

Sandy Hog Gazette

111th Fighter Wing Willow Grove Air Reserve Station Pa Air National Guard
Volume 15 Issue 5 May 2011



Hometown Heroes Ceremony to be held May 15



Logistics
personnel
deployed to
Southwest
Asia



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Alvin Farrow

Meet the Member

Master Sgt. Chuck McNevin, 111th Force Support Squadron, inspects items which will be shipped on a military cargo plane for the 201st RED HORSE Squadron, Det. 1 Operational Readiness Exercise.

McNevin is from Perkasio, Pa. and has been a member of the 111th Fighter Wing since 1982. He is a full-time technician whose future goals include obtaining a bachelor's degree in emergency management hazmat inspection and achieving the rank of senior master sergeant.

On the cover:

Members of the 111th Logistics Readiness Squadron deployed with the 386th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron pose for a group photo Apr. 7 at an undisclosed location in South-west Asia. Shown (left to right) are Master Sgt. Timothy Ragan, Staff Sgt. Steven Neidert (193rd LRS), Staff Sgt. Brian Baker, Maj. Richard Citrino, Tech. Sgt. Joe Sommers, Senior Master Sgt. John Robinson, Tech. Sgt. Bryon Lockett, and Senior Master Sgt. Richard Bolton. Shown kneeling are: Tech. Sgt. Chris Winchester and Senior Airman Francis Rozaieski.

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Deadlines for submissions to the June issue of the Sandy Hog Gazette is May 17. E-mail articles and photos for consideration to: pa.111fw@ang.af.mil.

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Looking back at a military career

By Lt. Col. Don Landis
111th Security Forces Squadron

As my military career comes to a close the end of this year, I truly am glad to have this last opportunity to pass along a few thoughts to some of the finest men and women that I have had the distinct pleasure to serve with over these years.

When asked, what was so memorable about being in the military, the answer is clearly, the people you serve with. For we alone share a bond as veterans, in that we lived and worked together in this nation's premier melting pot on a common ground, for a common purpose, with folks from all walks of life. We are a small segment of this country's populace, who I have witnessed putting service before self, who volunteered to this nation unconditionally, support this nation through all of its trials, and love it with all they have. We became united, with a set of goals and tasks so important and entrusted to us, to ensure the continued freedoms our nation and our families enjoy. There was no one person that could bear these burdens alone.

It took all of us, and it was that which brought us together, and formed that bond to each other, to the unit, and to this nation.

What a blessing, and an honor it has been, to have known so many of you, and to have shared with you, in the duty to our country. This I will treasure forever. Enjoy those moments in the military; even the ones standing in line, you'll meet a lot of friends there.

On a final note, take care of each other always, and always be the advocate for your fellow veteran.



Lt. Col. Don Landis



Honor Guard members post the colors at a Philadelphia Union soccer game against the Seattle Sounders held Apr. 16 at PPL Park in Philadelphia, Pa. Shown (left to right) are Staff Sgt. Anthony Kears (201st RHS, Det. 1), Master Sgt. Matt Kauffman (HQ Pa. ANG), Senior Airman Scott Davis (111th AOG), and Tech. Sgt. Alex Sutherland (Delaware ANG).

Recognizing our Airmen

By Command Chief Master Sgt. Richard Mertz
111th Fighter Wing

Air Force Instruction 36-2618, The Enlisted Force Structure (the little brown book) mentions in several areas within its pages, "Promote organizational spirit de corps", and, "Recognize and reward airman." So what might be one way we as, airmen, leaders, or supervisors be able to accomplish this. How about, a little recognition?

Accolades come from many different sources including our superiors, our peers, our families, and even complete strangers. Each of us reacts to recognition differently. Some are embarrassed, or humbled, while others crave it, are motivated by it and some even gain self-esteem from it. Recognition is important, in that it helps instill pride and job satisfaction to our Airmen. It also helps in career progression, advancement and could ultimately aid with a possible promotion.

Our folks and their families have been making many sacrifices through the years to ensure the mission gets accomplished, and the outstanding accomplishments of our Airmen deserve recognition. It does not have to always come from a large formation, or higher headquarters. How about a supervisor who takes time to submit his or her Airman for a local award? Maybe it comes from an Airman who points out a job well done at a staff meeting, or a commander who walks down the hall to thank someone for the work that they do.

There have been many local awards posted on our own announcement page all through the year, from the VFW, American Legion, PNGAS, even our local communities just to name a few. These are all ways we can recognize the great things that happen every day throughout our careers. While the "good job" or the pat on the back can do the job, it is very important to take that extra step and formally recognize our people for their accomplishments.

Information about Air Force Awards can be



Command Chief Master Sgt. Richard Mertz

found in AFI 36-2803, The Air Force Awards and Decorations Program. We in the Guard also have our State awards listed in PaANG 36-2802. Some of these awards only require a little time and effort with a letter of recommendation.

Big Blue also sponsors various special trophies and awards programs. Individuals can receive these awards in recognition, for example, an act of bravery, an outstanding achievement, or a period of meritorious service. These trophies and awards are unique in that commanders must nominate individuals to compete for these awards, an example of this would be the Outstanding Airmen of the Year Award of which I am sure you have all heard me bring that up once or twice at staff meetings or the Commanders Call video each month that everyone views.

AFPAM 36-2241, Professional Development Guide, states, "Recognition is a key factor in perpetuating improvements. Hence, an important facet of empowerment is the appropriate recognition of contributions subordinates make to maximize mission success." If you still need a copy of either AFPAM 36-2241 or AFI 36-2618, please see me, I have plenty of copies to go around. And to each and every one of you, thanks for your continued support and thank you for your service.

The State Command Chief's Perspective can be found on the 111th FW public website:
www.111fw.ang.af.mil/pastatecommandchief.asp and on the 111th FW Air Force Portal page.

This month's topic: Held to a higher standard, integrity first

The future is now at Willow Grove: Expeditionary Combat Support System

By Maj. Rich Citrino
111th Logistics Readiness Squadron

The Air Force is in the midst of an historical transformation. The way the Air Force is organized and the ways that airpower is employed are changing in revolutionary ways. Changing, too, are the ways in which Air Force Logisticians provide support to warfighters.

The Expeditionary Combat Support System (ECSS) is the cornerstone enabler of the logistics transformation effort. Using an Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) software solution, ECSS is applying best commercial practices and using industry-proven tools to establish the Air Force's first capability to globally view and manage its logistics resources (i.e., major end items, materiel, people, and funds).

But ECSS is much more than an IT system. It will fundamentally change business processes, personnel roles, and jobs across the spectrum of the Air Force logistics community. Locally, ECSS will drive dramatic changes and improvements in the way logistics is done.

For example, the process of scheduling a repair currently means setting a repair date at the base level without the ability to ensure technicians, parts, facilities, tools, etc., are available Air Force-wide. With ECSS, an integrated global view of people/parts availability will enable greater scheduling effectiveness and ultimately increase availability of repaired components or major end items. Simply put, Air Force logisticians will have what they need to get the job done when repairs are system-scheduled under ECSS.

Citing another example, today Air Force logisticians collectively rely on paper forms and enter data into multiple base-level systems. This labor-intensive effort will be replaced by entering data once into one system. When fully implemented, ECSS will replace hundreds of logistics information systems and will be the single source of truth for logistics information.

While it will be several years before ECSS reaches full operational capability and its benefits are fully realized, the implementation process is already underway. And, that process will affect Willow Grove very soon.

ECSS will be fielded throughout the Air Force

in multiple releases and Willow Grove will see ECSS fielded in February 2013. While that may seem to be a part of the distant future, the reality is that we need to begin preparing for ECSS now.

To help with that preparation, the ECSS program conducted its kickoff meeting with Willow Grove leaders and ECSS users during January 2011. During that meeting, ECSS program officials delivered an informational and educational briefing about ECSS, its goals, program timelines, and how the Air Force will be affected.

The kickoff represented the beginning of the ECSS organizational change management program, which is designed to help prepare everyone for this transformation effort. History tells us that no change is ever successful until individual behaviors change. The people who perform Air Force logistics processes (from all functional communities) must personally engage in the transformative aspects of ECSS in order for it to succeed.

As is always the case, these sweeping changes will not be easy, as long-standing ways of doing business will either dramatically change or completely disappear. ECSS will pull people from their comfort zones and cause

them to do new tasks in different, unfamiliar ways. To help logisticians navigate these changes, the ECSS program will provide education and training programs for those who will use the new system. An Air Force-wide change agent network, supported by an ECSS program team, will share information on ECSS activities, schedules, and lessons learned and conduct local problem-solving meetings to help smooth implementation at each installation. This same network will support the sustainment of ECSS after fielding is completed.

ECSS will drive changes in the way the Air Force does business and the way logisticians perform their jobs. The result will be an Air Force enterprise better enabled to provide its warfighters the right materiel at the right time. ECSS will also enable logisticians to use their time more productively, significantly reducing the cost of accomplishing the Air Force logistics mission.

To learn more about ECSS, contact Maj. Rich Citrino at (215) 443-1366 or visit <https://www.ecss.wpafb.af.mil>.





Photo by Tech. Sgt. Alvin Farrow

Meet the Member

Staff Sgt. Joshua Anthony, 111th Logistics Readiness Squadron Traffic Journeyman, inspects hazardous and non hazardous shipments ensuring they are properly labeled during the 201st RED HORSE Squadron, Det. 1 Operational Readiness Exercise (ORE).

Anthony is from Harrisburg, Pa., and has been a member of the 111th Fighter Wing for ten years.

During the week, he works as an industrial specialist for the Defense Contract Management Agency. Anthony's future goals include completing his bachelor's degree and being commissioned as an officer. He plays chess in his spare time.

Upcoming Events for the Wing

Tues. May 10, 2011
Sun. May 15, 2011

American Red Cross Blood Drive
Hometown Heroes Salute Awards
Ceremony and Family Day

HQ Bldg. 203 Auditorium
Outside area of Bldg. 203

Sun. Jun. 5, 2011
Sun. Jun. 5, 2011

Sports Day
EFAC Barbeque

Various base locations
Pavillon area of Bldg. 300

Hometown Heroes Salute Award ceremony begins at 10:30.
Please be in place at least 15 minutes prior and turn off all electronic devices.

Family Day starts immediately after the conclusion of the
Hometown Heroes Salute Awards Ceremony and runs until 3 p.m.

Coming
next
month...



RED HORSE
conducts ORI
training at Fort
Indiantown Gap



Families of the Wing

Husband-wife team serving the Wing in a variety of ways

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

Staff Sgt. Danielle Heidrick is a services journeyman assigned to the 111th Force Support Squadron. In August of 2006, she enlisted in the Pa. Air National Guard. She is a traditional guardsman. She is only a few credits away from completing her Community College of the Air Force degree. She is also working on her 7-level career development course. She would love to obtain full-time employment with the Guard. Her ultimate goal would be to achieve the rank of chief master sergeant.

Senior Master Sgt. John Heidrick is a full-time technician and vehicle maintenance superintendent assigned to the 270th Engineering Installation Squadron. He joined the unit and the Pa. Air National Guard in June of 1988. He looks forward to fulfilling his career as a chief master sergeant.

Both members are part of the Honor Guard. "I love being in the unit with my husband," said Danielle. "It gives us a common ground. I love discussing military issues with him and it's nice to be able to see each other on drill weekends."

"I think it is great being in the unit together, it's just one more thing I enjoy with my wife," John explained. "Danielle and I detailed together during Lt. Gov. Knoll's funeral. We performed Sentinel duties at the Capitol Rotunda in Harrisburg together and to see Danielle professionally performing as part of our Honor Guard was an inspiring moment."

"I have many fond memories of being able to work together, especially being in the Honor Guard together," said Danielle. "We have done several events at the Union League. Last year we posted colors for an event on my birthday. That was fun and memorable since he decided to tell anyone who would listen to him that it was my birthday. The more embarrassed I got, the more people he told!"

"The Air National Guard is definitely a family affair for us," said Danielle. "Our oldest daughter Rebecca is currently in the Student Flight program and will enlist in June of this year. Our son Phillip is 15 years-old and has also made the decision to enlist when he turns 17. Our youngest children Savannah and Saharrah participate by helping out with the Family Readiness Group during various events. Savannah's Girl Scout Troop has worked with the FRG on several occasions to help families in the unit."

"I enjoy putting the uniform on every day," said John. "My family sees how important the military is and how we are a part of the military family. I'm looking forward to when my daughter returns from basic training and technical school so she can join the Honor guard and we can all perform a detail together here at the unit."

"There are so many things that make me proud of him it is hard to know where to begin," said Danielle. "He is my



Photo by Master Sgt. Pat Cashin

Staff Sgt. Danielle Heidrick with husband Senior Master Sgt. John Heidrick and daughters Saharrah and Savannah.

#1 mentor, not because he is my husband, but because he is a top notch Senior NCO. He is a great leader, one who is fair and does the right thing when it comes to his subordinates. He is extremely knowledgeable about his career field and the Air Force as a whole. He embodies what it truly means to be an Airman."

John is proud of his wife Danielle for joining the Guard at the age of 34 years old. "She made a name for herself. Before everyone knew her as my wife, now they also see her as Staff Sergeant Heidrick."

"(Joining) the Air Force is the best thing that I ever did 'personally' for myself," said Danielle. "My family, especially my children, know that they belong to an elite group. Military families make many sacrifices to protect and preserve the freedoms of our country. Serving in the military is a great source of pride for our family."

Sergeant Heidrick and her husband also own a web-based business that specializes in vitamins, supplements, sports nutrition and weight loss. She oversees and manages the daily operations.

John enjoys spending time with Danielle participating in Honor Guard details, exercising, running, traveling, snowboarding, landscaping, working on home improvements, and shopping.

"We are a very active couple," Sergeant Heidrick added. "We enjoy traveling, dining out, honor guard and community outreach."

"There are countless, people past and present, who make it an absolute pleasure to be a part of the Guard," Danielle concluded.



Senior Master Sgt. Stephen Agnew is promoted to chief master sergeant during a ceremony held here Mar. 5. Tacking on his stripes are his sons Senior Airman Stephen Agnew, Jr. and Jason Agnew.

Agnew promotes to chief master sergeant

By Staff Sgt. Gordon Beecroft
111th FW Public Affairs

Members of the 111th Fighter Wing, the command staff, family and friends gathered March 5 at Willow Grove Air Reserve Station, Pa., to honor Stephen Agnew, 270th Engineering Installation Squadron (EIS) senior enlisted manager, as he was promoted to the rank of chief master sergeant.

Chief Agnew's career, which has spanned more than 35 years, has been highlighted by two significant first time accomplishments for the Air National Guard and the 270th EIS; a life changing decision at the age of 19, and a son who is following in his father's footsteps.

"I had no interest in college and didn't have a skill. A friend who lived down the street, a member of the 270th at the time, encouraged me to join," said the chief. "I figured, I'm going to learn a skill and get paid. So I joined."

After returning from tech school, Agnew was offered a position with Amtrak as a splicer in the communications and signal department. "I was hired because of my Air Force training," he said. After twelve years of service to Amtrak, he accepted a full time position with the 270th EIS. "It was one of the best decisions I ever made. I love this unit. We have such a great group of people," he added.

The chief said one of the highlights of his career was acting as the project manager for the Combat

Information Transport System (CITS) project at McGuire Air Force Base in 1997. "We were the first Air Force unit to install on this project. We installed 44 miles of conduit and 27 miles of fiber optic cable." Agnew managed one active duty unit, seven Air National Guard engineering and installation squadrons, 11 civil engineering (CE) squadrons, and two Air Force Reserve CE units for a total of 9,320 man-days. "This was a big deal. We got it done on time and under budget. I learned a lot about myself; I found out who I was from this project."

After CITS, his next deployment was in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Initially, Agnew had been informed that he and the other four airmen on his team would be deployed for one year. "It was challenging to know you'll be away from your family for a year, but we were prepared to go."

The deployment lasted four months. The five-man team from the 270th EIS, its first deployment, accomplished 33 percent of the engineering work completed in the area of responsibility for that deployment. "We completed everything that was handed to us. We left knowing that we accomplished something."

In addition to the miles of cable that were installed, the team accomplished one more thing: the camaraderie of the team bonded the men together. "I gained a great friendship with a fellow airman from the deployment. Before that, I had only seen him in the hallway."

TOP ACHIEVERS

Community College of the Air Force Graduating Class of April 2011

TSgt Charlotte Baker – 111th Comptroller Flight
AAS degree in Financial Management

TSgt Roberto Brabham – 111th Medical Group
AAS degree in Information Management

SSgt Maria Chernes - 270th Engineering & Installation Squadron
AAS degree in Information Management

SSgt Andrew Gagne – 111th Maintenance Group
AAS degree in Aviation Maintenance Technology

TSgt Dirk Hough – 111th Mission Support Group
AAS degrees in Fire Science & Criminal Justice

TSgt Anthony Kears - 201st RED HORSE Squadron, Det.1
AAS degree in Information Management

SSgt Jeremy Nagy - 270th Engineering & Installation Squadron
AAS degree in Avionic Systems Technology

SSgt Cory Pierce - 270th Engineering & Installation Squadron
AAS degree in Electronic Systems Technology

TSgt Ryan Somers - 111th Maintenance Group
AAS degree in Aircraft Armament Systems Technology

TSgt Brandon Staudt - 201st RED HORSE Squadron, Det.1
AAS degree in Construction Technology

Teen Odyssey to be held July 17-23

35 Teens, 13-17 years of age from all branches of the Military, will be given the opportunity to push the limits of adventure and improve their team building skills all while making lifelong friendships with other Pennsylvania Military Teens during TEEN Odyssey Week. Are you TEEN enough?

This Operation Military Kids event is sponsored by the Pennsylvania National Guard Child & Youth Program and Penn State Cooperative Extension College of Agricultural Sciences. Registration applications can be found at: <http://guest.cvent.com/d/fdqyxd> or call: (877) 489-1398.

OMK Hero Camp to be held July 17-23

100 Children, 8-12 years of age from all branches of the Military, will have the opportunity to participate in a fun-filled week of adventure, team building, and making lifelong friendships with other Pennsylvania Military Children.

For more information and application for registration visit: <http://guest.cvent.com/d/kdqy3n> or call: (877) 489-1398.

Warrior Teen Weekend to be held June 23-26

25 Teens, 13-17 years of age from all branches of the military, will be given the opportunity to explore the training facilities used by Pennsylvania's Warriors on Friday and Saturday tour Pennsylvania's Air National Guard 193rd Special Operations Wing all while making lifelong friendships with other Pennsylvania Military Teens. This Operation Military Kids event is sponsored by the Pennsylvania National Guard Child & Youth Program and Penn State Cooperative Extension College of Agricultural Sciences. Applications for registrations can be found at: <http://guest.cvent.com/d/fdqysl> or call: (877) 489-1398

MOVING UP MOVING IN MOVING OUT

ENLISTMENTS

Airman First Class Joseph Good	201st RHS, Det. 1
Airman First Class Michael Knight Jr.	270th EIS
Airman First Class Kyle Tobolski	201st RHS, Det. 1
Senior Airman Daryl White	270th EIS
Staff Sgt. Jason Bernard	111th SFS

RE-ENLISTMENTS

Senior Airman Douglas Yoder	111th CF
Staff Sgt. Adrian Albino	111th SFS
Staff Sgt. Scott Trago	270th EIS
Chief Master Sgt. James Finn	111th SFS

ASCENSIONS

Maj. Michael Wagner	111th AOG
Lt. Col. Michael Steigerwald	111th AOG

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.

TRICARE Young Adult (TYA) now open for enrollment with coverage beginning May 1

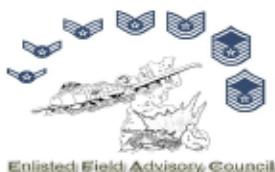
Uniformed services dependents under 26, unmarried, and not eligible for their own employer-sponsored health care coverage may be qualified to purchase TYA, which offers TRICARE Standard coverage for monthly premiums of \$186. A premium-based TRICARE Prime benefit will be available later this year. Dependent eligibility for TRICARE previously ended at age 21, or age 23 for full-time college students. Similar to provisions in the 2010 Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, TYA extends the opportunity for young adults to continue TRICARE health care coverage, as long as their sponsor is still eligible for TRICARE. Complete information and application forms are available at www.tricare.mil/tya.

Those considering TYA should determine if they are eligible before completing and sending in an application. The application and payment of three months of premiums can be dropped off at a TRICARE Service Center or sent by mail or faxed directly to the appropriate regional health care contractor. Beneficiaries can find out where to send their form and payment by filling out the simple profile at www.tricare.mil to get information tailored to their specific location. Once the initial payment is made, monthly premiums must be paid in advance through automated electronic payment.

When the application is processed, TRICARE coverage will begin the first day of the following month. However, since TYA was "fast-tracked" to begin enrollment as soon as systems changes, forms, premiums and other rules governing the program were approved and in place, TRICARE Management Activity will allow eligible applicants to be covered for the full month of May as long as enrollment forms and payment are received (not postmarked) by the regional contractor prior to May 31, 2011.

Those eligible for TYA who have been saving receipts since Jan. 1, 2011, in anticipation of the new program, can also pay all premiums back to January to purchase coverage retroactively. After getting a welcome letter and enrollment card, dependents and their sponsor are encouraged to visit uniformed services identification (ID) card issuing facility to obtain a dependent ID card. The card will assist in identifying the dependent as eligible for health care, prescriptions and access to military installations. Nearby ID card facilities can be found through a link at www.tricare.mil/tya.

EFAC BBQ



Enlisted Field Advisory Council



Time:

Conclusion of Sports Day

Date: June 5

Join us for our Quarterly Event

**Free Food
Free Drinks
Free Fun**

**Music Provided
By MSgt Hoke**

**LOCATION: BLDG 300
Pavilion and Volleyball Court**

Congratulations!



Staff Sgt. Brian Baker, (shown third from the left) a supply manager with the 111th Logistics Readiness Squadron, currently deployed with the 379th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron, is presented a certificate of appreciation at Ali Al Salem, Kuwait for his outstanding support of a mass troop movement by the 476th Expeditionary Support Squadron in Iraq.



Team AF-1 won 2 of 3 games (21-25, 18-25, 15-9) against Team Khaki, claiming the Willow Grove Naval Air Station Volleyball Championship on Mar. 17. Team AF-1 are members of the Air National Guard and Team Khaki are naval officers at the base. Team AF-1 has been undefeated all season for three years straight.

Standing (left to right) are: Tech. Sgt. Ronald Coen (201st RHS, Det. 1), Tech. Sgt. Jason Robbins (201st RHS, Det. 1), Command Chief Master Sgt. Richard Mertz (111th LRS), Chief Master Sgt. Tom Hickey (111th CF), Senior Master Sgt. Stephen Johnston (201st RHS, Det. 1) and Chief Master Sgt. Paul Frisco (111th FW). Kneeling (left to right) are: Tech. Sgt. Ken Urbach (111th CF) and Tech. Sgt. Dave Hrynkow (111th MDG).

Because of the closure of Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Willow Grove, this will be the last championship held.

Statewide News:

View newsletters of our sister units:

193rd Special Operations Wing
"The Scope"

www.193sow.af.mil

171st Air Refueling Wing
"Tanker Times"

www.171arw.af.mil

Pa. Guardians Magazine
http://ebooks.aqppublishing.com/archive/national_guard/PAGuardians.pdf

National News:

On Guard Magazine
Published every Jan., April, July, Oct. <http://www.ng.mil/features/onguard-mag/default.aspx>

Airman Magazine
Published bi-monthly and now available online: www.airmanonline.af.mil

Digital Video & Imagery Distribution System (DVIDS), DOD News
www.dvidshub.net

1-800-997-2264

