

# Sandy g Gazette

111th Fighter Wing

Pa Air National Guard

Willow Grove Air Reserve Station, Pa.

Volume 15 Issue 1

January 2010



Happy Holidays  
to the  
111th Fighter Wing



*On the cover: Staff Sgt. Christine Kohler, 111th Mission Support Group, decorates a Christmas tree while deployed to Southeast Asia during this holiday season.*

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## Keep playing ball

By Colonel Howard "Chip" Eissler  
111th Operations Group Commander

Here we are — the start of a New Year, a time for a New Year resolution, I'll give you mine.

As I get older, which seems to happen every year, I find myself making analogies to try to explain just about everything. So here's my hack at an analogy. Perfect fit for January, deep into football season and I'm coming off my first year as a head coach of a Pee Wee football team. I'm going to relate one of the lessons I learned in my year of coaching and apply it to this year as my resolution.

I'm sure many of us played some ball growing up, and everyone that did should have walked away from those endeavors with some solid life lessons. I got a new one from this last season. We started off the season a little slow, losing two of our first three games. Now, you have to put Pee Wee football into context, it's a bunch of old men reliving the glory days vicariously though a bunch of eight and nine year olds - and of course, one and two is a tough way to start as season. So, to get the kids fired up we came up with four rules to bring to practice and hopefully translate to game day. These four rules I'm taking into this New Year and hopefully into our new future at the 111th are: DISCIPLINE, DESIRE, INTENSITY, and CONFIDENCE. When you break down this simple plan for any event, be it work or play, it will take you far.

**Discipline:** We taught the kids to show up to every practice on time ready to work. As operations are winding down in the flying world, it becomes easy to cut corners. It's now more than ever that each and every one of us doesn't let this happen to us. If we are flying one sortie a day or twelve sorties a day, the same attention to detail needs to go into getting that aircraft and pilot through the mission and back home safely. I've always found in my life when I don't have a lot to do it's hard to do anything. When I'm busy, it's much easier to put 100 percent effort into each and every task. Now in Ops, only flying three or four times per month, many of us find ourselves with additional free time on our hands. Here is the time for discipline. Discipline to put the effort into every sortie, every preflight, and every other



*Colonel Howard Eissler*

program the Wing designs to keep us ready. You never know when we be called to deploy again.

**Desire:** Many kids sign up for football for various reasons; we keep score - you have to have the desire to win. Flights suiters want to fly, wrench turners want to fix jets. Those days seem to be coming to an end. We now need to look for that desire within to decide if we want to stay involved. I'm going to bet that each and every one of us not only has the desire to do the job today, we have the desire to serve. Our unit will continue to "feed the fight" in CENTCOM no matter what mission we take on. As we speak, we have over 100 members deployed or preparing to deploy; I'm betting that number goes up before it goes down. We need to have the desire to take on any mission the Air Force or ANG decides we need to fill and play it to win.

**Intensity:** From my assistant coach, Coach Griffin, "What's the most important play in football?" Answer: "It's this play coach!" Same goes for everyday of work: each day counts as much as the last. We need to show up every day to tackle that day's challenge with the intensity of AEF preparation. It doesn't matter what mission we fall into here at the 111th,

**Eissler** continued on Page 6



# COMMAND CHIEF'S PERSPECTIVE

## *A New Decade Begins*

By Command Chief Master Sgt. Ralph Braden  
Pennsylvania Air National Guard Command Chief

A new year and a new decade have just begun. As I am writing this article, the year and a decade are rapidly coming to an end. For many of us, the end of a year brings with it a time of celebration, reflection, thanks, and hope. The end of a decade gives pause for further contemplation.

### **Celebration**

I hope that most of you were able to celebrate the holiday season with your families. It is important to take time to spend with our families and celebrate the things that are important to us. This time not only brings us joy but also recharges our batteries and revitalizes our drive to do what we do.

I had the pleasure of celebrating and recognizing our Air National Guard family with the 193d Special Operations Wing in December during their Hometown Heroes Salute Ceremony. We celebrated and recognized the contributions of those Airmen that have deployed since 9/11/01. We also recognized the families of those Airmen for their support and sacrifice in their Airmen's absence.

Also we recognized the sacrifices and support of the Airmen's centers of influence. The center of influence may be an employer, family member, or friend. They are the individuals that supported the Airman the most during their deployment.

I look forward to attending many more of the Hometown Heroes Salute Ceremonies in the coming years. These ceremonies are an example of our Air Guard family celebrations that bring us joy and recharge our batteries.

### **Reflection**

Reflecting on the year past makes me realize how busy our Air Guard family was in 2009. We had two high profile Joint missions in which we participated, which were President Obama's inauguration and the G20 Summit in Pittsburgh. Pennsylvania National Guard members received high praise for our contribution to making these events an outstanding success.

We have had and continue to have our share of Airmen in the fight. Currently approximately 100 mem-



*Command Chief Master Sgt.  
Ralph C. Braden*

bers of the 201st RED HORSE are deployed, bringing the total number of Pennsylvania Air National Guard Airmen deployed in support of the war efforts to some 200.

Reflecting on the last decade, I remember the 34 members of our Pennsylvania National Guard family that made the ultimate sacrifice in service since 9/11/01 in both Iraq and Afghanistan. Please keep the families of these 34 heroes and our deployed members in your thoughts and prayers.

### **Thanks**

I am thankful for the health and well being of my family and myself in 2009. I am also thankful for all the great Airmen of the Pennsylvania Air National Guard. The many accomplishments of our Airmen fill me with pride. It is my great honor to work for the Airmen of the Pennsylvania Air National Guard. My thanks go out to our Airmen, the families that sacrifice and support them, and their employers.

### **Hope**

My hope for the next year and the new decade is for the safety of all our deployed Soldiers and Airmen. As always, we stand ready to defend our Nation and our Commonwealth no matter what the cost. To quote General Douglas MacArthur, "The soldier, above all other people, prays for peace, for he must suffer and bear the deepest wounds and scars of war." I too hope and pray for peace in the coming years.

## National Guard: A legacy of overcoming obstacles, crisis and adversity

By Chief Master Sgt. Harley Delp  
111th Communications Flight

"Houston ... we have a problem". It's a phrase that is a part of our language now. It's what people tend to say just after they recognize a huge mistake or foul-up. Apollo 13 crewmember Jack Swigert originally said those words just as he was recognizing a problem on-board the Command Module of the Apollo 13 spacecraft. That electrical failure with two oxygen tank systems quickly became recognized as a crisis with potentially deadly consequences. A 1995 movie of this amazing and dramatic story examined the difficulties encountered by the crew on that incredible space voyage. It also portrayed how this crisis was overcome through the quick and accurate identification of the underlying technical problems, the careful consideration of appropriate solutions, and an intense determination to effectively coordinate and implement the unique problem-solving measures that ended up saving the astronauts' lives. Something of interest to note is that two of the three Apollo 13 crew members were former Air National Guardsmen!

Astronauts (and fighter pilots) understand well that their chosen career path is far more dangerous, and more vulnerable to crisis than those of us who have careers that permit us to remain here on the ground. That doesn't mean that the rest of us don't experience crisis and adversity every once in awhile too ... we do! In fact, isn't it pretty clear to us all that the whole purpose of the National Guard is for dealing with crisis? Our federal and state missions charge us with providing assistance during national emergencies such as natural disasters (floods, earthquakes, forest fires, snowstorms, hurricanes, etc.) and civil disturbances. As we read those task assignments, we can interpret them to mean that this is an organization whose main function is to deal with serious adversity, and to manage crisis. The National Guard has responded to these dramatic events and conflicts for 373 years! How's that for being one of the longest continuously operating crisis management specialty teams on earth!

Crisis cannot be completely excluded from our lives, it can only be minimized through regular attention to good planning, and careful preparation. How each of us manages adversity in our workplace and at home says a lot about who we are, about our ability to manage effec-

tively, and our capacity to get to the heart of a problem in order to be able to identify possible solutions. We may not be facing life-threatening situations like those Apollo 13 astronauts did, but each of us can say that we've had some significant personal or professional obstacles to overcome at various points. If we look closely at a crisis we may see some other interesting, additional qualities about it. Sometimes there may actually be a useful opportunity hidden within that crisis, and it may require your personal attention to help others to see that opportunity too! Occasionally you may recognize that there actually isn't a real crisis, only a perceived crisis, and in that case, someone else may not have received some key information, or may have misinterpreted some important points.

The "Citizen Soldier" National Guardsman is an expert at being able to "adapt and overcome". It is what we do best. It has been our legacy for all those many years when we've had to fulfill mission requirements with far fewer resources available to us than the active Air Force. Because traditional Guardsmen have both a civilian and a military job, they bring a whole variety of life experiences and professional experiences in their dealings with every situation.

So when you're next faced with some new emergency, or predicament ... meet those challenges head-on. Formulate your responses well, so that they demonstrate the broad scope of experience and training that you've received. Look for those hidden opportunities, and use novel and innovative approaches like those Apollo astronauts and NASA mission controllers did. After all, you're not just any uniquely qualified problem solver and crisis averter. You're an invaluable member of the Pennsylvania Air National Guard!



*Chief Master Sergeant  
Harley Delp*



# Serving overseas: Security Forces to deploy

By Staff Sgt. Gordon Beecroft  
111th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Within the next month, a large team of 111th Security Forces Squadron members will deploy to the 376th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron in Southeast Asia in support of the Global War on Terror.

Major James Williams, Operations Officer, will lead the team on their six-month tour, during which the team will conduct base security operations as well as town patrol missions.

The bulk of the forces in the area of responsibility are traditional reservists and guardsmen, broken off into 180-day rotations.

For some of the deploying guardsmen, this type of mission will be their first time performing combat operations in a real-world situation and, according to Senior Master Ser-

geant Kevin A'Hearn, 111th Security Forces Superintendent, it is essential for Airmen to train as they will fight in order to prepare them for the tasks they will need to perform and the environment they will be performing them in. For this reason, the group underwent an extensive, two-week training course in early December at the 99th Combat Training Squadron, Creech Air Force Base, Nev., where they were instructed in ground combat weapons training and realistic situations they may potentially face overseas.

For others, this deployment will be old hat. "Our leadership is experienced, some being 20-year veterans, with knowledge of the location we are headed," expressed the senior master sergeant. "I am confident in the unit and the success of the mission."

**Eissler** continued

what matters is the people, how they do their job, and preparing our people to meet the call when it comes.

**Confidence:** We tried to teach our kids not only to have confidence in their skills; we tried to teach them to have the confidence to try new things. Same thing applies to us today – have confidence that you make a difference. We are a world class organization, the BEST A-10 unit in the country, bar none. As we move on, everyone needs to have confidence in the skills they have developed over the years. Most of us will cross train to a new career field, but believe me, the people who have been serving here in the past have potential in the future mission.

I think our kids at least listened to us as we preached our plan and I certainly try to practice as I preach. Every time I look at the history of this Wing I'm impressed. I'm confident ten years from now I'll still be impressed with the people of this unit. Change is tough. I'm ready to find out where we're going as a unit and tackle the challenge with my New Year's resolution in mind – I hope we all are. Oh yeah, after the implementation of our plan, we only lost one more game during our 10-game season (and that was on a fluke fumble and a bad call).

## Serving those who've served us ...



Major General Jessica Wright, The Adjutant General, Pennsylvania National Guard, serves a Christmas lunch to one of the residents of the Delaware Valley Veteran's Home located in Philadelphia, Pa., Dec. 10.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Julie Parker

# Angel Tree:

## Wing members make children's dreams a reality at Christ's Home

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



On Dec. 15, volunteers from the 111th Fighter Wing, Pa. Air National Guard, dropped off items donated by Wing members, to Christ's Home for Children in Warminster, Pa. The unwrapped gifts were collected under the annual Angel Tree program, a gift-giving campaign focused on brightening the holidays of children and youth residing at Christ's Home for Children.

Staff Sgt. Adam Jenkins, a vehicle operations specialist with the 111th Logistics Readiness Squadron, drove the box truck full of gifts over to Christ's Home and helped unload the items. It was his first time being involved in the Angel Tree program. "I felt just like Santa," Sergeant Jenkins explained. "It was a chance to make a difference in the lives of these children and it was so gratifying. The practicality of the items they requested shows the need, and the gratification of the manager of the home said it all. We should be proud of our contribu-

tions; I only wish we could do more."

Beginning with November's unit training assembly (UTA), participants selected a paper "Angel" from a Christmas tree in the Dining Facility. By the end of December's UTA, they needed to purchase listed item(s) and drop them off unwrapped to a 111th SFS Angel Tree representative. The following week, the items were logged and sorted based on the attached paper "Angel," ensuring all children re-

ceive the correct gift(s). Missing items were purchased with over \$600 dollars donated by Wing members and the Chiefs' Council. A variety of items were requested to include: books, clothing, toys, car seats, broom and dustpan, a television, DVD player and a vacuum cleaner.

In 1903, Christ's Home was founded to care for needy or neglected children and youth. Twenty years later, they expanded to include a retirement community.



**Shown left to right are: Chief Master Sgt. James Finn and Senior Master Sgt. Kevin A'Hearn, 111th Security Forces Sq., Command Chief Master Sgt. Richard Mertz, 103rd Fighter Sq., Amy Neill, Christ's Home Warminster campus coordinator, Joan Shaffer, 111th Security Forces Sq., Staff Sgt. Adam Jenkins, 111th Logistics Sq., and Staff Sgt. William Davis, 201st RED HORSE Sq. Det. 1.**





# 'Tis the Season:

## Wing celebrates holidays with friends, family

Master Sgt. Jay Epler, 111th Maintenance Group, helps his son, Gabe, make a wood working project at the Home Depot Kid's Workshop table during the 111th Fighter Wing's holiday celebration held Dec. 6.

Photo by Tech Sgt. Marie Harmon



Members of the 111th Fighter Wing, families and friends enjoyed music, food, and a yearly visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus.

Photo by Tech Sgt. Alvin Farrow

Volunteers from local businesses came out to celebrate the holidays with the 111th Fighter Wing Guardsmen.

Photo by Tech Sgt. Marie Harmon





## TRICARE Program for gray area reservists on its way

FALLS CHURCH, Va. - A new program will offer “gray area” reservists the opportunity to purchase TRICARE health care coverage.

While qualified members of the Selected Reserve may purchase premium-based coverage under TRICARE Reserve Select (TRS), retired National Guard and Reserve personnel did not have TRICARE health coverage options until they reached age 60.

Under a provision of the National Defense Authorization Act for 2010, that’s all changed. The new provision will allow certain members of the Retired Reserve who are not yet age 60 (“gray-area” retirees), to purchase TRICARE Standard (and Extra) coverage. TRICARE Extra simply means beneficiaries have lower out of pocket costs if they use a network provider.

“We’re working hard to coordinate all the details of eligibility, coverage and costs, and expedite implementation of this important program,” said Rear Adm. Christine Hunter, deputy director of the TRICARE Management Activity. “This is a major benefit program with implementation on the same magnitude as TRS. It will require detailed design, development and testing, but qualified retired reservists should be able to purchase coverage by late summer or early fall of 2010.”

While the health care benefit provided for gray-area retirees will be TRICARE Standard and Extra – similar to TRS – the new program will differ from TRS in its qualifications, premiums, copayment rates and catastrophic cap requirements. The program is tentatively called TRICARE Retired Reserve.

The new statute requires premium rates to equal the full cost of the coverage. That is the major difference contrasted with TRS, where the statute provides that Selected Reserve members pay only 28 percent of the cost of the coverage. Premiums for the new gray area retiree program will be announced after program rules are published in the Federal Register.

This new program offers an important health coverage option for Reserve and National Guard members who served their country honorably before hanging up their uniforms at retirement, said Hunter. For more information about TRICARE benefits go to <http://www.tricare.mil>.

## Air Force memo addresses personal vehicle safety

The Secretary and Chief of Staff of the Air Force addressed Personal Motor Vehicle Safety and the need to reverse a negative trend in Air Force motorcycle and automobile fatalities in a recent memorandum.

According to the letter, in fiscal year 2009, seventy percent of motor vehicle fatalities and 63 percent of automobile fatalities were due to reckless behavior that could have been avoided. These deaths were a result of behavior-based decisions such as speeding, alcohol use, no helmet/seatbelt use or extreme maneuvers.

The letter clearly states that all Air National Guard members should operate motor vehicles in a responsible manner on and off duty and that their goal in bringing this negative pattern to light is to reverse the trend and preserve the lives of friends, family and members.

## *Celebrating 373 years of National Guard heritage*

The National Guard celebrated 373 years of service Dec. 13. The Guard’s heritage began in 1636 when the Massachusetts Bay Colony’s militia companies were organized into three regiments — the North, South and East Regiments, and became the first organized defense forces.

“The National Guard has never been more central to our nation’s defense or more important to the success of our Army and Air Force,” said General Craig McKinley, Chief, National Guard Bureau. “The respect and gratitude shown by the American people for our Citizen Soldiers and Airmen have never been greater.”

## Air Force officials announce fiscal '10 force structure realignments

WASHINGTON (AFNS) — Air Force officials here announced June 26 its proposed force structure realignment for fiscal 2010.

The announcement addresses the Air Force's force structure, realignment and management actions supported by the president's fiscal 2010 budget and summarizes the civilian and military personnel changes as well as the reassignment of aircraft at bases for the upcoming fiscal year.

It reflects adjustments which will provide unsurpassed global vigilance, global reach and global power ... to fly, fight and win in air, space and cyberspace -- today and in the future, given available resources.

"The force structure announcement reflects our best effort to meet the expanding Air Force

mission areas and growing joint demands," said Gen. Norton Schwartz, the Air Force chief of staff.

The announcement does not include programmatic actions in fiscal 2011 and beyond.

"We've made some hard choices," General Schwartz said. "However, we believe this is the best overall design to meet America's national security needs and support to the joint fight."

The announcement specifies the force structure changes experienced by the total force: Air Force active duty, Air National Guard, and Air Force Reserve. Implementation of these actions will occur only after completion of appropriate environmental analyses.

*(Courtesy of AF News)*

## Air Guard recognition program continues in 2010

ARLINGTON, Va. — An Air National Guard award campaign that has honored thousands of Citizen-Airmen, families and civilians this year will continue into 2010, officials said here today.

The Air Guard's Hometown Heroes Salute campaign recognizes Airmen who have deployed since 9/11 as well their families and personal "centers of influence," who supported them.

"It's to celebrate every single Airman that you have, and their family and the community that is taking care of you," Chief Master Sgt. Christopher Muncy, command chief of the Air National Guard, recently told the National Guard's top leaders.

The success of the program was measured through the dozens of events that took place around the nation this year. During the recognition ceremonies, Airmen are awarded a cherry-wood encased letter of appreciation signed by the Air Guard's director and command chief, which is enclosed with a commemorative coin.

In addition, spouses or significant others receive an engraved pen and pencil set and medallion. Each child receives engraved dog tags.

"They have gone off very well," said Linda Brooks, the campaign's program manager at the Guard

Bureau. "The average unit has about 500 people to recognize."

Thousands of Airmen will eventually be honored though the campaign for their deployments in Operations Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom and Noble Eagle.

About 10 percent of the 135 eligible Air Guard units held ceremonies this year, said Brooks.

"Everyone has done it with the pomp and circumstance that not only honors Airmen, but honors their families and the community," said Brooks. "They are proud of them for doing what they do."

Although the program was introduced last January, the first batch of awards only began arriving in the field in May. The first ceremony was held by Louisiana Air Guard, and many units are still awaiting their awards or are awaiting the best time to hold their ceremonies, said Brooks.

A Web site, launched in April, connects units to award ordering, eligibility criteria and other valuable information and is accessed through the Air Force Portal.

"Bottom line, this is the right thing to do," said Muncy. "So take care of your Airmen, the greatest Airmen in the United States Air Force."

*(Courtesy of Air National Guard)*



# MOVING UP MOVING IN MOVING OUT

## PROMOTIONS

### To SrA

Jessica A. Berger	111th MDG
Jermaine M. Graham	111th MDG
Michael J. Hreczan	111th MDG
Nickolas A. Perez	201st RHS, Det. 1
Ryan M. Pursell	201st RHS, Det. 1
Kevin R. Sweeney	111th MSG

### To SSgt

Daniel J. McLeer	103rd FS
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### To TSgt

Rodolfo Arroyo	111th MOF
Miguel A. Colon	111th SFS
William C. Gallagher	270th EIS
Tod E. Lorah	270th EIS

### To MSgt

Marc D. Alexander	111th MXS
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### To CMSgt

Jeffrey C. Hanson	111th MXS
Marian L. Livesay	111th MDG

### To Lt Col

Robert T. Sonnenberg	111th FW
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## ENLISTMENTS

TSgt Andrew S. Ornelas	111th FSS
SSgt Chadwick W. Atwood	270th EIS
SSgt Chann E. Chhim	201st RHS, Det. 1
SSgt James S. Morrison	201st RHS, Det. 1
SrA Javan R. Behler	201st RHS, Det. 1
A1C Kevin W. Kozik	201st RHS, Det. 1
A1C Steven A. Mahler	201st RHS, Det. 1
A1C Brandon C. Richetta-Kinnaman	201st RHS, Det. 1

## RE-ENLISTMENTS

SMSgt Curtis J. Craigle	270th EIS
SMSgt Brian D. Mack	111th MXS
MSgt Michael J. Arnold	111th MDG
MSgt Craig Harlacker	111th FW
MSgt Troy S. Harrell	111th MXS
MSgt Steven B. Lewis	111th CF
MSgt Dwayne E. McCrea	111th MXS
MSgt James J. McGuire	111th MXS
MSgt Brian K. Tucker	111th MXS
TSgt Thomas B. Davidson	111th LRS
TSgt Charles V. Flynn Jr.	111th FSS
TSgt Andre K. Ligon	111th MDG
SSgt Michael Finch	111th MXS
SSgt Christopher W. Irwin	111th MXS
SSgt John A. Lauf Jr.	201st RHS, Det. 1

## EXTENSIONS

SrA Mark F. Esposito	111th SFS
SrA Jonathan M. Garrett	111th FSS
SrA Terrance R. Graham Jr.	111th FSS

## RETIREMENTS

Lt Col Thomas A. Doyle	111th FW	32 Years
Maj David A. Kellner	111th MSG	20 Years
CMSgt David J. Soldano	111th LRS	26 Years
MSgt Beverly S. West	111th LRS	22 Years
MSgt Daniel P. Wine	111th AMXS	34 Years
TSgt Mark A. Fossesca	111th MXS	25 Years
SSgt David M. Mosier	270th EIS	23 Years

## UTA MENU PITCAIRN

### Saturday, Jan. 9

Baked Chicken  
Tilapia  
Seasoned Rice  
String Beans  
Salad Bar  
Assorted Desserts

### Sunday, Jan. 10

Pasta Primavera  
Sausage and Peppers  
Corn  
Garlic Knots  
Salad Bar  
Assorted Dessert

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## UTA WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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

Catholic Service will be held at 10:00 in Building 203 Auditorium.

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

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### FY 10 UTAs:

9-10 January 2010  
6-7 February 2010  
6-7 March 2010  
10-11 April 2010  
15-16 May 2010  
5-6 July 2010  
10-11 July 2010  
7-8 August 2010  
11-12 September 2010

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### TAKE A LOOK!

Photos from unit events are updated and posted on Y: drive at Y:\111fw Shared\Photos

# Congratulations!



Staff Sgt. Christopher Burnett  
and wife Tasha  
welcomed  
Ethan Burnett  
Dec. 13.

Second Lieutenant Tim McManus  
and wife Leslie  
welcomed  
Katherine Claire McManus  
Dec. 6.



## 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>

Digital Video & Imagery Distribution  
System (DVIDS), DOD News

<http://www.dvidshub.net>

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