

Sandy Hoag Gazette

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

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December 2008



Wing praised for ESOHCAMP outcome

By Tech. Sgt. Jonathan E. White

111th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

The National Guard Bureau directed an Environmental, Safety and Occupational Health Compliance Assessment and Management Program (ESOHCAMP) audit of the 111th Fighter Wing Oct. 20-24. The assessment resulted in very few negative findings and one positive

finding that is rarely given out.

ESOHCAMP ensures the wing is adhering to all written regulations and OSHA compliance. Conducted every three years, some of the areas inspected were flight safety, ground safety, weapons and explosive safety, said Lt. Col. Scott Hreso, Chief of Safety.

Hreso has been Chief of Safety for nine years and has participated in three ESOHCAMP audits.

"There were 500 protocols (requirements)," Hreso explained. "We did an assessment on how we were conducting each protocol and compared the assessment to the written guidance. We refined the safety shop over the last six months. The ESOHCAMP team thought we performed so well that they recommended we teach other guard units the Chief of Safety Course here at Willow Grove."

Despite many obstacles, Hreso said that the Wing performed way above the bar. In addition, he cited the outstanding performance of Senior Master Sgt. Steven J. LaBarre, grounds safety manager.

LaBarre and Master Sgt. Duane C. Wuorinen were responsible for the ground safety portion of the audit.

"We prepared for ESOHCAMP by using the Pre-Visit Questionnaire (PVQ) along with emails from the assessors," said LaBarre. "Six weeks prior to the assessment we took the PVQ line item by line item and conducted shop visits throughout the wing in coordination with Environmental, Bio, the Fire Department, and Public Health."

"The Assessors did not want to be referred to as inspectors," said Master Sgt. Craig A. Harlacker. "The Assessors were not here to give us a grade. They pointed out our strengths and gave us options for things we could improve."

Harlacker said he was astounded at the support he received and impressed with everyone who participated especially Master Sgt. John J. Ciarlante Jr., 111th SFS security manager.

"Safety is there so the same accident and the same problem do not happen twice. Safety is everyone's business," said Hreso.

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Community College of the Air Force

111th Fighter Wing Graduating Classes of April 2008 October 2008

SMSGT Nicole M. Fulton, 111th FW
*SMSGT Steven J. LaBarre, 111th FW
SMSGT Alexander M. Pryszyk, 111th OSF
MSGT Stanley A. Cupp, 111th MXS
MSGT Derrick D. Dash, 111th LRS
*MSGT Howard W. Evans, 111th MSG
MSGT Walter J. Milewski, 111th MSG
MSGT Wendy L. Turner, 111th LRS

TSgt Shawn V. Eck, 111th SFS
TSgt Leslie P. Gibson, 111th FW
TSgt Eli M. Grimm, 111th MXS
TSgt Bradley M. Hughes, 111th MXS
TSgt Rhonda C. Martin, 111th SVF
TSgt Gregory A. Patrone, 111th LRS
SSgt Gordon K. Beecroft, 111th MXS
SSgt Nicholas P. Fanelli, 111th OSF
SSgt Vincent J. Franchino, 111th AMXS
SSgt William C. Gallagher III, 270th EIS
SSgt Michael T. Goodwin, 111th AMXS
SSgt Daniel N. Kashdan, 111th MDG
SSgt Andrew M. Lamarra, 111th CMF
SSgt John A. Lauf Jr., 111th MXS
SSgt Hugo C. Murillo, 270th EIS
SSgt Edward A. Tangradi, 111th MXS
SrA Patrick S. Salmon, 111th MSG
* Member has received two associates degrees

Congratulations to all our Graduates!

The Community College of the Air Force is the only degree-granting institution of higher learning in the world dedicated exclusively to enlisted people. CCAF offers unique opportunities for motivated, career-oriented active duty, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve airmen and NCOs to earn a job-related, two-year undergraduate associate in applied science degree. CCAF also facilitates selected professional certification and recognition for airmen.

Credits from an associate degree can be applied to a bachelors degree via the Air University Associate-to-Baccalaureate Cooperative. Contact the Training Office at (215) 443-1312 for additional information.



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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 January issue of the Sandy Hog Gazette is Dec. 16. E-mail articles and photos for consideration to: pa.111fw@pawill.ang.af.mil.

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Cover photo:

The National Guard Bureau directed an Environmental, Safety and Occupational Health Compliance Assessment and Management Program (ESOH CAMP) audit of the 111th Fighter Wing Oct. 20-24. A final outbrief was held Oct. 23 in the HQ Auditorium of Bldg. 203.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Gordon Beecroft

Did You Know?

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

Don't forget to bring in your Angel Tree gifts!

All Angel Tree gifts are being collected at Bldg. 219 Mon.-Fri. and during the December UTA from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. Please have your gifts brought in NLT Dec. 7 in order for us to account for the requested gifts. Thank you for your support!

Questions, call Ms. Joan Shaffer or CMSgt Finn at (215) 443-1424.



Statistics 2008

By Colonel Tony Carrelli
111th Maintenance Group Commander

The fall has been full of superlative statistics: the Philadelphia Phillies win their first World Championship in 28 years, the Phils were 90-0 in 2008 when leading a game after 8 innings, and Brad Lidge saved 48 games in 48 chances.

Some more POWERFUL statistics: 628 sorties flown in 47 days for 2,497 flying hours, 81 bombs dropped, 121 rockets fired, 25,780 high explosive incendiary bullets shot, and a 100% aircraft delivery rate for the combat schedule.

We may not have championship rings, but the 111th FW is the Champion in the A-10 world. We have consistently, efficiently, and professionally provided close air support to troops on the ground for the war on terror better than any other unit in the Active, Guard, or Reserves. Our maintainers and pilots are some of the best and most experienced in the entire fleet and are often called on for input, advice, and counsel. In Maintenance, the A-10 Depot frequently uses the 111th as a test

location for new or changing programs and many of our maintainers are Subject Matter Experts for the fleet engineers. In a letter sent to the State Headquarters this week, Colonel Dave Blanks, who was the Active Duty MXG Commander in Bagram during our AEF, said "I've never worked with a better group of maintainers and I trusted them to perform all aspects of the mission on the most challenging flightline I've seen. They are a tremendous team who truly made a difference at Bagram". This is only one of many examples of the compliments I receive on behalf of the MXG in e-mails, telephone calls, and during conferences.

It takes a total team effort to have a "season" like this. The war has been going on for many years but so has the dedication from our members. The uphill road has been full of inspections, AEFs, BRAC, aircraft modifications, and eroding manning, yet we are still on an amazing run. We thank the other Groups for supporting us so well as we continue our fight to stay the best.

Security Forces guardsman honored at Langley retirement ceremony

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

Master Sgt. John Stumpf, a security forces craftsman, was honored during a retirement ceremony held at the Langley AFB Community Center in Virginia on Sept. 29.

For the last two years, Sergeant Stumpf has been serving on an Air Reserve Component Volunteers (ARCV) tour. He was also the Mobility NCOIC for all SFS personnel assigned to the Air Combat Command.

"Sergeant Stumpf's mother and brother were in attendance," said Master Sgt. Joseph A. DiSpaldo. "He was presented the Meritorious Service Medal for his accomplishments at Langley, several awards and certificates and a US flag by members of the honor guard."

"This will be the first time I can recall where a 111th member was recognized in a retirement ceremony by our active duty brethren," said Chief Master Sgt. James Finn, 111th Security Forces Manager.



In addition to the ceremony, he will officially retire from the 111th Security Forces Sq. on Dec. 1. He will be further recognized at an annual banquet to be held in March. More information will follow at a later date.

Shown (left to right) are Master Sgt. Joseph A. DiSpaldo, Chief Master Sgt. Glenn R. Leusink, Master Sgt. John M. Stumpf, Chief Master Sgt. James F. Finn and Master Sgt. Joseph A. Bradfield. All are members of the 111th Security Forces Squadron.

Basic Military Training

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

I attended the Air National Guard Command Chief Orientation Course at Lackland Air Force Base in late October. As most of you know, Lackland AFB is referred to as the "Gateway to the Air Force." Generations of American Airmen have passed through this gateway to become lifetime members of the world's greatest Air Force.

During the course, we had the opportunity to see first hand what our future Airmen are experiencing in BMT. We observed trainees negotiating the confidence course, we were given briefs on the BMT experience and changes to the BMT curriculum which has extended BMT to 8.5 weeks, we ate lunch with a trainee, we attended the Airmen Coin Ceremony and we attended the BMT Graduation Ceremony on Oct. 24.

We received numerous briefs and had the opportunity to share experiences/best practices as Command Chiefs. The Command Chiefs in attendance gained valuable knowledge and developed relationships which will enable us to better serve our Airmen. However, all the Command Chiefs in attendance concurred that meeting the future Airmen of our Air Force and experiencing firsthand the caliber of these Airmen for ourselves was the best part of our course.

New Hours for MSF Customer Service and ID Card Issue

The MSF has new Customer Service and ID Card hours. These new hours are in effect to allow the MSF time for training to better serve you. Additionally, this will allow us to pull mandatory reports from the RAPIDS (ID Card) System that were identified during our SAV last week.

Thank you for your understanding and please call us if you need assistance during our training hours and we can work with you on a case-by-case basis. Please feel free to call (215) 443-1378 for an appointment.

MSF Customer Service Hours
Monday-Friday 0700-1630
Saturday of UTA 0830-1600
Sunday of UTA 0800-1600

ID Card/CAC Hours
Monday-Friday 0715-1600
Saturday of UTA 0830-1530
Sunday of UTA 0815-1530

The 2nd Wednesday of each month we will be open from 0700-1300. We are closed every other Monday and every other Friday we close at 1530.

Every Command Chief in attendance but me had attended BMT at Lackland AFB. They all concurred that they felt "re-blued." Although I attended BMT twice I did not go through Air Force BMT. I attended Army BMT in 1973 and Navy BMT in 1979. I have to say that although I was never officially "blued" I came away "re-blued" and very proud of the young Airmen joining our Air Force Enlisted ranks.

The Pennsylvania Air National Guard had four Airmen graduate BMT on Oct. 24. I am sorry to say that I did not get to meet each of them, congratulate them on their accomplishment, and shake each of their hands. There were over 5,000 family members and friends in attendance for the Graduation ceremony. After the ceremony was complete, the family members were allowed on the parade field and it became very difficult to locate an individual Airman out of the 780 graduates.

My fellow Command Chiefs and I walked through the crowd of graduates congratulating the Airmen we met along the way. Command Chief Guerra from the 171st Air Refueling Wing attended the course with me. In the hubbub of the graduation scene Command Chief Guerra was located by a graduating Airman from



CCMSgt Ralph C. Braden

the 171st.

It was a great experience to be able to congratulate this Pennsylvania Air National Guard Airman on her accomplishment. Her parents were present and their pride in their daughter was evident on their faces. It was my pleasure to be able to congratulate one of our Guardsmen and meet her proud parents.

If you have the opportunity to attend a BMT graduation and the coin ceremony I would highly recommend it. Your Airman will appreciate it and it will fill your heart with pride in them, the United States Air Force, and the great nation that we serve.

A Reminder About Inclement Weather

In the event we experience inclement weather, you can check the status of Wing operations by calling (888) INFO UTA for a recorded message reporting work status for the 111th FW.

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

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

Service and Dedication

**By Master Sgt. Juan C. Gonzalez
111th Medical Group**

Be proud! Your service and dedication to your state, country and family are most admirable. In a time where corporations, organizations, and individuals act irresponsible and selfish, you, as Pennsylvania Air National Guardsmen and women, continue to serve with pride and honor, while adhering to high professional standards. Change is upon us. There is no question that our economy is vulnerable, the Global War on Terrorism continues with mixed results, and a new president inspires hope in a world plagued with political turmoil. The United States is proud and honored to have Guardsmen and women willing to serve a great country who are dedicated to the overall mission. Service and Dedication are two words often used to describe an organization's mission; however, few are able to fully grasp the true definitions and stride ahead to meet the difficult challenges facing our global community as the men and women who stand proudly within the ranks of the Air National Guard.

Regardless of your AFSC or rank, your voluntary accession proved that you have the courage to lead and follow to accomplish the mission through service. Whether you provide nutrition in the services facility, conduct medical evaluations, maintain aircraft and communications, or pilot aircraft, your service contributes to the overall

success of the mission. Every flight, group, or wing has a specific mission, but these unique missions integrate as a part of the collective to accomplish the overall mission. As we all know, there is no "I" in Team. Therefore, we all serve in different capacities to accomplish the established objectives, thereby fulfilling the mission. It is important that all members know and believe their organization's mission statement. The mission statement should not be framed text hanging on a wall unnoticed; instead, the mission statement should describe the purpose of the organization. Once the mission statement is understood, the organization and the membership are better able to perform their services.

Service is more than wearing the uniform and being present. As a professional military member we have a duty to perform our assignments while maintaining high standards. Keep in mind that serving in the Air National Guard is a privilege, not a right. Service also includes knowing your role and responsibilities and acting accordingly; remember who you are and why you are there. For those serving in a supervisory role, ensure your subordinates are well cared for. People are the organization's greatest assets. Never forget it.

Air National Guardsmen and women are the epitome of dedication. While most members of society struggle to maintain one career, we exceed such limitations.

Your dedication to your civilian employer while serving in the Air National Guard and maintaining a balanced household is no easy task. It is quite an endeavor. Dedication drives such professionals to take time away from their families and employers to protect our country and serve in the world's greatest military organization. The Global War on Terrorism has brought about changes in the way the Guard deploys. We no longer deploy for two weeks, instead, deployments average a few months to a year or more. The Air National Guard has been heavily tasked to support global military operations knowing that the professional Guardsman or woman brings with them the valuable experience and dedication for a successful operation. All Air National Guard successes and triumphs would not have occurred without the dedication of the men and women who sacrifice so much.

As a First Sergeant, I wholeheartedly thank you for your service and dedication. It is a true honor to serve you and to assist the commanders in providing the Air National Guard a mission ready force. Know that your sacrifices do not go unnoticed. We must continue to maintain high standards and serve as military ambassadors in our communities. Stand tall, wear the uniform with pride, and maintain a battle-ready physical fitness level for YOU are the Air National Guard - America salutes you!

Vets offered opportunity to refinance mortgage

Courtesy of Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans with conventional home loans now have new options for refinancing to a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) guaranteed home loan. These new options are available as a result of the Veterans' Benefits Improvement Act of 2008, which the President signed into law on Oct. 10.

"These changes will allow VA to assist a substantial number of veterans with subprime mortgages refinance into a safer, more affordable, VA guaranteed loan," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. James B. Peake. "Veterans in financial distress due to high rate subprime mortgages are potentially the greatest beneficiaries."

For more information, or to obtain help from a VA Loan Specialist, veterans may call VA at (877) 827-3702 or visit the VA website: www.homeloans.va.gov.



Career Connection: Another way to mentor

By Senior Master Sgt. Alice E. Jenkins

111th Mission Support Flight Personnel Superintendent

Did you know there are many ways to mentor? For the past three years I have had the pleasure of being involved with "Career Connections" at my alma mater, Chestnut Hill College (CHC). As a requirement for graduation, Chestnut Hill students must sign up to make a Career Connection. This connection can be done by either visiting a business of their choice or a road trip to various companies. After the visit, the company they visit must fill out paperwork to ensure the student was present, dressed appropriately and presented a business attitude.

The beginning of this year, Dan Kelin made a visit to the 111th Fighter Wing. I hear it is all he talks about! He will be a CHC graduate May 2009. Dan (prior to senior ship, we called him "Danny") was interested in the military and put my name in as his career connection. The fun began. He was not interested in Personnel; however, he wanted to get a better feel about the military, including being commissioned. My connection went further, as I set him up to talk with the recruiters (and you know how they love that). After finding out some information regarding basic training, and trying to avoid being recruited by MSgt Giacobbe, MSgt Hill or TSgt Raup, he had fun learning how to fly. Of course, simulated, but all the more just a little taste of what we do. He was interested in maybe joining the Marines and getting commissioned. The first person that came to mind was Lt Col Scott Hreso. I thought that would be a perfect union. After speaking with Lt Col Hreso to see if he could speak to Dan, Lt Col Hreso jumped at the chance. Well, there was a little method to his madness. Seems like one of his daughters was interested in attending Chestnut Hill College, so why not talk to a young man that attends the college to find out what else goes on there besides learning.

A student is only required to spend one day with his connection, however, Dan was so engrossed with the one day, he requested to come for the UTA weekend. After receiving approval, he came the next day; a Saturday to see what this "weekend" stuff was all about. He still talks about it like



Dan Kelin with his career connection Senior Master Sgt. Alice E. Jenkins.

it was yesterday. He was grateful for the information he received from the recruiters and thoroughly entertained (that is my word) by Lt Col Hreso.

On October 28, Chestnut Hill held their Career Connection kick-off which was composed of a panel of mentors and students who talked about past "Connections" experience. At the end of the night, the director stated she did not know this was going to be a military take over. (The handouts provided by the Recruiters may have contributed.) One of the best statements given by Dan and should make everyone at the 111th proud, is when he said "Everyone was so nice and they were like family to each other."

Anyway, Dan decided on the Navy. He has completed six weeks of Navy Basic Training. He has six months of underwater school in California and another six weeks of Navy operator training after that. He decided he would like to stay enlisted at this time and get commissioned in the future. Oh by the way, his military career choice? To be a Navy Seal. It has been his dream since he was three years old. I know he will make it; he is a very determined young man.

So whether here in this unit or reaching out somewhere else, make a career connection and be a mentor is some way or another. It makes the heart happy!



New Law Authorizes Veterans' Salutes during National Anthem

Veterans and active-duty military not in uniform can now render the military-style hand salute during the playing of the national anthem, thanks to changes in federal law that took effect in October.

"The military salute is a unique gesture of respect that marks those who have served in our nation's armed forces," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. James B. Peake. "This provision allows the application of that honor in all events involving our nation's flag."

The new provision improves upon a little known change in federal law last year that authorized veterans to render the military-style hand salute during the raising, lowering or passing of the flag, but it did not address salutes during the national anthem. Last year's provision also applied to members of the armed forces while not in uniform.

Traditionally, members of the nation's veterans' service organizations have rendered the hand-salute during the national anthem and at events involving the national flag while wearing their organization's official head-gear.

The most recent change, authorizing hand-salutes during the national anthem by veterans and out-of-uniform military personnel, was sponsored by Sen. Jim Inhofe of Oklahoma, an Army veteran. It was included in the Defense Authorization Act of 2009, which President Bush signed on Oct. 14.

The earlier provision authorizing hand-salutes for veterans and out-of-uniform military personnel during the raising, lowering or passing of the flag was contained in the National Defense Authorization Act of 2008, which took effect Jan. 28, 2008.

PARTY AT THE MILL



McKinley honored at Order of the Sword Ceremony during CCM Enlisted Call

By Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey M. Davis
111th Security Forces Squadron

About a month ago, my first sergeant recommended me to the Wing Human Resources Administrator, Senior Master Sgt. Nicole Fulton, as a candidate to attend the 2008 Enlisted Call hosted by CCMSgt Richard A. Smith, the Air National Guard Command Chief. I had the privilege of being selected and attended the two day event at McGhee-Tyson ANGB in Alcoa, TN Oct. 31-1 Nov.

After two days of powerful and inspirational speeches from various leaders, and informative lectures from various organizations, the event culminated with the Order of the Sword ceremony. This year's Order of the Sword recipient was Lt. Gen. Craig R. McKinley, the Director of the Air National Guard. SMSgt Fulton introduced me to many members in the National Guard leadership, including General McKinley and CCMSgt Smith. The experiences I had and the people I met at the Enlisted Call will positively impact my ANG career and life forever.

During the Enlisted Call, SMSgt Fulton and I listened to various speeches such as one on leadership and development by Lt. Col Ondra Berry. Lt. Col Berry stressed the importance of a positive attitude and proper accountability. We were addressed by several state Command Chiefs, and Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Rodney J. McKinley made a special appearance and spoke about the active duty and reserve forces working together as a total force. In keeping with the "total force" concept, quite a few Command Sergeant Majors from across the nation spoke about how we are no longer either in the Air or Army National Guard. "We are in the National Guard." This is how Army Guard recruitment has been advertised and it strongly emphasizes teamwork. The Guard has impressed Chief McKinley, especially with the number of deployments.

Two very powerful speeches were given. SFC (Ret.) Dan Gubler of the Utah National Guard was wounded when an IED hit his patrol in Iraq. Despite losing his arm, Sergeant Gubler is proud of his service to his country. His willingness to move on and

live a happy life with his wife and kids is an inspiration to all.

SSG Ken Weichert of the California National Guard was nearly paralyzed during a High School football game. He rehabilitated himself and wanted to join the military so badly that he agreed that if he gets injured as a result of his condition, he can not claim disability. He has completed a tour of Iraq in an Intelligence unit, and runs several fitness camps for Army and Air Guard troops.

Physical fitness was stressed very seriously during those two days. Members had the opportunity to learn about and join several organizations such as the Air Force Sergeants Association (AFSA), the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS), and the Non-Commissioned Officer Association (NCOA).

When the conference ended, all attendees reported in mess dress or semi-formal to the flight line and formed a cordon formation and fell in behind the staff car as the General arrived for the Order of the Sword ceremony. The Order of the Sword is a time-honored tradition that traces its roots all the way to King Gustavus I of Sweden in 1522. It is the highest honor that the enlisted force can bestow upon a commissioned officer. Lt. Gen McKinley is about to get a fourth star and become the new Chief of the National Guard Bureau. His rank, position, and impressive resume have nothing to do with why he received this high honor. It is given to just one officer annually and the recipient is completely decided by the enlisted force. General McKinley received this honor because of his dedication and commitment to the enlisted ranks.

This was a very impressive ceremony, and one that I was certainly glad to be a part of. I can assure that whoever attends this event from the wing next year will be just as impressed as I was. Command Chief Smith did an excellent job of hosting the Enlisted Call and presiding over the Order of the Sword ceremony. This is his final Enlisted Call, as he will retire later this year. Like General McKinley, he certainly went out on top.



Winter Safety tips to battle the elements

Courtesy of DCMilitary.com

Winter isn't a time to just stay indoors and wait for spring. There's a whole wonderland of sports out there for the entire family; sledding, snowmobiling, and snowboarding, to mention a few. Plus, someone has to shovel the snow. Once outdoors, however, you may need to take extra steps to keep your family safe in the cold. In ice and snow, accidents can occur easily, and before you know it, you may be on your way to the emergency room. There are ways to keep safe - and stay fit - during the cold months. By following a few tips, you can have a great time, no matter how much white stuff piles up outside.

Certain injuries are more common in the winter because of special cold-weather activities. Activities like ice-skating, sledding, snowboarding, and skiing lead to the most accidents and injuries in the winter, and often it's children who get hurt. Now that snowboarding is drawing more kids out in the cold weather, emergency rooms are seeing more abdominal, head, and neck injuries in those who run into trees or large rocks while snowboarding. It's not just winter sports that send people to the hospital or a doctor's office. Certain illnesses are more common when the seasons change. Respiratory illnesses, especially viruses like the flu, are particularly prevalent during this time of year. That's because everyone spends more time indoors in chilly weather, exposing themselves to more germs in the air.

(Continued on next page)

Winter Safety Tips

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If you're going outside in the cold, stay safe, and warm. Make sure your kids have a snack before going out. The calories will give their bodies energy in the cold weather. And protect your kid's faces with sunscreen. Even though the idea of sunburn in the winter months can seem odd, snow can reflect up to 85% of the sun's ultraviolet rays. Kids should dress warmly using layers of clothes, but not before using the bathroom! If the top layer gets wet from snow or freezing rain, they can peel off some clothes down to a dry layer. Avoid cotton clothing because it won't keep the kids very warm. Stick with wool or other fabrics. Dress them in long underwear, a turtleneck, and a sweater and coat. Add more layers depending on the temperature. Waterproof pants and jackets are great top layers because they don't let the wetness seep into the other clothing. The cold-weather clothing wouldn't be complete without warm socks and boots to keep feet dry and a hat to top it off. There's no set amount of time children should be allowed to stay out in the cold. However, when being cold becomes unpleasant, it's time to go inside. Sometimes, though, kids may just need some dry gloves. It helps to have an extra pair of gloves or mittens tucked into their pockets if they plan to be outdoors for a while. If your kids decide to go sledding on their own for the day, make sure you know about the hill where they will be playing. Is it steep or covered with trees? If so, it's not a good location for sledding.

Children are at greater risk for frost-nip and frostbite than adults, and the best way to prevent it is to make sure kids are dressed warmly and that they don't spend too much time in extreme weather. Frost-nip is an early warning sign of the onset of frostbite. It leaves the skin white and numb. After bringing your child inside, remove all wet clothing because it draws heat from the body. Immerse the chilled body parts in warm (not hot) water - 104 to 108 degrees Fahrenheit (40 to 42 degrees Celsius) - until they are able to feel sensation again. Frostbite occurs mostly on fingers, toes, ears, noses, and cheeks. The area becomes very cold and turns white or yellowish gray. If you notice frostbite, take your child immediately to the nearest hospital emergency room.

By following these safety tips your family should be able to enjoy the wonders of winter safely.

ANG prepares for Windows Vista debut

*Get more done; safer, simpler, and more secure
Great reasons to move to a new operating system*

Courtesy of the NGB/A6 Exchange Migration Office

Coming to a PC near you: Federal Desktop Core Configuration, or FDCC, which includes a new set of programs and a new Microsoft operating system—all as part of the Air National Guard's IT standardization program. Vista is the latest version of Microsoft's Windows operating system. Microsoft's goal with Vista was to create a safe, user friendly and enjoyable experience for windows users. Vista improves on Windows XP in the areas of security and usability, such as during document searching, and it includes an updated user interface (Aero Glass) that adds translucent windows and 3D effects to the Windows desktop.

FDCC, formerly known as the Standard Desktop Configuration (SDC), is being spearheaded for the entire Air Force by the Air Force Enterprise Configuration Management Office (AFECMO).

To ensure compatibility with the variety of functional applications on government systems, AFECMO and the ANG are currently testing FDCC 2.1. This version of FDCC is based on Windows Vista Service Pack 1 and Office 2007. All ANG PCs are projected to be upgraded to FDCC by September 2009. Microsoft will discontinue mainstream support of Windows XP until of December 2009. FDCC 2.1 will be brought to you by your NCC personnel in one of two ways: either with a brand new PC or through an upgrade of your existing PC.

What will Windows Vista do for you?

Here are just a few of the benefits:

Find that file in a few quick clicks: Use Instant Search to track down any document, email message, file or program.

See everything you have open at a glance: Use Windows Flip 3D to flip through all your open files and windows with a simple click of your mouse.

Surf multiple waves of the web at once: Use tabbed browsing feature in Internet Explorer 7 to open multiple web pages and easily click between them.

Keep the things you need most at your fingertips: Use gadgets and sidebars to store and organize applications on your desktop.

Increased peripheral support: Windows Vista now supports 77,000 printers, cameras, speakers and other devices.

Improved interoperability: Over 2,700 software programs are now certified to work on Windows Vista, including 98 of the top 100 consumer applications.

Saves time: 62% of small businesses said Windows Vista saves them time, and 70% said that it makes them more productive, according to an independent survey.

Very popular: More than 140 million copies of Windows Vista have already sold, making it the fastest selling operating system in Microsoft history. Further, 71% of Windows Vista customers liked it better than their last operating system.

To view frequently asked questions regarding Windows Vista, please visit AFECMO's sharepoint site: <https://afecmo.gunter.af.mil/StandardDesktop/Shared%20Documents/Training%20and%20FAQs/Windows%20Vista%20FAQ.htm>

For Windows Vista training links, please visit AFECMO's sharepoint site: <https://afecmo.gunter.af.mil/StandardDesktop/Shared%20Documents/Training%20and%20FAQs/Windows%20Vista%20Training%20Links.htm>

Giving thanks on Thanksgiving

Commentary by Maj. (Chaplain) Kurt Taylor

376th Air Expeditionary Wing

Manas Air Base, Kyrgyzstan

Parades, football, and lots of food are usually what we associate with Thanksgiving. As always, we Americans have come up with our own, unique way of celebrating a holiday.

For most of us, there also is the vague picture of how it all began, back in the early days of pilgrims and settlers. The earliest Thanksgiving is usually associated with the Plymouth Colony in 1621. For a calloused group of settlers who were used to hardships and drought, a day was observed after the harvest, giving thanks for the food they had, the Native American help they had received and the graciousness of God.

In the decades that followed, unofficial Thanksgiving observances were held in many of the early colonies until the time of the Revolutionary War. Even then, when the infant nation was striving to survive, the Continental Congress urged the states to set aside a day for the people to give thanks.

It was President Abraham Lincoln who officially established what we now know as Thanksgiving Day. In part, he wrote: "The year that is drawing towards its close, has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies. To these boun-

ties, which are so constantly enjoyed ... we are prone to forget the source from which they come. It has seemed to me fit and proper that they should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged as with one heart and voice by the whole American people. I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens."

And with that, we have Thanksgiving. As it will be for Christmas, many of us will probably remember for the rest of our lives that one Thanksgiving we spent in the Kyrgyz Republic.

Perhaps we may even wish to translate the weightier things on our minds into reasons to celebrate most fervently this year.



We miss our families. How thankful we are to have families we miss. We miss our homes. How thankful we are for homes to which we will return. We are concerned about the war. How thankful we are for a nation dedicated to freedom and the end of terrorism. We feel stress from our jobs. How thankful we are for jobs that matter on a global scale.

We have much for which to be thankful. When we are, it will be quite American to say so, and demonstrate it this year.



Family Readiness Group Bake Sale

Sun. Dec. 7

Look for our table at the Holiday Party!

Volunteers needed to donate baked goods. Please bring your baked goods individually wrapped and priced for quick sale. Proceeds benefit future FRG programs and events. Thank you for your support.

MOVING UP, MOVING IN AND MOVING OUT

PROMOTIONS

To Lieutenant Colonel

Angel M. Burris 111th MDG
Scott E. Meier 111th AMXS
John S. Pace 201st RHS, Det. 1

To Master Sergeant

Joseph C. Payne 111th MXS

To Technical Sergeant

Robert W. Bunch 111th OSF
Christopher J. Coyne 201st RHS, Det. 1
Dennis J. Klinger 111th AMXS
LaVonda D. Lessane 111th MOF
Antonio Powell 111th MXS

To Staff Sergeant

Scott A. Burr 201st RHS, Det. 1
Brianna F. Hart 201st RHS, Det. 1

To Senior Airman

Dimitrus C. Alston 270th EIS
Vincent J. Hill II 111th AMXS
Brittany L. Stone 201st RHS, Det. 1

REENLISTMENTS

SMSgt Stephen T. Agnew 270th EIS
MSgt Eric M. Capers 111th MXS
TSgt Jeffrey M. Davis 111th SFS
TSgt Tyrone G. Mitchell 111th FW
SSgt Sean J. Kelly 111th AMXS
SrA Michael T. Deleo 111th LRS

EXTENSIONS

TSgt Audrey L. Bunch 111th MDG

ENLISTMENTS

TSgt Kenneth R. Paliwodzinski 111th CF
SrA Christopher D. Nusbaum 201st RHS, Det. 1
A1C Leroy Williams III 201st RHS, Det. 1
SSgt Kathleen L. Detwiler 111th MXS

RETIREMENTS

SMSgt Vickie A. Read 111th LRS 25 years
MSgt John M. Stumpf 111th SFS 21 years
TSgt Kelvin D. Ebron 270th EIS 26 years

UTA MENU (111TH DINING FACILITY)

Sat. Dec. 6

Lemon Baked Chicken
Baked Ham
Mashed Potatoes with Gravy
Broccoli Spears
Peas and Carrots
Chicken Gravy
Corn Bread
Dinner Rolls
Assorted Desserts

Sun. Dec. 7

Holiday Party in Docks 2&3

DECEMBER 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:

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.**



Remember to Register for the Holiday Party!

The Wing Holiday Party will be held Sun. Dec. 7 at 9:30 a.m. in Docks Two and Three. This is a time for everyone to come together to share fun, food and children visit with Santa Claus.

To register, call Jean Moretti, FRG Coordinator, (215) 443-1409.

ESGR Patriot Award presented to Philadelphia Police Department

By Tech. Sgt. Jonathan E. White
111th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

The Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) Patriot Award was presented to members of the Philadelphia Police Department by Col. Jim Blaydon, 111th FW Vice Commander, on Oct. 13 at the 25th Police District.

The ESGR is a Department of Defense organization which was established in 1972 to promote cooperation and understanding between Reserve component members and their civilian employers. The ESGR presents the Patriot Award to employers who practice leadership and personnel policies that support employee participation in the Guard and Reserve.

Examples include supporting Guard and Reserve employee families during mobilizations, supporting Guard and Reserve employees beyond Uniformed Services Employment and Redeployment Rights Act requirements, and publicly acknowledging the contributions of Reserve component employees to our Nation's defense. Employees nominate their employer by submitting a Patriot Award nomination.

"The Philadelphia Police Department has gone out of its way to ensure our (mobilized service members') families maintain their quality of life in our absence," said Master Sergeant Reinaldo Peluzzo, superintendent of resources and mobility for the 111th SFS.

Peluzzo, a traditional guardsmen and a 20-year veteran of the Philadelphia Police Department, discovered the ESGR link while searching the HogNet. The support



Sgt. Torpey and Col Jim Blaydon

Peluzzo received from his employer led to his nomination.

"This was a great opportunity to show my employer thanks on behalf of the military," said Peluzzo.

Sometimes employers are an afterthought. It is important that we show our appreciation and maintain a positive relationship that exists between our employer and the military, he added.

For more information go to http://esgr.org/files/factsheet/ESGRAwards_PatriotAward_FS.pdf.



Capt. Werner and Col Jim Blaydon



Lt. Otto and Col Jim Blaydon

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

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