

Sandy H g Gazette

111th Fighter Wing

Pa Air National Guard

Willow Grove Air Reserve Station, Pa.

Volume 14 Issue 3

March 2009

111th Fighter Wing shows their stuff at MacDill

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2009 Inauguration: One volunteer's perspective

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Congratulations!
Wing promotions
listed



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ON THE COVER:

Staff Sgt. Joseph Galada III, 111th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, conducts a pre-flight inspection on an A-10 Thunderbolt.



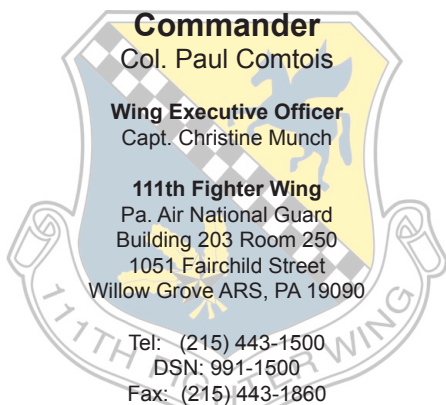
Photo by Master Sgt. Patrick Cashin

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Tech Sgt. Andy Raup (215) 443-1516



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Wing Executive Officer
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ABOUT SANDY HOG GAZETTE

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111TH FW MEMBERS

The Sandy Hog Gazette is no longer available in print. To have the Gazette e-mailed directly to you, please send your name and email address to: pa.111fw@pawill.ang.af.mil. Please put "Sandy Hog" in the subject line.

RETIREES

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

CONTACT US

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

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

The deadline for submissions to the April issue of the Sandy Hog Gazette is March 16. E-mail articles and photos for consideration to: pa.111fw@pawill.ang.af.mil

Upcoming Annual Retirees' Reunion Dinner

A reunion of current and past members of the 111th Fighter Wing will be held on **Mon. April 6 at 6:30 p.m.** It's the 58th anniversary of the 1951 activation of the Wing!

The event will be held at Casa DiLucia Restaurant located at 14425 Bustleton Pike (intersection of Philmont Ave. and Bustleton Pike, (215) 677-6111). The cost of the affair is the cost of whatever you order. The food is excellent and reasonably priced. A cash bar will be available.

For more information, contact Vincent Celenza at: (215) 728-6008 or Gary Yudel at: (215) 364-0473.

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Tech. Sgt. Marie Harmon

Flight of Freedom

The Flight of Freedom Honors Ceremony will be hosted by the 171st ARW in Pittsburgh this fall. The 111th Fighter Wing will host the event in the fall of 2010.

The failure to delegate ... is a failure to lead

By Lt. Col. Mike Kierod
270th Engineering Installation
Squadron commander

I always find it difficult to determine a worthwhile topic to write about when given a clean slate and an open agenda—as usual, it is easier to talk (or write) about something that is bothering me ... Lately, it has been my lack of time to do many of the things that need to get done until the last minute, including this article. I used to live by the old maxim, “if you want something done right, do it yourself.” But as my life has become busier with family, work and guard weekends (and I grew older and move slower), there is no way to get it all done. I found myself limited simply by the hours in a day needed to meet the many demands confronting me.

So why is this article being written at the last minute and being submitted just moments before I receive the friendly reminder from Captain Munch? The quick answer is “a failure to delegate”—so what went wrong? Here are few of my tripping hazards over the past few months:

1. I was involved in too many non-critical activities that needed to be done, but I did not need to do them. It was easier and more efficient to do many of these tasks initially on my own, but over time these tasks individually continued to grow, and I should have handed them off to other folks. They would have had the chance to learn a new task, and I would have more time to focus on more critical activities.

2. I needed to hand off the some of the critical workload to the right people sooner. I needed to find the right person, set clear expectations and settle on a regular check-in time to see how things are

progressing. There is definitely an art of knowing people well enough to know how much they can handle and to stretch them without breaking them.

3. I lacked the understanding to clarify some the tasks/projects. In many cases, the learning curve for me was steep, and by the time I knew what it took to get the job done I had it nearly complete at the expense of other tasks. Some of these tasks were better suited for other folks and had I engaged them sooner, I would have been able to work on things that I needed to complete. So what needs to be done so I do not fall into this trap again? Well, thanks to the wonders of the internet, here are few things that should help me (and others) in the future:

1. In a two-week period, list all of the tasks that you perform. Be as detailed as possible (in other words, instead of listing “responded to e-mails,” track which ones take a while to reply to or require action to be taken).

2. At the end of that time period, decide which ones you could delegate to someone else. Focus on full projects, as opposed to individual tasks. Be creative—for example, realize that you do not need to attend every meeting that you are invited to.

3. Decide who would be the best person to delegate to, keeping in mind each person’s strengths, individual need for improvements and workload.

4. Put in place a structure to delegate, including clear expectations and check-in points. If things are not getting done correctly, evaluate whether it is a training issue or an ability issue. If it is training, work with the person to make sure they get the knowledge they need.



Lt. Col. Mike Kierod

Coach them when possible. If it is an ability issue, re-evaluate what responsibilities that person has. If things are not being done in a timely manner, address it immediately with the person.

Finally, delegation is one of the truest tests of a leader’s confidence. The mission of every leader must be trust in themselves and trusting the team they have assembled. Sometimes giving up control and authority is a challenge that many leaders fear more than working twelve hours a day, six days a week. But you need to find a balance, and you need to understand your limitations, have confidence in your ability to delegate and have faith in others to get the job done.

Delegating not only makes your life easier but gives others the opportunity to grow into a more responsible role.

After all, why build a great team if you don’t use its talents to the fullest degree?

CCM Perspective: *Let your voice be heard*

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

Last month I encouraged you to consider the benefits of becoming a member of one of the many Professional Military Associations (PMAs) available to you as Airmen.

This month I will express my opinion on one of the PMAs that I believe benefits the Airmen of the Pennsylvania Air National Guard the most. The PMA that I am referring to is the Pennsylvania National Guard Enlisted Association (PNGEA). PNGEA is part of the Pennsylvania National Guard Associations (PNGAS).

Membership in the Officers portion of PNGAS, the National Guard Association of Pennsylvania (NGAPA) is very high. Membership of our Enlisted Airmen in PNGEA is very low.

The low membership in PNGEA is puzzling to me and therefore I would like to share with you some of the membership benefits of this

Pennsylvania National Guard-oriented PMA. Becoming a PNGEA member gives you two PMA memberships for the price of one. Your membership in PNGEA includes a membership in The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS).

PNGEA represents the Enlisted Airmen of the Pennsylvania Air National Guard and Pennsylvania Army National Guard from a Pennsylvanian's perspective.



CCMSgt Ralph C. Braden

Below are a few additional benefits that PNGEA Membership provides:

- *PNGEA membership provides a free life insurance policy for the member.*
- *PNGEA also provides low cost additional life insurance above the free \$1,000.00 policy that is provided.*
- *Educational scholarships are available for Pennsylvania National Guard Airmen and Soldiers.*
- *Recognition of Pennsylvania's Outstanding Airmen and Soldiers of the Year.*

What has PNGAS and PNGEA done for us lately?

- The three flying Wings in Pennsylvania have benefited from the hard work PNGAS has done on our behalf:

111th Fighter Wing

- PNGAS lobbied very hard to get the Department of Defense to transfer Willow Grove Naval Air Station to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. This transfer has enabled the Pennsylvania Air National Guard to keep a presence at Willow Grove. In addition the Pennsylvania Army National Guard will also utilize Willow Grove in the future along with other government agencies with establishment of the Horsham Joint Interagency

Installation there.

193rd Special Operations Wing

- PNGAS lobbying facilitated the expenditure of over one-half of a billion dollars to purchase new EC-130J aircraft that will help keep the 193rd Special Operations Wing flying and relevant for years to come.

171st Air Refueling Wing

- PNGAS efforts played a part in the 171st Air Refueling Wing receiving KC-135R model with newer engines that will keep the 171st ARW refueling aircraft well into the future.

These are just three examples of what PNGAS membership has helped accomplish for our Pennsylvania Air National Guard.

Each membership in a PMA adds power to the voice that the PMA has when lobbying on our behalf. Our membership in PNGEA provides this PMA the strength it needs to serve all of our Pennsylvania Air National Guard members and make our voices heard.

A-10s bomb, rattle ground at Avon Park bombing range

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

A caravan of 111th FW personnel left the Tampa area on Feb. 23 headed for Avon Park Air Force Range, Fla. to experience an A-10 training mission. They drove interstate to local highway, past palm trees and cattle, covering over 100 miles.

Once they arrived, they scaled several metal staircases up to an observation tower. The A-10s roared in one by one dropping practice bombs called BDU-33s onto ground targets. Several screaming passes later, the A-10s came in lower and fired their 30-mm GAU-8/A cannons. Each aircraft burst plumes of smoke before emitting a roar reminiscent of a loud zipper pull.

Sunny, blue skies set the backdrop for a perfect live firing for pilots and audience alike.

Watching the A-10s descend towards each target, take aim and rock the sky was breathtaking—especially for a brother-sister team with the 111th Maintenance Sq. munitions section.

“Seeing what we make being used here is interesting,” said Senior Airman Aaron M. Thieroff.

On a typical day, Airman Thieroff and his team pack fuses and safe aiming devices into shells before loading them 40 to a trailer. The munitions are delivered to the armament section and loaded onto the aircraft. “I think it’s awesome,” Senior Airman Ashley B. Thieroff added.

For several first-timers (including myself), seeing the A-10s in action broke a few misconceptions. “I always wanted to see how they did it,” said Tech. Sgt. Byron S. Lockett, 111th Logistics Readiness Sq. “I thought they’d be over the target when they let the bombs go. But when they come in, they’re several hundred yards away.” An added bonus was having Col. Paul W. Comtois, 111th FW Commander, there to talk us through what we saw. We were very lucky to have him explain everything from a pilot’s point of view and educate everyone on the A-10.

The following pilots made up the 4-member team that flew that day: Lt. Col. Niclas Szoke, Lt. Col. Scott Hreso, Col. Jim Blaydon, and Lt. Col. Gary Beard.

Avon Park Air Force Range is located in Polk and Highland counties, Fla. and covers over 106,000 acres, of which 82,000 is open to the public for recreation. Surprisingly, the range is home to a number of endangered species of birds and reptiles. According to Range Control Officer Chris Spears, Avon Park is the largest bombing range east of the Mississippi; Nellis’s being the largest in the country.



Photo by Master Sgt. Patrick Cashin

A BDU-33 is dropped at a target from an A-10 from the 103rd Fighter Sq., Pa. Air National Guard, Willow Grove Air Reserve Station Pa. at Avon Park Air Force Range near Tampa, Fla. on Feb. 23. Approx. 160 guardsmen from the 111th Fighter Wing trained at the Deployment Unit Complex (DUC) at Mac Dill Air Force Base.

Need Your Help!

The Delaware Valley Historical Aircraft Association is in search of a maintenance manual for a 1F-84F-1 and -2 to be displayed with the F-84 which will soon be on display in the Museum with 111th Fighter Wing markings.

If you have such a manual and are interested in donating it, please see Capt. Christine Munch in Bldg. 203, Room 208.

For more info about the museum, please visit www.dvhaa.org.

AFR/ANG Teen Leadership Summit

The AFR/ANG Teen Leadership Summit is open to all 15-18 year old dependent teens of current Air Force Reserve or Air National Guard members. Applicants will be required to complete in its entirety the 2009 AFR/ANG Teen Leadership Summit application to include essay questions and Code of Conduct form located at the following website:

For more information, visit: www.georgia4h.org/AFRANGTeenSummit



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Marie Harmon

A new beginning ...

111th Fighter Wing commander, Col. Paul Comtois, passes the ceremonial guidon from Col. Mike Hajatian, 111th Medical Group commander to Lt. Col. John Quinn, who assumed command of the Group effective Feb. 5. Members of both families were in attendance.

Ask not what your Wing can do for you; ask what you can do for your Wing

The 111th Fighter Wing Enlisted Field Advisory Councils are trying to make a difference in the unit. Meeting on Sundays during drill to maximize traditional guardsman's involvement, they try to find common areas where the everyday Airman would like to see improvement.

Unbeknownst to many, this has been reflected in many of the events occurring around the Wing. Both the Junior and Senior Councils are looking for members.

We would like to have at least two members

from every squadron and flight within the Wing.

If you would like enhance your leadership skills while contributing to the betterment of the wing, please contact the following individuals;

Junior EFAC (E-1 to E-5)

Staff Sgt. Charlotte Baker at (215) 443-1354

Senior EFAC (E-6 to E-8)

Master Sgt. Kenneth Tillotson at (215) 443-1802

Have a hand in the future of the Wing, raise issues, present ideas, solve problems, and make a difference!

111th Fighter Wing: a part of history

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

The 111th Fighter Wing never drags their feet and always steps up to the plate. Ninety-one volunteers from the unit were counted in the 7,000 person task force of Guardsmen from more than a dozen states in support of the 56th Presidential Inauguration. It was a great and wonderful experience that none of the participants will ever forget.

It began with the teamwork at the unit to get us prepared. Orders and all required paperwork for travel were completed by the personnel section; the supply office provided the required clothing and other necessities for the cold weather; the vehicle management office provided us the transportation; and Col. Paul Comtois, 111th Fighter Wing commander, and Lt. Col. Joseph Mezzatesta, 111th Mission Support Group commander, provided us with a great farewell to get us going (and thank you to anyone else that assisted).

Our first stop on our bus trip was to create the Joint Task Force of Pennsylvania Army and Air Guard.

For our members that participated in joint activities with the Army before, this was a refresher; as for the newbies participating with the Army, well, it was “new.” The sleeping arrangement required no credit card authorization to a nice cozy hotel living area, but it provided a fresh experience in the barracks with open bays of bunk beds. After making the trip to the Exchange to obtain some necessities (toilet paper, hand soap, paper towels), we ate in a large warm tent before receiving the first of many briefings. “Rules of Force” and “Interaction with the News Media” were often repeated.

Upon arriving at Washington, D.C., we were escorted to the armory of the District of Columbia National Guard for in-processing before we were briefed again, and then gave the oath to become “District of Columbia Special Police.” We saved our credit card use again, as our living quarters then became a school that had been closed and out of commission until we took over. As men and women separated in different classrooms with cots,

we made our next three days as comfortable as we could. Continuing under Army direction, we used the auditorium as the gathering spot to get our assignment. We get our mission – “Support local civilian authorities in the Nation’s Capital during this historic event.” The goal was to intermingle every company and platoon member between Army and Air Force. Again, an it was an adventure as we learned the Army lingo. Some of our senior non-commissioned officers became platoon leaders, squad leaders or team leaders. Approximately 17 checkpoints were assigned, assisting local police forces monitoring between two shifts, 5 a.m. to 11 a.m. and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

We quickly found out no local police were assigned to the checkpoints so therefore we, the “District of Columbia Special Police” (pursuant to D.C. Code 5-129.03), with our paper badges, did what we were trained to do ... lead and take control. We did

... the sheer excitement of contributing and being in the area for this event was a career moment.”

this by blocking off streets, letting only authorized cars in, assisting with directions (well, maybe not that great on this one, as everyone thought we were from the area), taking pictures with citizens, accepting some free hot chocolate or coffee

from really nice citizens, using the HUMVEE to warm up, not to mention taking verbal abuse (homeowners that wanted to get back to their homes where the streets were blocked or taxi-cabs wanting to make some money) ... Oh, the excitement.

Although we were not close to any of the activities, the sheer excitement of contributing and being in the area for this event was a career moment. It did take us a little longer to get our release from the Army, however, we all made it back safely. The stories we all can tell.

A great ending – 111th Finance Office came through again! We arrived back with travel vouchers already prepared for us to write in our personal information and then get on our way home to a take a nice long bath or shower, and to experience sleep in a nice soft bed. Payment for this temporary duty assignment hit our banking accounts within one week of the return.

Another stellar performance by the members of the 111th Fighter Wing!

MacDill deployment 2009

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Marie Harmon



Photo by Master Sgt. Patrick Cashin

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Marie Harmon



Photo by Master Sgt. Patrick Cashin



Wing heads to Florida; kicks off training Pa. style

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

MACDILL AIR FORCE BASE, Fla.— Approximately 160 guardsmen with the 111th Fighter Wing, Pa., Air National Guard, arrived here Feb. 17 to support the Joint Tactical-Air Controllers (JTACS) from Avon Park Air Force Range located in central Florida.

“The JTACs communicate, plan and facilitate the execution of close-air support for ground forces while working hand-and-hand with the fighter aircraft in identifying ground targets,” said Senior Master Sgt. John Felice, detachment noncommissioned officer in charge.

“This is the wing’s third year in a row working with the JTACs here. The JTACs requested the wing’s support in preparing other squadrons deploying to Afghanistan for this year’s deployment,” said Lt. Col. Timothy O’ Toole, detachment project officer.

“All of the logistics basically started three months ago,” said Colonel O’ Toole. “We are one of the most recently returned squadrons from Afghanistan. We had a very successful deployment.”

The wing deployed to Afghanistan July 2008, and the JTACs requested the wing’s assistance because of (the wing’s) recent knowledge and experience gained in theater.

“The advantage we have is our massive experience. We are going to use our knowledge to train the JTACs,” said Colonel O’Toole. Sharing knowledge through experience gained has been a common practice during this deployment.

Tech. Sgt. Michael Scully, 111th Maintenance Squadron electro-environmental technician, participated in last year’s MacDill deployment.

“My supervisor, Master Sgt. Andy Jarosz, and I have been working since day one.” said Sergeant Scully. “We’ve trained Koder and Jeffries and brought them up to spec from the C-130s to the A-10s. It’s very good having them, and they are definitely an asset to our shop.”

In addition to training the JTACs, another goal was to bring people who normally do not get the opportunity to deploy on a regular basis, considering this could possibly be the unit’s last trip with the



Photo By Tech. Sgt. Marie Harmon

Lt. Col. Ed Fink, a pilot from the 111th Fighter Wing, Pa. Air National Guard does a final pre-flight inspection before launching during A-10A Snowbird Support Exercise at MacDill Air Force Base, Tampa, Fla.



Wing members reflect on their past, present and future

By Tech. Sgt. Jonathan E. White
111th FW Public Affairs Office

It was 21 years ago. That's when the 111th Fighter Wing transitioned to the OA-10A Thunderbolt II. However, the Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC) recommendations of May 2005 would mark the beginning of the end of the A-10 era at Willow Grove Naval Air Station.

As the slated reassignment of the A-10s draw nearer, 111th FW personnel reflect on their families and military career.

Traditional guardsman Staff Sgt. Christy Bradberry, maintenance training, has been serving in the military and has been a member of the wing for over 5 ½ years. The mother of three young children enlisted because she wanted to continue the family tradition.

"My uncle is a retired colonel who served in the marines and my grandfather was a prisoner of war (POW) in World War II. I also had another uncle who was a glider-pilot in World War II who died in combat," said Bradberry.

Bradberry began her military career working in plans and scheduling, but recently changed to training.

"It's (training) similar to what I do on the outside in the civilian world. I figured it would fit me a little better."

As a civilian, she is a full-time special education teacher at Easton Area Middle School. She said that her experience in plans and scheduling in addition to her new career in training will give her many options for the future.

"I love being in the military and the guard. It's a shame people are going their separate ways," said Bradberry who remains optimistic. "But everyone will be fine. I'll be fine. I plan on continuing through retirement." While Bradberry looks forward to one day retiring, some members are closer to retirement.

Full-timer Master Sgt. Dave Pritts, logistics manager of the maintenance group, has been serving in the military for 36 years and has been a member of the wing for 30 years. Married and a father of two sons (both Penn State students), Pritts joined the military in 1973 and served active duty during the Vietnam War.

"At the time (President) Nixon was talking about the all volunteer Army and I didn't believe him," said Pritts. Since taking his initial oath, Pritts has been deployed numerous times to several locations: Kuwait, Afghanistan, and Germany, to name a few. It was his deployment to Kuwait that sticks in his memory.

"My oldest son was in second or third grade," said Pritts. "One of his classmates told him that your father (I) wasn't coming back, he's going to die there."

When Pritts returned home from this deployment, his family became accustomed to his future deployments. "It was like other fathers going to Chicago on a business trip. It became no big deal."

Pritts plans to retire from Willow Grove and will continue to work while his sons are in college. He plans to move to Ocala, Florida in the future.

"Military people are just different than a lot of people in a good way," said Pritts. "I think we are more aware of what goes on than the average person because we are affected more by what goes on in the nation than most people."

MOVING UP, MOVING IN AND MOVING OUT

PROMOTIONS

To Master Sergeant

MSgt Richard S. Johnston 111 MXS

To Technical Sergeant

TSgt Jerrod R. Foresman 201 RHS
Det. 1

TSgt James M. McKeon 111 MXS

To Staff Sergeant

SSgt Benjamin B. Baci 111 MXS

SSgt Eli D'Angelo 111 MSF

SSgt Alberto R. Franco 270 EIS

SSgt Thomas E. Green III 111 MSG

SSgt Daniel A. Saalfrank 111 MSG

SSgt James J. Schmidt 270 EIS

SSgt Paul Stadelberger 111 MXS

To Senior Airman

SrA Stephen T. Agnew, Jr. 270 EIS

SrA Craig T. Beale 111 CF

SrA Dharamdeo Behari 270 EIS

SrA Aaron M. Thieroff 111 MXS

SrA Ashley B. Thieroff 111 MXS

EXTENSIONS

TSgt Andrew A. Marszalek III 111 MOF

ENLISTMENTS

SSgt Michael L. Belsito 201 RHS Det. 1

SSgt Richard J. Marino 111 SVF

SSgt Julie L. Parker 111 FW

SrA Jason T. Boyle 111 SVF

SrA Jason M. Nicol 111 MSG

SrA Eric M. Reifsnnyder 201 RHS Det. 1

A1C Ibn M. Dunell 111 SVF

A1C Matthew J. Ferguson 270 EIS

A1C Mark L. Miller 201 RHS Det. 1

RETIREMENTS

Col Michael Hajatian 111 MDG

MSgt Louis R. Cujdik 201 RHS Det. 1

MSgt Mark H. Katzmann 111 OSF

TSgt Linda G. Varichione 111 LRS

SSgt Jeffrey D. Fox 270 EIS

SSgt Michael A. Schantz 111 MXS

OFFICER APPOINTMENT

Maj Angela McDonough 111 MDG

UTA MENU (PITCAIRN REC CENTER)

Sat. March 7

Meatloaf

Chicken Marsala

Oven Roasted Potatoes

Gravy

Green Beans

Assorted desserts

Sun. March 8

Roast Beef

Parmesan Crusted Tilapia

Mashed Potatoes

Mixed Vegetables

Assorted desserts

MARCH UTA WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Protestant Service will be held at 8:30 a.m. in Bldg. 203 Room 203. 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:

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

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Tues, Thurs, Fri

8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Wed & Sat 8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.



Graduation

(Left to right) Tech. Sgt. Jill Winter, Staff Sgt. Susanna Gyger, Brig. Gen. Eric Weller, Staff Sgt. Christopher Yatsuk and Tech Sgt. Kendra Broscius. Willow Grove members attended the Noncommissioned Officer Supervisor Management seminar that took place at Fort Indiantown Gap Jan. 22-25.



Photo courtesy of Staff Sgt. Susanna Gyger

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"

<http://www.171arw.ang.af.mil>

Pa. Guardians Magazine

<http://guardians.aqppublishing.com>

National News:

On Guard Magazine

Published every Jan., April, July, Oct.

<http://www.ngb.army.mil/news/theonguard>

Airman Magazine

Published bi-monthly and now available online

<http://www.airmanonline.af.mil>

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