

This deployment has been more rewarding than challenging for many of the maintainers.

"The airplanes like to fly," said Master Sgt. Anthony Miller, the maintenance production superintendent who has been with the unit for 20 years. "The more they fly the less they break. It's a good feeling."

Miller said it is also a good feeling when he sees the jets come back with no bombs.



Lt. Col. Thomas Fennell, a pilot with the 103rd Expeditionary Fighter Squadron, climbs aboard an A-10 prior to a mission at Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan, Sept. 12.

"To me, I see the Air Force as planes," he said. "Everybody had the mind frame that we have a job to do. Seeing the airplanes come back after dropping ordnance, we know we have a purpose. We know that every airplane we have up in the air is potentially saving someone's life."

As much as the pilots and maintainers enjoy working with the A-10, many of them said they will stay with the 111th FW even after the aircraft leaves.

"I've got no regrets," said Fennell. "The things I've wanted to do, I've accomplished."

"It's been a lot of deployments for me," added Shenk. "I'm looking forward to spending more time at home."

Even for those who will leave the unit, they can be proud of what they've accomplished during this deployment. The entire 111th FW team on the ground and in the air put forth their best effort in supporting Operation Enduring Freedom with A-10 close air support.

Fit to Fight

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

How do you stay Fit to Fight? How do you stay fit for your loved ones? How do you stay fit for life? Staying fit is not just a military focus. Fitness affects every aspect of your life.

How you stay fit and healthy is a personal choice. Why you stay fit is also a personal preference. However, staying fit is important personally, interpersonally, and professionally.

Your fitness level affects how you feel, your attitude, your ability to take a long walk with your loved one, or play with your children. Your fitness level also affects your ability to do your job, be a good Wingman, cope with stress, and survive the rigor of long hours and hot temperatures while deployed.

Many of us can relate to letting ourselves get out of shape. A few times over the years I found that my pants were fitting tighter than normal and my chin had multiplied. Believe me, it is more difficult getting back in shape than maintaining a good fitness level.

It takes commitment to get in shape and to stay in shape. Every one of us in the Air National Guard has made a commitment to defend the United States of America - with our lives if necessary. In order to do this to the best of our ability we must be in shape and Fit to Fight.

Younger Airmen – start developing good fitness habits now. It is much easier to stay in shape than to lose weight and get back into an exercise regime. Develop good eating habits and find an exercise regime that works for you.

More experienced Airmen (read older than 40) – Something happens to our bodies once we are over 40 years old. This is especially true if we have not participated in a fitness regime of some type. Weight starts accumulating although we are eating the same things we always have eaten. Bellies and other body parts get a little bigger. It also gets a little harder to go up a flight of stairs. This makes it particularly important that we “experienced” Airmen



CCMSgt Ralph C. Braden

develop good eating habits and find an exercise regime that works for us.

Fitness is extremely important to every aspect of your life. Being fit enhances every aspect of life. A healthy and fit lifestyle also extends your life expectancy. In the military being Fit to Fight can save your life or the life of a fellow Airman. Remember, Fit to Fight is more than a slogan; being Fit to Fight is a basic job requirement of the Pennsylvania Air National Guard.

In closing, like the Nike commercial says “JUST DO IT.” If you have not done it already, find a fitness program that works for you and “JUST DO IT.”

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

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Alvin Farrow



Col Marston retires at 111th FW hosted ceremony

Col. Greg Marston retired at a 111th FW hosted ceremony here Sept. 7. In front of family, friends and fellow guardsmen, the former 111th FW commander was presented many awards and mementos to include: retirement certificates and pin, a flag and proclamation from the state, a pewter Pa. Air National Guard plate presented by Maj. Gen. Stephen M. Sischo, Deputy Adjutant General for Air, as well as an A-10 barrel.

In addition to flying the A/OA-10, Col. Marston flew the C-141, OV-10, OA-37, T-37 and T-38. In 1995, he supported Operation Southern Watch at Al Jaber, Kuwait. He commanded the unit during a 1999 deployment to Kuwait. He has more than 4,600 flight hours including 36 combat and combat support.

Fear and the unknown

By Chief Master Sgt. James D. Pusey
270th Engineering Installation Squadron

Why do we initiate fear before we know there is something to be afraid of? In most of us there is a truly seated fear that prevents us from taking control of certain situations. It is the fear that keeps us ordinary, keeps us doing all the things everyone else is doing, simply because it is the familiar thing to do. We've all experienced that churning in your stomach that discomfort when you get close to the edge of familiarity.

Recently the members of the 270th Engineering Installation Squadron experienced this fear with the August 2008 ACC IG UCI & ORI. A new test of the unknown the unit had not been exposed to before. The unit has had many inspections in the past but none by this command and the questions outnumbered the answers by a critical margin. Needless to say, most if not all were not in their comfort zone.

Starting in late 2007, the unit challenged itself, its core to close the question/answer gap. From the ice breaking 180 day meeting to the day the inspectors arrived, the troops cleared their heads and prepared to absorb. So, equipped with laptop and steno pad, many unit members voluntarily stepped up on several occasions and hit the road to become observers of other E&I units across the country going through the same ACC IG inspections. What were the inspectors looking for during the UCI? What were they expecting during the ORI? Through several observations, the translucency of the unknown started to come into focus. There was a newfound alliance with a common goal, to share information, share experiences, share observations, share ideas. The 111th FW was certainly instrumental with the success of the unit's ORI portion of the inspection. Their support and participation in all of the 270th OREs was a fundamental stepping-stone toward the final grade.

As the UTAs came and went and the inspection grew closer, it was evident that fear was not a hindrance at all, but a positive that could be used to their advantage. Fear was the trigger for instinct, and with instincts sharpened and a new heightened awareness of what the inspector's actual

mission was, these troops were becoming ready to digest, react and function.

With hair cuts sharp and uniforms crisp, the unit welcomed the inspection team for the 9 day stress fest. As each day passed, hesitation vanished and confidence increased. After hour wash meetings were relaxed with little sign of panic. Scenario after scenario, the troops learned the true meaning of "Wingman", they supported each other without losing focus on the mission. Day after day news steps were taken and new bonds were made. Then on that Sunday afternoon, with bombs blasting and smoke billowing, the inspectors called an end to the exercise. A tired group of dedicated men and women retreated to the rear parking lot after their final evacuation to listen to and be honored by the Inspection



CMSgt James D. Pusey

Team Chief and other honored observers. The accomplishments were a credit to all members from the highest ranking officer to the foundation of upcoming enlisted Airmen. The call for sacrifice and unity went out and this unit responded. Going forward, there will always be something unknown, and new to learn. I'm proud to be part of this organization.



Reenlistment takes place on Bagram flightline

Staff Sgt. Robert W. Bunch, 111th Operations Flight, is reenlisted Aug. 28 by Capt. Scott D. Harron as Lt. Col. Timothy O'Toole and Lt. Col. Bill Griffin, both of the 103rd Expeditionary Fighter Squadron look on. All were deployed to Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan in support of the continued war against terrorism.



Patriot Day ceremony remembers Sept. 11

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

The phrase “we will never forget” rang true on September 11th, 2008 when the 111th Fighter Wing recruiters coordinated the Patriot Day ceremony commemorating the tragic events of September 11th, 2001. Servicemen and women from the 111th Fighter Wing, Pa. Army National Guard, as well as active duty Navy and Marine Corp members unfurled a 120-by-250 foot American Flag across the outfield of Citizens Bank Park in a ceremony before the game. While the center field size flag was being opened, volunteer firefighters from Philadelphia, Delaware County and Warminster fire companies marched around the bases each carrying a state flag.

As Old Glory, beautifully displayed for all to see, flew in the wind and the fifty state flags were proudly raised, spectators rose to their feet and removed their caps as the National Anthem was sung by The Sounds of Liberty, North Pennsman and West Branch Choruses.

“We represent Philadelphia’s Hometown Air Force,” said Master Sgt. Matt Giacobbe, 111th FW Recruiting Supervisor. “This ceremony commemorates the tragic events of September 11th, and honors those who have served our country in the armed forces.”

Recruiters Master Sgt. Jack Hill and Master Sgt. Thomas Addis manned the 111th FW recruiting booth at the Third Base Gate. A scaled down model of an F-22 was on display to attract the crowds and provide a background for the occasional photo-op. The recruiters handed out informative brochures and spoke with hundreds of spectators.

“This type of ceremony really hits close to home for people,” commented Sergeant Hill. “It’s a great opportunity to share the 111th Fighter Wing’s story.”

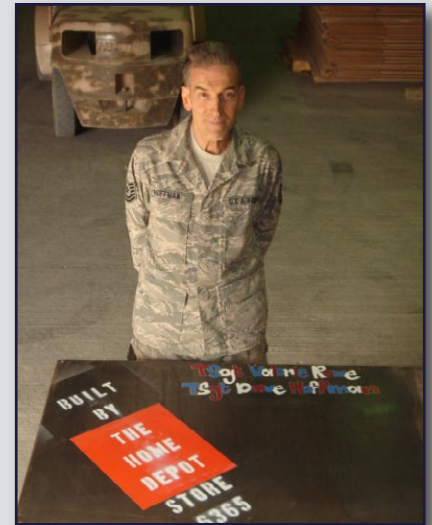
111th FW recruiters act as liaisons between new members and existing guardsmen. Giacobbe said the squadron commanders and existing members are the real recruiters. It is those who are already a part of the ANG family who show potential members what we have to offer and who we are.

“We want the 111th Fighter Wing to be our member’s second family, and retention starts the second they sit in our chair,” added Giacobbe.

The 111th FW Recruiting office has coordinated events with the Philadelphia sports teams since 2001. Future events with Philadelphia sports teams are being scheduled. Contact the 111th FW Recruiting team at (215) 443-1515 to find out how you can get involved.

View photos of the event on the Y drive and also at:

www.mlb.com/phi/photogallery/year_2008/month_09/day_12/cf3462109.html



Tech. Sgt. Dave Hoffman

I’m working night shift in out-bound freight (TMO) deployed to Joint Base Balad (formerly Balad Air Base and Logistics Support Area Anaconda). We ship out everything from aircraft parts to pallets of supplies that are going to any forward operating bases in Iraq.

The experiences here have been good and the people that I work with in outbound freight have been some of the best I have seen. They are very committed to making sure they’re doing everything correctly and are very professional when interacting with customers.

I built a table to build crates on so I wouldn’t have to build them on the floor. The reason for the “Built by The Home Depot Store 6365” sign on the crate is I work for them in Jacksonville, Florida and I wanted to leave my mark.

I’ve been a member of the 111th FW for 32 yrs. First from 1967-1973, then I came back to the unit and served from 1982 until the present. It’s the best unit with the best people that I could ever work with.

Joint Base Balad is one of the largest American military bases in Iraq. It’s the central logistical hub for forces in Iraq and the busiest air base in the world operated by the Department of Defense and is currently the second busiest airport in the world.



Clear Channel receives ESGR Patriot Award

By Theresa Arentzen

Pa. ESGR Asst. Program Support

On Sept. 2, Staff Sgt. Philip S. Skitek of the 201st RED HORSE Sq., Det. 1, honored his civilian employer, Clear Channel Outdoor, with the ESGR Patriot Award. The award was presented to Mr. Norm Gearhart, V.P. of Operations for Philadelphia and Wilmington Divisions by USMC Major General (Ret) Wes Craig, South East Area Representative and Bill Campbell, Executive Director of Pennsylvania ESGR.

Also in attendance were: Mr. George Kauker, President of Clear Channel Philadelphia Division, Ms. Barbara Bridge, Vice President of Real Estate and Public Affairs, along with Mrs. Theresa Arentzen, Pa. ESGR Assistant Program Support Specialist and Master Sgt. Matt Giacobbe, 111th FW Recruiting Office.

Clear Channel Outdoor provides billboard advertising throughout the Delaware Valley. As an employer, Clear Channel has demonstrated outstanding support of their employees in the Guard and Reserve.

ESGR is a Department of Defense volunteer organization that provides free education, training and, if necessary, mediation for employers of Guard and Reserve employees. ESGR's goal is to support America's employers who share their employees with the nation to ensure our national security.

If you would like to nominate your employer for the Patriot Award or you have questions contact Mrs. Theresa Arentzen at (215) 443-1881, email: theresa.arentzen@pawill.af.mil or visit our website at: www.esgr.mil.



Luncheon at Union League

Members of the 111th FW attended a luncheon in honor of the Air Force's 61st birthday at the Union League in Philadelphia on Sept. 12. Shown are: Master Sgt. Matt Giacobbe, Capt. Rebecca Selby, Tech. Sgt. Andy Raup and Senior Master Sgt. Scot Baughman, all of the 111th MSF, Staff Sgt. Kevin Watson, 111th MSG, Master Sgt. Jack Hill, 111th MSF, and Maj. Geno Rapone, 201st RHS, Det. 1.



Folds of Honor golf outing raises funds for veterans

Members of the 111th FW participated in a fund raiser golf outing at the Huntingdon Valley Country Club on Aug. 30. Shown (left to right) are: Master Sgt. Matt Giacobbe (111th MSF), Master Sgt. Thomas E. Addis (201st RHS, Det. 1), Chief Master Sgt. Pete Santanello (111th MXS), Col. Tony Carrelli (111th MXG), Nick Wanck, Charlie Whipple and PGA Pro Jack Connelly.

Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA)

By Maj. Robert T. Sonnenberg
111th FW Legal Office

Enacted in October 1994, the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA), provides reemployment protection and other benefits for veterans and employees who serve. In January 2006, the U.S. Department of Labor enacted new regulations concerning USERRA. The new 2006 regulations are intended to protect the rights of those who leave their civilian jobs voluntarily or involuntarily to serve in the military, including the military reserves and the National Guard. The law also prohibits employers from discriminating against veterans, members of the military services and applicants for military service. The new regulations, the first to interpret the 1994 statute, emphasize USERRA's broad reach and pro-service intent.

USERRA is one of the widest-reaching employment laws. It applies to all U.S. employers, regardless of size. Consequently, even if an employer has only one employee, it is covered by USERRA.

USERRA protects all employees including part-time, seasonal and probationary employees for absences to perform voluntary and involuntary duty, including active duty, training, weekend drills and fitness-for-duty examinations. USERRA also applies to all employees, including executive, managerial and professional employees.

However, an employer is not required to re-employ an employee if the employment was for a brief, nonrecurrent period and there is no reasonable expectation that the employment would have continued indefinitely or for a significant period of time. Additionally, it does not apply to an individual who acts as an independent contractor.

USERRA does not pre-empt state laws providing greater or additional rights, but it does pre-empt state laws providing lesser rights or imposing additional eligibility criteria.

If you experience employment problems because of your military obligations, contact your unit and visit the 111th Legal Office (Room 236 on the second floor of Bldg. 203) during a drill weekend and meet with a JAG. You can also call the Ombudsman Services at ESGR National Headquarters at (800) 336- 4590.



Neighbors helping neighbors: a mid-air refueling pilot recounts a special mission over Afghanistan

By 1st Lt. Ian Hurbanek
171st ARW/146th ARS

It had not even been 72 hours since we all said good bye to our loved ones in Pittsburgh and we were already working hard on the other side of the world. We were all members of the 171st Air Refueling Wing (ARW), but for a brief time in history we would be "Liberandos" as part of the 376th Air Expeditionary Wing, Manas AB, Kyrgyzstan. A large group of members from all sections of the 171st ARW were mobilized and deployed as part of the unit's Air Expeditionary Force obligation in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and coalition operations in Afghanistan. We were all excited and filled with anticipation for what was, for some of us, an old routine and others our first combat missions.

Along with Aircraft Commander, Lt. Col. Jeff McKee, and Boom Operator, Tech. Sgt. George Meszaros, I served as Co-pilot for one of our deployed KC-135s. Our missions would consist of a six hour flight from Manas Air Base, Kyrgyzstan to the skies of Afghanistan where we offloaded on average 60,000 lbs of fuel to U.S. and coalition force aircraft. Our first flight could not have been more exciting. After an air refueling with a B-1, KC-10, and a flight of F-15s, we were tasked to refuel a flight of A-10s.

If you have ever seen an A-10, you know what they were built for. It was not speed or looks, but rather fire power. The menacing aircraft carries an 18-foot long Gatling gun and a wide assortment of rockets and bombs. It's named the Warthog and is commonly used for Close Air Support for the Army.

Through the hectic chatter on the radios, we began our descent into the mountainous region of northeastern Afghanistan headed towards the Pakistani border. Moments later, out of the clouds surrounding the mountain-tops, the flight of A-10s approached our aircraft to receive their offload of fuel. These pilots could not have felt more at home. At 210 knots, the Willow Grove A-10s were quickly approaching a familiar sight – the boom of a "Team Pittsburgh" KC-135 Stratotanker. The A-10 pilots were Guardsmen from the 111th Fighter Wing, Willow Grove, Penn.

With a quick "hello" over the radio, our boom was quick at work orchestrating the rendezvous and fuel offload. Colonel McKee mentioned, "This was just

(Continued on back cover)

Married with benefits

By Senior Master Sgt. Alice E. Jenkins
111th MSF Personnel Superintendent

So, you finally did it! Had the wedding of your dreams on an island far from home or the one million dollar "Platinum" wedding you'll pay for over the next 10 years. The reception went well and oh the honeymoon! Now back to business: a change of address and maybe a change of name. Add the new wife or hubby on all the paperwork and going around to Accounting & Finance. Always wanted to be able to get BAH with dependents... more money in the pocket.

Did you stop at the 111th MSF customer service area? Did you know it's mandatory to add your new spouse (and any new dependents) to your records as soon as your family situation changes. Your vRED, Virtual Record of Emergency Data (previously known as your DD 93) will need to be updated in the vMPF. However, until the spouse is added to the DEERS system by our staff, you will not be able to do so. So be sure you stop by Bldg 203, Room 164 first.

Family Servicemember's Group Life Insurance (FSGLI) provides up to \$100,000 for spouses (if the member has SGLI coverage of \$400,000) and \$10,000 for each dependent child. Premiums are based on the spouse's age; dependent children are covered for free and coverage begins the date of marriage. The member must sign a form to decline coverage. The spouse and dependent children are covered regardless of any health issues at the start of the coverage. If coverage is declined, proof of good health is required in order to be covered at a later date. The military member is the only beneficiary for FSGLI.

How do you know if you have this coverage? Review your Leave and Earnings Statement (LES) under the Deductions column for "Family SGLI." This will indicate if you have premiums deducted for the coverage.

Why is it important to add or decline FSGLI as soon as possible? It can be costly if you do not. If you elect to want FSGLI, the premiums will be calculated from the date of marriage. There goes that increase you received with BAH with dependents!

Moral of the story: Congratulations on your marriage but remember to visit the MSF as soon as you return to work.



End of year closeout drives Wing into new fiscal year

Story and photo by Tech. Sgt. Elisabeth A. Matulewicz
111th FW Public Affairs Office

While summer may be dwindling down, activity in the 111th FW Financial Management Office has surged. It's end-of-year-closeout, a time starting in July and continuing through the fourth quarter, when the financial management team must close out the accounting books of one fiscal year and embark on a new budget and another year of spending. It's where all of the wing's financial activities end their journey each year.

"During end-of-year-closeout, there are a lot of internal tasks we do," explained Maj. Anthony V. Pelosi, 111th FW budget officer. "We balance what the Guard Bureau has given us with what's been spent and must account for everything."

"The Defense Finance and Accounting Service system lays out every dime, where it sits and what status it's in," said Staff Sergeant Charlotte Baker, 111th FW financial analyst. "It's a very slow process of going back to the report of status of funds and reconciling everything to where it should be and where it actually is. Where our budget is and what we spent determines what we get next year."

"Staff Sergeant Baker goes through these reports and makes sure contracts are paid in full," said Senior Master Sgt. Peter E. Leimbach, 111th FW Financial Management Superintendent.

"The majority of the things we see right now are renovation related since people moved," said Baker. "Also we see contracting, construction, communications, and maintenance expenses."

"We make sure we have all of the invoices from vendors and close out contracts," said Pelosi. "The hardest thing is making sure units spend the funds they're given so we don't have to return them. And making sure no one is over their allotted funds."

After end-of-closeout, the financial team doesn't rest.

"We get ready for the next year and start all over again," said Pelosi. "And until the budget is passed, we go off of last year's numbers."

If Congress is unable to pass a new budget before Oct. 1, the start of the fiscal year, a continuing resolution authority (CRA) is enacted. A CRA is a joint resolution enacted by Congress that provides budget authority for federal agencies and programs to continue operating until the regular appropriations acts are enacted.

"When we go into a CRA, the only thing we are guaranteed is equal to last year," said Leimbach. "We work off less than that just in case. There have been years where the budget hasn't been passed until late winter."

During the year, timeliness is key in making finance's job easier at closeout time.

"Turn in your pay orders and travel vouchers on time," said Leimbach. "Don't rely on someone else to do it for you because it's your responsibility."

By Jean Moretti

Wing Family Program Coordinator

Newly elected FRG Officers

At a meeting held Sept. 7, the Family Readiness Group elected new officers:

President: CMSgt (Ret) Jenny Pappas

Vice President: MSgt Charles McNevin as vice president, Claire Debelius as co-vice president;

Secretary: SrA Danielle Heidrick

Treasurer: Lorraine McNevin

The FRG and I would like to thank Sarah Blank for serving as FRG President from 2004 – 2008. Sarah's leadership helped with the success in our mission to provide exceptional programs to care for military families.

Be Red Cross Ready

To make sure your family is "Red Cross Ready," the American Red Cross recommends you take three simple action steps: 1) Get a kit, 2) Make a plan and 3) Be informed.

Every household should have an emergency preparedness kit with enough essential supplies to last three days, including water (1 gallon per person, per day), non-perishable food, a flashlight and batteries, a hand- or crank-operated radio and important medications. You can download a full list of disaster supplies and create a personalized shopping list by visiting: www.redcross.org/BeRedCrossReady.

Create a family evacuation and communication plan. Choose two meeting places: one right outside your home if you need to leave in a hurry like in a home fire, and one outside your area in case a disaster prevents you from returning home. Choose an out-of-area relative or friend as an emergency contact and make sure that every household member knows how to contact this person. If there is an emergency while your family member is deployed, remember that the Red Cross can help send an emergency message to them. Even if the service member receives an e-mail or phone call from home, Red Cross-verified information assists commanding officers with making a decision regarding emergency leave.

Find out what types of emergencies or disasters are most common where you live and prepare accordingly. Get to know your Red Cross chapter and the services they provide to military families, including

communication links, access to financial assistance and counseling.

September is National Preparedness Month, and the American Red Cross wants you and your family to have the peace of

mind that comes with being prepared.

For more information on how you can help yourself, your family and your community "Be Red Cross Ready," contact your local American Red Cross Chapter.



Col. Tony Carrelli greets visitors at the Italian-American display hosted by 111th FW members at Unity Day at Ft. Indiantown Gap on Sept. 18.

who attended the event. Attendees also had the chance to win a free basket of Italian foods.

Guest speakers included: Maj. Gen. Jessica Wright, Maj. Gen. Stephen Sischo, Mr. Trent Hargrove (Pa. Chief Diversity Officer), and Ms. USO 2008. The 111th FW's area was met with resounding approval for the informative displays, delicious foods, and the opportunity to meet Italian-American trailblazers Col. Tony Carrelli and Senior Master Sgt. (Ret) Vince Celenza, a Pa. National Guard Hall of Fame Inductee.

Also in attendance were: Lt. Col. Joseph Mezzatesta, 111th MSG Commander, and 2nd Lt. Carl Thompson and Tech. Sgt. Carolyn Debuque, both of the 111th FW Equal Opportunity Office.

"The Italian cultural heritage has had a large impact on U.S. culture since the first immigrants from Italy arrived in America. This infusion of foods, mottos, life-long commitment, and loyalty to our great nation is now a seamless part the American way of life.

Since the establishment of the 111th Fighter Wing in 1924, we have been afforded the great benefit to work alongside many members of Italian heritage who have helped shape the culture of the unit as we know it today. Members such as PA National Guard Hall of Fame inductee, Colonel Francis Mezzatesta; Colonel Joe Dellaradoffa, recipient of two Air Force Silver Stars; and Colonel Tony Carrelli, recipient of the AF Bronze Star and the first fighter pilot to be cleared by the Air Force to fly with an artificial heart valve.

In the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, we boast of several innovators who have brought fame and long-standing tradition and inventions to not only the Commonwealth, but also the United States. Our current Adjutant General, Major General Jessica L. Wright, is of Italian heritage and has the distinction of being the first female commander of the PA National Guard. Other Italian-Americans in PA that have successfully impacted the American culture range from Amedeo Obici and Mario Puzzi, who from a little place in Wilkes-Barre, PA in 1904, invented and founded Planters Peanuts® and Chocolate Company to NFL Hall of Famer, Franco Harris of the Pittsburgh Steelers, hailing as the first player of Italian and African American heritage to earn that honor. In all, PA has a lot to be proud of with its rich Italian-American heritage.

Italian foods, heritage highlighted at Pa. Guard Unity Day

**By Senior Master Sgt. Nicole Fulton
111th FW Human Resource Advisor**

The 111th FW provided displays, foods and people of Italian-American heritage at the first annual PA National Guard Unity Day on Sept. 18 at Bldg. 8-80, Ft. Indiantown Gap. Unity Day involved both Army and Air Guard units from across the state that each chose a culture to represent to the approx. 300-400 people

MOVING UP, MOVING IN AND MOVING OUT

PROMOTIONS

To First Lieutenant
Nicole M. Reigelman 111th OSF

To Senior Master Sergeant
John W. Robinson 111th LRS

To Master Sergeant
Aileen Letterlough 111th LRS

To Staff Sergeant
Ryan T. Christmann 111th LRS
Sara Wilson 111th MSF

REENLISTMENTS

MSgt Stanley A. Cupp 111th MXS

ENLISTMENTS

SSgt Sean M. Smith	111th SVF
SrA Kenneth J. Enright	111th MSG
SrA Antoine J. Hayes	201st RHS, Det. 1
A1C Mark A. Brazee	270th EIS
A1C Tariq A. Fladger	201st RHS, Det. 1
A1C Jermaine Graham	111th MDG
A1C Kameron A. Hobbs	201st RHS, Det. 1

RETIREMENTS

TSgt Alfredo Palerm	270th EIS	23 years
TSgt Roberto L. Perez	111th LRS	21 years
SSgt John Williamson	111th MDG	20 years

UTA MENU (111TH DINING FACILITY)

Sat. Oct. 4

Chili con carne, Taco bar
Spanish rice, Refried beans
Peas and carrots, Minestrone soup
Salad, rolls and butter
Assorted desserts

Sun. Oct. 5

Pork chops
Oven browned potatoes
Cauliflower, Chicken rice soup
Salad, rolls and butter
Assorted desserts

OCTOBER 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.

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.**



Staff Sgt. Kevin Watson and Master Sgt. Jack Hill, 111th FW recruiters, are onhand to talk to the public at a booth set-up at Citizens Bank Park Sept. 11 for Patriot Day ceremony along side of Phillies' representative Scott Nichols.

Serving in the Community: 111th FW Recruiters at Citizens Bank Park

COMM BYTES 01

As a reminder, McGruff says; "DO NOT open emails with only one word in the "from column," 99.9% of the time it is spam mail. If the subject is requesting some action on your part, and contains an attachment, delete immediately, 99.9% of the time it's infected with some sort of malicious code. I would advise following this action on your home systems as well.

There have recently been infections discovered within the ANG domain. We need to be on alert, and suspicious of all unsolicited e-mails. For more information, contact Master Sgt. Stanley Woods, 111th Communications Flight, at (215) 443-1349.

INFORMATION PROTECTION STARTS, AND STOPS, WITH YOU

In the spirit of Halloween, if you could be anyone in the unit for a day who would it be and why?

(Identities masked to protect the innocent)



“Colonel Carrelli because I want to know how it feels to have a golf swing like his.”



“Staff Sergeant Charlotte Baker so I can be a professional NCO and a diva all in one.”



“Master Sergeant Matt Giacobbe so I could recruit outstanding Airmen at sports games and Geno’s Steaks.”



“Senior Master Sergeant Tom Junk because he has a fabulous car, a PT Cruiser.”

HAVE A SAFE HALLOWEEN!

Neighbors helping neighbors Continued from page 8

like flying over the skies of Pennsylvania.” The Willow Grove pilot quickly informed us that he had just come from providing Close Air Support to Pennsylvania Army National Guardsmen from the 1st Battalion of the 109th Infantry Division deployed to Methr Lam Forward Operating Base, in eastern Afghanistan. When our troops need a little extra firepower, they call on the A-10s for air support. As long as the men and women on the ground remain in need of A-10s, we were there to keep the A-10s in the fight with our fuel.

This mission was an awesome representation of the Pennsylvania National Guard working together, the importance of the KC-135, and our state’s commitment to the Global War on Terror. I could not have been more proud to be a Guardsman and Tanker pilot. With the assistance of the other deployed unit members, I was flying a tanker that was supplying fuel to one of our own A-10s, who was protecting a fellow Pennsylvania Army Guardsman on the ground.

These Army Guardsmen could have been a neighbor, co-worker or even a relative. This was probably one of the most important and personally rewarding missions I will ever fly. My thanks to all the unit members who helped make that mission a success. Without your hard work, our Army Guardsmen may have had to go without that day. Without is not an option when it’s for the safety of a fellow Pennsylvanian.

Statewide News:

View newsletters of our sister units:

193rd Special Operations Wing
“The Scope”

<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>

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111TH FIGHTER WING (ACC)
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Willow Grove ARS, PA 19090-5203**

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DEFENDING FREEDOM

