

111th Fighter Wing

Sandy Hog

Willow Grove Air Reserve Station

Pennsylvania Air National Guard



2006 Outstanding Airmen of the Year

(Left to right) Senior NCO of the Year Senior Master Sgt. Scot Baughman, 111th FW base education and training manager; Airman of the Year SrA Charlotte D. Baker, 111th Financial Management accounting technician; First Sergeant of the Year Master Sgt. John Lyon, 111th Maintenance Squadron first sergeant; NCO of the Year Tech. Sgt. Matthew Kauffman, 111th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron aircraft armament systems mechanic. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Marie Harmon)

SANDYHOG

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Change of Addresses

Personnel currently assigned to the 111th FW can contact the 111th MPF to update their change of address.

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IN BRIEF

New, quarterly SANDYHOG

The 111th FW newsletter will now be printed quarterly. Members at all levels (enlisted and officer) are encouraged to submit articles including news briefs, operational stories, first person accounts of your Air Guard experience, human interest stories and stand-alone photos. All copy is edited to conform to Air Force journalism guidelines for news writing including Associated Press Stylebook and Libel Manual Guidelines for punctuation, abbreviations, capitalization, and other style guidelines.

DoD resumes anthrax vaccination

Airmen with orders to, or are currently in, specific high-threat areas, such as the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility or the Korean Peninsula, are required to begin or continue the anthrax vaccine series of inoculations. Airmen are required to receive the vaccine if they will be in these designated areas for more than 15 consecutive days. Also, Airmen can voluntarily elect to continue getting the Anthrax vaccine series whether or not they will be deploying or assigned to these areas, if they had at least one Anthrax vaccine dosage since 1998. For more information on Anthrax requirements, contact Lt. Col. Preseton Smith at 215-443-1847.

MyEDP - Your tool for success

Now you have a personalized space to view, plan and track your career. MyEDP highlights your education, training, leadership, and job experience and is targeted for every enlisted airman. For more information see the story on page 11.

Call for Hall of Fame Nominations

Do you know an individual, member or non member of the PaANG, whose extraordinary achievements or contributions have brought honor and prestige to the PaANG? Headquarters Pennsylvania Air National Guard is seeking nominations for the 2007 Pennsylvania Air National Guard Hall of Fame. Hall of Fame inductions will be made at the 2007 PaANG "Flight of Freedom" Honors Ceremony, which will be held at the 171 Air Refueling Wing, Coraopolis on September 9, 2007. Point of contact at Headquarters PaANG is Ms. Elizabeth "Becky" Mione, DSN 491-8668. For more information contact the wing command section.

Circled insignia now mandatory

The U.S. insignia in a circle will be mandatory wear on the enlisted service dress uniform. The change reverts back to the traditional insignia — with the circle — Airmen wore from 1918 through the early 1990s.

New features available on myPay

Several improvements have been made to myPay, providing customers continued ease for on-line transactions. A new feature has been added for military service members on the Savings Deposit Program that allows service members serving in designated combat zones an opportunity to deposit a specific amount of money in a high interest rate account. Another improvement provides military service members access to a printer-friendly option for higher quality print copies of all documents.

National Guard Museum opens new exhibit

A new interactive exhibit that showcases the National Guard's participation in operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. The National Guard Museum's OEF/OIF exhibit displays Guard members' equipment, uniforms and photographs from the ongoing operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The NGAUS Memorial Building is located in Washington, D.C. and is open Monday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. or by appointment. Contact Jason Hall at jhall@ngaus.org or (888)-226-4287 to book special group tours.

Keep important papers and records updated

Airmen must take the time to ensure their Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance and virtual Record of Data are always updated to reflect their current circumstances. Correct beneficiary information for the SGLI will ensure insurance benefits reach those you designate. Likewise, current information in your vRED allows the Air Force to notify your loved ones of your status in a timely manner. For information and instructions on updating your SGLI and vRED visit the Air Force Personnel Center Web site or call the Air Force Contact Center at 800-616-3775. Airmen should also review their records on a routine basis and prior to any board as incorrect information can affect their ability to be promoted. It's easy to check records through the virtual Military Personnel Flight in the AF Portal at www.my.af.mil.

Another major revolution for “Hawg”



Lt Col Tony Carrelli
111th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron Commander

With 2007 well underway, it's a good time to discuss one of the major changes occurring in the 111th Fighter Wing.

We recently flew our first A-10+ aircraft. The A-10+ (A-10 Plus) is the designation given to the latest modification of 3 A/OA-10 ANG Wing aircraft (111th FW/PA, 103rd FW/CT, and 124th FW/ID). Our aircraft are undergoing an extensive modification program which changes cockpit controls, radios and aircraft wiring.

In my career in the A-10, I consider three major revolutions in technology integrated into the “Hawg.” The first was the addition of LASTE (Low Altitude Safety and Targeting Enhancements). LASTE took us out of the stone age of manual weapons delivery to a calculated firing solution increasing accuracy and decreasing pilot workload.

The second technological leap came with the addition of the Advanced Airborne Infrared Targeting and Navigation Pods known as LITENING.

The targeting pods are a huge leap in capability allowing self laser and marking operations, independent precision weapons

delivery, and increased target acquisition operations.

The third evolution has just arrived in the form of the A-10+.

The A-10+ immediately replaces the old 70's technology TV screen with a modern interactive Smart Multi Function Color Display (SMFCD).

The SMFCD displays include targeting data, targeting pod and missile video, moving color maps, and data-linked images sent from other aircraft or ground stations and are now shown in HDTV like resolution.

A new control stick grip in the cockpit also adds additional capability to interact with the weapons system in a computer-like fashion.

The Situational Awareness Data Link (SADL) radio adds the capability to view battlefield positions and quickly data-link streams of information in fractions of a second.

Near future follow-on versions of the A-10+ will also benefit from Satellite radios and Joint Direct Attack Munitions (JDAM) which allow GPS guided weapons delivery.

Members of the maintenance group and a civilian contract team have been modifying our aircraft since mid-October and will continue efforts to finish the fleet. We are currently training our members to install, service, and repair the many components of this new system.

The operations group began an extensive upgrade program to train its pilots on the A-10+. Other sections, squadron, and flights from around the 11FW have already added their critical support to make the modification and upgrade training possible.

By the spring, we will have the most technologically capable A-10s available for deployment. Air Force leaders know our capabilities and AEF discussions continue.

We are still in the beginning stages of this program and undoubtedly will need the continued outstanding support from everyone to complete the task. There is still a lot to do, but the benefits on the battlefield will be great. I thank everyone for their dedication to this program and for all of their hard work.

“...we will have the most technologically capable A-10s available for deployment.”

From the Chief of Staff

Warrior Airmen new culture of Air Force

Today's Airmen are in the fight. During a recent tour of Afghanistan, General T. Michael Moseley addressed Airmen on the new culture of the Air Force.

“We are warfighters. From the pilots who drop bombs on target in Iraq and Afghanistan, to the security forces person protecting a forward-deployed base, to the combat search and rescue teams risking their own lives to save others, Airmen are contributing to the fight each and every day.”

He also discussed personnel, mobility and quality-of-life issues, which included expanding education opportunities and improving how the Air Force accomplishes additional duties and ancillary training. The general is also concerned with improving the force, taking care of Airmen and recapitalization, or renewing the aging aircraft fleet.

This year, stakes are high



Lt. Col. Bill Griffin
103rd Fighter Squadron Commander

It will turn out to be a big year for The 103rd Fighter Squadron and in turn the 111FW. The BRAC picture should start to clear a little but there will still be plenty of work on that front. Funds are phenomenally tight yet we will be asked to do much more with much, much less. This is a new twist to an old story, but this year the stakes are high as troops on the ground fighting the Global War on Terrorism will count heavily on us.

Every member of this unit has a job to do and that job ultimately supports the troop on the ground. Your job, no matter where it is in the Wing, is a link in the chain that puts ordnance on target, on time.

We will support an AEF deployment that is “out of cycle” for us, for a longer period of time than is standard, and we will do things the A-10 community has not done before. The work will be hard, the risk high and the reward will surpass any we know to date.

There will be many tough questions to answer in order to meet the objectives that will be set out for us, but we will find the best answers and train hard to make this our most successful deployment yet. That means we need the max effort from everyone until this mission is complete. Already

we have had people from Maintenance, Logistics and Ops go TDY to start the planning for this massive undertaking and there will be much more before even the first piece of equipment is moved. The enormity comes from short notice tasking as jets will leave in May, headed to the AOR. But before we get to that point, we must first finish modifying jets with new equipment that will further enhance combat capability, teach pilots how to use this new equipment and develop tactics to put it all together.

May would normally be a reasonable amount of time to prepare to deploy, but will barely be enough time to accomplish the modifications and training. We have a little leeway in that we are splitting this AEF with the 124th Wing from Boise who will deploy in May but we must have our jets ready to go and some number of our people ready to deploy with Boise.

Although the vast majority of our people will deploy some time in Jul, there is still much that needs to be done and time is not a luxury we’re afforded. I can talk in more detail about the importance of this tasking but for now just realize you are working on something big. I extend an invitation to you to visit Ops so we can show you what we are all working towards. Good luck in 2007. I wish everyone the best and thanks in advance for your continued, awesome effort.

“Your job, no matter where it is in the Wing, is a link in the chain that puts ordnance on target, on time.”

Looking back on time well spent



CMSgt. Dennis F. Kalinowski (ret.)
270th Engineering Installation Squadron

I knew this day would come, but I never thought it would arrive so quickly. So it seems.

In 1970 when I started my military career, I had no idea where it would take me, the people I would meet, or the places I would travel. Little did I realize the opportunities that would be afforded me or the effects they would have on my life and the lives of my family members. I must admit my military career has far exceeded my expectations.

Never in my wildest dreams did I expect it to turn out as it has. I consider myself very fortunate to have had wonderful people surrounding me, to help me along the way. We all know that in order to be successful, we must recognize the capabilities and attributes of others in order to do our jobs and ultimately complete our mission. Along with recognizing the capabilities of others, we must realize our own capabilities and prepare ourselves to take advantage of opportunities when they reveal themselves. I have always endeavored to tell our young airmen to be prepared to take the

next step, complete your CDC’s and PME’s because you never know when opportunity will raise its head.

Needless to say, this philosophy was passed down to me by other senior NCO’s during my career, and I’ve always tried to remember this invaluable advice. If I could pass on just one piece of advice to those of you who are early on in your career, it would be to do the best you can, make things happen, and prepare yourself for your future — because your future is now.

Several years ago one of my Commanders said, “You will know when it is time to go.” And so it is, as I look back, and I do everyday. I realize and appreciate those people, family foremost, who have supported, encouraged and advised me, but more importantly gave me the opportunities to do my best. From squadron commanders, to senior NCO’s, to young airmen who have done their best to make me look good, and I know sometimes that was tough to do. To all of you I say, Thank You, for without you I could not have achieved such a successful career. *(Chief Master Sgt. Kalinowski retired from the 270th EIS in December 2006)*

Outstanding!



Senior NCO of the Year Senior Master Sgt. Scot Baughman

Senior Master Sgt. Scot Baughman devised and planned the inaugural Community College of the Air Force Graduation for wing members. In addition, he created and coordinated the first ever Pennsylvania Military Apprenticeship Program. He represented Region Five as a team member of the Education and Training Advisory Council. The ACC IG team has twice identified him as a Superior Performer. As the Base Education and Training Manager, the pass rate for the Career Development Course program increased from 80 percent to 96 percent. Baughman was awarded his second CCAF Associates Degree in Education and Training and has applied for the SNCO Academy in-residence course. He honors the community by volunteering his time in support of programs such as the Chief's Council Hat Program and the Tri-County YMCA.



First Sergeant of the Year Master Sgt. John Lyon

Master Sgt. Lyon researched and wrote the first ever by-laws for the operation of the First Sergeants Council. He was also elected president of the council. He deployed as the First Sergeant in operation Emerald Warrior. He expeditiously worked with agencies to secure an interest-free loan to purchase a plane ticket for one of his airmen who had a family emergency during the deployment. As a police detective with the local township, his knowledge in law has aided immensely in working situations with the Judge Advocate General for personnel administrative actions within the squadron. He is enrolled in La Salle University with a dual major in criminal justice and sociology with a grade point average of 3.4. Community involvement includes assisting the annual Toys for Tots fund drive and coordinating the 111th FW Blood drive.



NCO of the Year - State Winner Tech. Sgt. Matthew Kauffman

Tech. Sgt. Matthew S. Kauffman received Load Crew of the Quarter honors for superior performance during two different quarters in 2006. He and his load crew were awarded Load Crew of the Year for their exceptional consistent performance. He is currently serving overseas as the Non Commissioned Officer in Charge of over fifty-six third country nationals in direct support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He received recognition for controlling a situation involving a wounded soldier on the battlefield. On various occasions, he has supported FEMA and the 111th Fighter Wing in relief of Hurricane Katrina flood victims. While pursuing an Associates Degree in Business Studies, he serves as a head coach for a local youth basketball team and volunteers as an assistant youth coordinator for his church.



Airman of the Year Senior Airman Charlotte Baker

SrA Charlotte Baker, while serving as the Wing's Financial Service Travel Pay Accounting Technician, reduced the average processing time for travel payments from a week to three days. The 335th Training Squadron at Keesler AFB, MS recognized her for academic excellence, having maintained a 97 percent classroom average. She assisted the Air Combat Command Inspector General Team during the 111th Fighter Wing's May 2006 Operational Readiness Inspection. In addition, she was selected to escort the Honorable Allyson Schwartz during the Annual Flight of Freedom ceremony and was recognized by Philadelphia City Council Woman Janey Blackwell for her efforts. She is actively involved in her community volunteering at numerous Homeless Veterans Outreach programs to include St. Mary's and Horizon House in Philadelphia.

A mission driven by mentors

“Each of us has something that we want to achieve, and a lot of times, we don’t know how to either get started or maintain our momentum.”

- MSgt Nicole Fulton

By SrA Ricardo Cruz
111FW Public Affairs

Growing up is never easy. It starts from your first day of school, to your first day at a real job. We kick ourselves for doing the wrong thing, but sometimes we need to make mistakes in order to get it right.

Many try to follow in the footsteps of others who have been down the same road, to learn from their successes and their failures. To help make this task easier, the Air National Guard developed a program to help airmen gain knowledge and insight through the experience of others. It’s called mentoring.

“Each of us has something that we want to achieve, and a lot of times, we don’t know how to either get started or maintain our momentum,” said SMSgt Nicole Fulton, 111th Fighter Wing Human Resources Advisor.

“I’ve found that when we have someone who can discuss a path to achieving our goals, based on their own, similar experience, more often than not, we are more successful in our endeavors.”

The Office of Cultural Transformation & Enhancement

(DPT) is responsible for the ANG Strategic Management of Human Capital Initiative that includes Diversity, Mentoring, and Knowledge Management.

Fulton leads the program for the wing and is looking for volunteers to help mentor the young airmen of this unit. “Those who don’t have a mentor, can and do make achievements, but sometimes with a lot of false starts and frustration,” she said.

“As a senior NCO who has had numerous mentors, I firmly believe we must make ourselves available to members who want to surpass our achievements. I know many others at the 111th share this belief and I hope they will come forward to be matched with a mentee.”

These mentors would empower Airmen to further their personal and professional self development. This process is an exchange of information, but also of ideas, experiences, and friendship in a strategy for professional growth and development.

There are many benefits to the program; it establishes high performance standards and encourages the growth and

development of all Airmen, while helping them establish realistic career goals and expectations. Also, it helps leaders develop inclusive teams at all levels. It provides all Airmen with access to the skills, knowledge, and experience required to achieve maximum performance potential and optimum mission readiness.

We all have special gifts and skills that make us who we are. Let’s try and focus on the needs of other people and try to give them a better future instead of waiting on the world to change.

If you’re ready to be a mentor, it’s easy to get started. All you have to do is log onto the Air Force Portal Home page, <https://www.my.af.mil/>, scroll down to “Featured Links,” then select “Top Viewed Career:” There you can register for the Enlisted Development Plan. EDP is the first step in being mentored or mentoring. The EDP has online forums for all enlisted members and you can also maintain a personal library.

For more information or to become a mentor, contact SMSgt Fulton, 111 FW/HRA at 215-443-1782.

Enlisted airmen have a new voice: EFAC

By SrA Ricardo Cruz
111FW Public Affairs

The integrity and success of a business is always fueled by the people who work for the business. So why not apply the same ethics to the 111th Fighter Wing? The wing already has a strong history of great teamwork and integrity and now enlisted airman have another opportunity to carry on that outstanding tradition. This opportunity is the Enlisted Advisory Council.

“We have been working hard for several years, and now

that the program is initiated we are excited to see it flourish,” says Chief Master Sgt. Thomas Gillespie.

The EFAC is broken up into two councils, the seniors (E-6 to E-8) and the juniors (E-1 to E-5). The council has had three meetings so far and has already put a couple projects in motion.

The council’s progress is only as good as its enlisted support. We all have ideas for solving problems, for building morale and for adding changes, so lets put all of them to good

use. The wing commander highly encourages every enlisted member to affect the overall mission by voicing their opinions and ideas.

EFAC meetings will be held through-out the year. Both councils are in the early stages so the more support the better. To join up is easy, talk to your supervisor or contact MSgt Richard Eggle, 111 FW/FMF at 215-443-1396 or TSgt Kenneth Tillotson 111 FW/MXMCE at 215-443-1481. You can also participate in the councils by

registering on the 111 FW EFAC Community of Practice (CoP) <https://afkm.wpafb.af.mil/ASPs/CoP/EntryCoP.asp?Filter=OO-XP-AN-26>.

Once you register, you will be able to participate in different forums to suggest ideas or comment on existing ideas, and be refreshed on current or past projects.

Remember a small idea can make a big impact, and a big impact can make a world of a difference.

Air Guard retirement process goes online

DENVER (AFNEWS) — Eligible members of the Air National Guard can now submit retirement applications electronically via the virtual Personnel Center — Guard and Reserve.

This is the second Guard-specific capability added to the 24-hour customer service Web portal operated by the Air Reserve Personnel Center here.

“Our ultimate goal is to improve and streamline how we deliver services to our Total Force Airmen,” said Col. Ann Shippy, ARPC commander.

“We’re leveraging technology and Web applications to efficiently deliver service to our customers.”

Previously, Guard Airmen had to visit their local military personnel flight, complete the required retirement application package, submit it to their supervisor or commander, and send it to ARPC.

This Web-enabled service is available at any time from

anywhere in the world and will give Airmen the ability to monitor the status of their application from start to finish.

Guard Airmen can log on to the vPC-GR at <http://arpc.afrc.af.mil/vPC-GR/default.asp?cat=2> to begin the process and see other Guard-specific options.

When the application is submitted, the customer is e-mailed a tracking number.

After the Airman’s commander has electronically endorsed the application, the Reserve Personnel Contact Center at ARPC will verify eligibility and finalize the application.

Once approved, the vPC-GR will send e-mail notifications to the Airman and his or her commander.

ARPC and the Air Force Personnel Center are working simultaneously on centralizing and automating many of their processes for the total

Integrity First

**“Let integrity and righteousness preserve me, for I wait on Thee”
— Psalm 25:21**

**Lt. Col. Rhonda Cushman
111FW Chaplain**

While walking from a parking garage to our destination in Center City Philadelphia, the three of us—my husband, David, our young son Mike, and I—came to a stop at the corner. The light was red. There was not a vehicle in sight on the streets. As other pedestrians stepped off the curb, against the light, I did too— but the hand I was holding tugged me back. The three of us waited a minute more, for the green light.

Later, my husband explained: “I pulled you back because I was thinking about Mike. He doesn’t have the same reflexes or judgment as we do. He might not see a car turning

into the cross walk from behind. So I pulled you back and held him with my other hand. I would like to make a habit of always observing the traffic lights, so our son will pick it up from us, because someday he will be too old for me to hold his hand.”

So that’s what we’ve done ever since.

Years later, we three adults still walk together now in the city—to church, to the symphony, to a restaurant—and we still wait at the curb for the green light that says “walk.” We’ve never been late, and none of us has ever stepped into the path of a moving vehicle.

Do you want to act with integrity when tested by a big crisis, a big decision, or a big event? Practice on something small, today.

Family Readiness News

FRG Fund Raiser

Cook Book - Recipes deadline extended – 20 May

Welcome Home/Family Day

Sunday, Oct 14

FRG with other organizations will join together to Welcome Home military members return from deployments. The members and their families will be honored for their valuable and honorable service to our Country

The Family Readiness Group meets every Sunday on drill weekend at 1:00 P.M., in Building 300, Commanders Conference Room. *Please try to attend; the group needs your support and ideas.*

FRG Meeting Dates:

Sunday, May 20 2007
Sunday, June 10, 2007
Sunday, August 12, 2007

For Family Readiness Group (FRG) questions, please contact Jean Moretti, Wing Family Program Coordinator @ (215) 443-1409 or e-mail: jean.moretti@pawill.ang.af.mil



SrA Michael Martin, 111th Maintenance Squadron, inspects an A-10 Fighter Jet during Air Expeditionary Force 7/8 spin-up training at MacDill AFB, Fla. in March. (Photo by SSgt. Marie Harmon)

Packing “smarter” technology, 111FW gears up for summer deployment

1st Lt. Renee Lillis
111FW Public Affairs

Practice makes perfect and there’s no better place for Spring Training than Florida. With an Air Expeditionary Force rotation on the horizon, members of the 111th Fighter Wing headed south March 4 for two-weeks of AEF spin-up training at MacDill Air Force Base near Tampa.

The unit’s A-10 aircraft were recently upgraded with enhanced technology that will assist with critical like close air support and convoy escort missions.

Although the unit has supported ongoing operations and deployments all over the world,

including their last AEF deployment to Afghanistan in 2003, this time around will be different because of the new technology and enhanced capabilities it provides.

The unit’s A-10 aircraft have been upgraded with the SMART Multi-Function Color Display. This 5x5 color display works on a 800 mg processor – a computer that drives the Lightning Pod. Pilots previously viewed the area below with something similar to a small, old television picture screen. The screens not only had poor resolution, but were also difficult to maintain.

“The key focus for this training is finishing our SMART MFCD upgrade,” said Lt. Col. Edward Fink, 103rd Fighter Squadron pilot and project offic-

er. “It’s concentrated training for our pilots to get them qualified as well as tactical training for those who are already qualified.”

The new system will also increase the pilot’s current capabilities by reducing the cockpit workload and providing



SrA Vincent Franchino, 111th Maintenance, inspects the accelerometer readings which measures g-loads on the air frame. (Photo by SSgt. Marie Harmon).

more “throttle and stick” capabilities. This helps the pilot operate more rapidly and reduces the number of times he needs to select and deselect switches to laser target.

Another upgrade that streamlines coordination and helps eliminate communication glitches is the addition of a Situational Awareness Data Link system.

The SADL system provides the pilot with an instant picture where they can see themselves, friendly and enemy forces and targets all on a moving map. This makes it easier for the pilot to discern the target. Plus, it eliminates the need for the pilot to manually type in target information, reducing the possibility for error. Instead, ground forces can send the target information to the pilot electronically. The pilot then “hooks the target” and sends to the pod.

Qualified forward air controllers from the 23rd Special Tactics Squadron and civilian SADDLE contractors helped make the training very realistic.

The 23rd STS worked “fast-paced environment” scenarios into the training. During these scenarios, the pilots would receive SADL information on specific targets and threats, similar to what AWACS or higher headquarters would send.

The 23rd STS also set up covert lighting for pilots to

practice approach and landing in covert lighting situations allowing them to complete their night vision goggle qualifications.

“This is our way of focusing our training for what we expect to encounter,” said Fink.

Compared with the 2003 deployment in Afghanistan, this AEF will be considerably different, he explained adding that they are preparing for much more close air support missions than previous deployments, including convoy escorts.

Fink added that close air support and convoy missions can put a lot of pressure on the pilots because, “it means every time we drop bombs it’s going to be in close proximity to friendlies on the ground,” he said.

Convoy escorts “sanitize” the route ahead of the convoy to ensure the path is clear. The pilots prepared for this with real-time training, simulating sanitizing routes over civilian traffic in the local communities between MacDill and a near by range, Avon Park.

“We tried to make this training as close to deployment as

possible because we’re expected, the first day we arrive, to support whatever’s going on there,” Fink said.

The two-week deployment also provided personnel with opportunities to learn how to troubleshoot the new equipment and establish their own procedures for how to deal with any glitches or maintenance issues.

(Clockwise from right) Maj. Daryl Newhart, 103rd Fighter Squadron pilot, listens to an intelligence debriefing following a training mission. (Bottom right) Staff Sgt. Nathan Gretzinger, 111th Maintenance Squadron, inspects a Lightning Rover Pod. (Bottoms left) Tech. Sgt. Eric Capers, 111th Maintenance Squadron, enters an A-10 to check the navigation system. (Photos by SSgt. Marie Harmon)



OPERATION JUMPSTART

111 CES heads South to build walls, fill gaps in Arizona border

Fifteen 111th Civil Engineers deployed in October to support Operation JUMPSTART in Arizona. Operation Jump Start is a federally sponsored, state implemented mission to support the U. S. Border Patrol along the U. S. Mexico border in Arizona and New Mexico. In Arizona, it's managed by the Arizona ARNG. They provide the materials (via the Army Corp of Engineers), vehicles and equipment along with identifying specific mission requirements and coordination with the U. S. Border Patrol's local sector and the local concrete companies that are needed. Along with members from the 111th, were the 154 CES, Hawaii ANG, 188 CES, Arkansas ANG, Guam ANG, and 1224 Engineering Company, Guam ARNG.

Task Force Diamondback, the construction portion of Operation JUMPSTART is responsible for building roads, fences, and lighting. We were tasked to build a 19 foot high, 1800 foot long primary fence to fill the gap between two previously built fences. The fence would be built from corrugated steel aircraft landing matt welded together and supported by four feet of cement in the ground. The units quickly came together and reorganized as one unit built around the project subtasks. Lead mostly by 111 CES senior NCOs, these subtasks were organized into teams including: heavy equipment, concrete forms construction, concrete forms placement, concrete pour, engineering and surveying, fence placement and welding.

Due to limited manpower, many troops found themselves on multiple teams. However, all the teams managed to develop



111th Civil Engineers erect an 19 foot tall wall along the Arizona and Mexico border. The 111 CES volunteers departed Oct. 1 to Yuma, Az. for 30 days in support Operation Jump Start. Operations JUMPSTART is expected to continue for the next two years and the 111 CES may return to Arizona this year.

work plans and workarounds for problems such as manpower and material shortages, dust storms, and high temperatures. They also managed to complete the fence gap in under a month — half the time the Arizona ARNG expected it to take. In addition, the teams built the fence without mistake or serious injury, and produced a high quality fence exactly as it was designed.

Operations JUMPSTART is expected to continue for the next two years and the 111 CES may return to Arizona this year. As our experience was all positive, the 111 CES looks forward to returning to Arizona to support our Homeland Security and Defense.

U. S. Border Patrol projects taxpayer savings in the tens of millions due to National Guard services and says it looks forward to continued support.



MyEDP—Your tool for success

Search no more for advice about enlisted career development! Now, it is all just a click away.

My Enlisted Development Plan, or MyEDP, is designed as the Air Force's cradle-to-grave enlisted developmental tool. From their first day of duty to their last, enlisted Airmen can enjoy features of the site designed to provide standardization in every aspect of their career progression.

All users from around the globe and from different career fields are able to respond to the threads. And with MyEDP's sharing capabilities, you can permit your mentors (officer, civilian or enlisted) to have access to your career information, so they can weigh in on things like applying for a headquarters job or taking a particular college course to help your career.

Already, thousands of Airmen have opened accounts on the site—a process that takes less than two minutes. Once a profile is created, the user has access to news, events, forums, a library, plus access to their Air Force Personnel Center records and career information.

The forums are currently the most popular feature on the site. With topics such as general discussion, assignments, pay and benefits, etc., you are able to post threads with questions about, really, anything: uniforms, STEP promotions, assignments, and in the example below, preparing for a promotion test.

"I am a new Airman. I have only been in for 3 years in Jan. I am coming up on my testing for staff. I am in the Readiness/CBRNE career field. I am not good at testing so I will probably not pass this time but, I have been hitting the books hard. I just put on SRA in July and no award points just two 5's on EPR's. So any advice would be greatly appreciated."

While the forums on MyEDP are monitored for content, messages aren't deleted even if the information posted doesn't exactly fit the "party line." The goal of the forums is to allow Airmen to come online and share questions, ideas and information. All users are identified, so all information is accountable.

Another popular feature is the journal. Paired up with the sharing capabilities, this feature has helped Airmen record their thoughts and activities, a benefit especially for those deployed.

"For me, personally, the journal is great for recording sorties I have flown in OEF, OIF, OAF and other operations," wrote Staff Sgt. Rafeal Cruzoyola, an aircrew member from Kadena Air Base, Japan. "Instead of just looking through my written journals, it's all a click away. The journal seems great for keeping EPR bullets and sending them to your supervisor when requested."

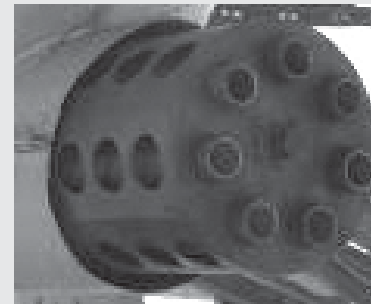
MyEDP's goal is to provide a constant source of information to you regarding your career. All Airmen are encouraged to log onto the Air Force Portal, click on MyEDP (under Featured Links) and check it out today!

GAU-8 Avenger – soft target killer and tank buster

MSgt Ralph Perrie
111th FW Historian

The AN/GAU-8 Gatling Gun is a 30mm, 7 barrel gatling gun mounted in the nose of the A/OA-10 Thunderbolt. It's primarily used in air to ground combat as a soft target killer and tank buster. The gun, is produced by [ex General Electric] Martin Marietta Armament Systems.

The A-10 is capable of firing the GAU-8 at 3,900 rounds per minute or 74 rounds per second. The gun fires a mix of both high explosive incendiary (combustible) and armored piercing incendiary ammunition. The PGU-13/B HEI High Explosive Incendiary round employs a standard M505 fuse and explosive mixture with a body of naturally fragmenting material that is effective against lighter vehicle and material targets. The PGU-14/B API Armor Piercing Incendiary round has a lightweight body which contains a



sub-caliber high density penetrator of Depleted Uranium (DU). In addition to its penetrating capability, DU is a natural pyrophoric material which enhances the incendiary effects. The PGU-15/B TP Target Practice projectile simulates the exterior

ballistics and provides a ballistic match to the HEI round and is used for pilot training.

A typical combat load for the GAU-8 includes 1,100 rounds of 30mm high explosive or armor piercing ammunition. The 30mm API is mixed with 30mm HEI at the factory and is called Combat Mix Ammunition. The ratio of API to HEI rounds in the Combat Mix is 4:1. Combat mix is a sequential mixture of DU and HEI rounds in which 1 HEI round followed by 4 DU rounds are fired by the AN/GAU-8 gatling gun. DU is the primary munition for the A/OA-10 in a combat environment.

Specifications

Number of barrels: 7

Feed: Linkless feed system

Caliber: 30 mm

Ammo types: PGU-14/B API (DU), PGU-13/B HEI, PGU-15/B TP

Muzzle velocity: 1067 meters/second

Armor penetration: 69mm at 500 meters, 38mm at 1000 meters

Maximum Range: over 1,250 meters

Accuracy: 5mil, 80 percent (80 percent of rounds fired at 4,000ft hit within a 20ft radius)

Cannon weight: 281 kilograms

Cannon length: 6.40 meters

Spread your wings

Traditional ANG positions across the state

111th FIGHTER WING

11F3Y-Fighter Pilot
14N3-Intelligence
1C072-Aviation Resource Mgmt
1C351-Command Post
1N071-Operations Intelligence
1T151-Aircrew Life Support
1W071-Weather
2A051B-Avionics Test Station and Components
2A0711D-Avionics Test Station
2A351B-Instrument and Flight Controls
2A351C-Avionics Sys, Comm. Navigations and Penetration Aids
2A353J-Crew Chief
2A651A-Aerospace Propulsion/Jet Engines
2A652-Aerospace Ground Equip
2A656-Aircraft Electrical and Environmental Sys
2A654-Aircraft Fuels Sys
2A672-Aerospace Ground Equip
2A673-Aircrew Egress Sys
2A675-Aircraft Hydraulic Sys
2A754-Survival Equip
2A773-Aircraft Structural MXS
2E1X3 -Ground Radio Comm
2E6X3-Voice Network Sys
2F0X1-Fuels
2R051-MXS Mgmt Analysis
2S0X1-Supply
2S000-Supply Mgmt Supt.
2T3X0-Vehicle Equip MXS
2W071-Munitions Sys
2W171-Aircraft Armament
3A0X1-Information Mgmt
3E052-Electrical Power Production
3E2X1-Pavements/Construction Equip.
3E4X1-Utilities Sys
3E4X2-Liquid Fuels Sys
3E471-Utilities Sys
3E5X1-Engineering
3E6X1-Operations Mgmt
3E7X1-Fire Protection
3M0X1-Services
3P0X1-Security Forces
3P0X1B-Combat Arms
3S0X1-Personnel
3S271-Training and Education
3V052-Still Photography
43EXA-Bioenvironmental Engineer
45N3E-Clinical Nurse
47G3-Dentist
47G3A-Dentist
48G3-GMO/Flight Surgeon
48R3-Flight Surgeon
4A051-Biomedical Equip
4N071-Aerospace Medical Service
4Y071-Dental Assistant
52R3-Chaplain
5R051-Chaplain Assistant
6C091-Contracting
R2G0X1-Logistic Plans
W11F3Y-Testing

171st AIR REFULEING WING

2A5X1-Aerospace MXS
2A5X3A-Integrated Avionics Sys, Comm/Nav/Mission Sys
2A5X3B-Integrated Avionics Sys, Instr/Flight Control Sys
2A6X1A-Aerospace Propulsion
2A6X2-Aerospace Ground Equip
2A6X5-Aircraft Hydraulic Sys
2A7X1-Aircraft Metals Technology
2A7X2-Nondestructive Inspection
2A7X3-Aircraft Structural MXS
2F0X1-Fuels
2T3X1-Vehicle Equip MXS
2T3X2C-Special Vehicle MXS
3A0X1-Administrative Mgmt
3M0X1-Food Services
3S0X1-Personnel
3S2X1-Training
4A0X1-Health Services Mgmt
4A2X1-Biomedical Equip
4N0X1-Aerospace Medical Service
4N1X1-Surgical Svc
4T0X1-Medical Lab
5J0X1-Paralegal
6C0X1-Contracting

193rd SPECIAL OPERATIONS WING

11F3B-Fighter Pilot 11R3C-Reconnaissance Surveillance
Electronic Warfare Pilot
11R3C-Reconnaissance Surveillance
Electronic Warfare Pilot
12R3C-Reconnaissance Surveillance
Electronic Warfare Navigator
12R3D-Reconnaissance Surveillance
Electronic Warfare Navigator
1A271-Aircraft Loadmaster
1A371-Airborne Comm and Electronics Sys
1C072-Aviation Resource Mgmt
1C451-Tactical Air Command & Control
21A3-Aircraft MXS
2A551J-Aerospace MXS, C5/C17/C130/C141/T39 (Other)
2A553A-Integrated Avionics Sys, Comm/Nav/Mission
2A553B-Integrated Avionics Sys, Instr/Flight Control
2A553C4-Integrated Avionics Sys, Electronic Warfare
2A571-Aerospace MXS

2A590-Aerospace MXS
2A651B-Aerospace Propulsion, Turbo Prop/Turbo Shaft
2A652-Aerospace Ground Equip
2A655-Aircraft Hydraulic Sys
2A676-Aircraft Electrical & Environmental Sys
2A753-Aircraft Structural MXS
2A774-Survival Equip
2E151-Satellite, Wideband, & Telemetry Sys
2E153-Ground Radio Comm
2E154-Visual Imagery & Intrusion

Detection Sys
2E173-Ground Radio Comm
2E271-Computer, Network, Switching, and Cryptographic Sys
2F051-Fuels
2S051-Supply
2T051-Traffic
2T151-Vehicle Operations
2T352C-Special Vehicle MXS
33S3-Communication and Information
3A071-Information Mgmt
3C051-Comm-Computer Sys Operator
3C151-Radio Comm- Sys
3C251-Comm-Computer Sys Control
3E0X2-Electrical Power Production
3E151-Heating, Venting, Air Conditioning & Refrigeration
3E251-Pavements & Construction Equip
3E351-Structural
3E451-Utilities Sys
3E751-Fire Protection
3M051-Services
3P051-Security Forces
3S051-Personnel
43E3A-Bioenvironmental Engineer, General
43H3-Public Health
44F3-Family Physician
47G3-Dentist
47G3A-Dentist, Comprehensive
48R3-Flight Surgeon
4A151-Medical Materiel
4A251-Biomedical Equip
4N071-Aerospace Medical Service
4N171-Surgical Service
52R3-Chaplain
6C091-Contracting
6F071-Financial Mgmt and Comptroller
F21A3-Aircraft Sys Flt Eval, Aircraft MXS
Q1A291- Aircrew Stand/Flt Exam, Aircraft Loadmaster Superintendent
S11R3C-Safety, Reconnaissance Surveillance Electronic Warfare Pilot
V3S051-Auto Func Applic Anlyst/ Montr, Personnel Journeymen

553rd AIR FORCE BAND BD

3N151Z-Regional Band, General Instrumentalist (ANG)
C35B3-Commander, Band

112th AIR CONTROL SQ

11F3B-Fighter Pilot, A-1
11F3Y-Fighter Pilot
12B3E-Bomber Navigator, B-52 Navigator/Radar Navigator
12F3V-Fighter Navigator, EA-6B
13B3B-Air Battle Manager, AWACS
13B3D-Air Battle Manager, Mobile
13M3-Airfield Operations
14N3-Intelligence
1C171-Air Traffic Control

1C500-Operations Intel
1N171-Imagery Analysis
2E251-Computer, Network, Switching, and Cryptographic Sys
33S3-Comm and Information
3C000-Comm-Computer Sys CEM
3C051-Comm-Computer Sys Operator
3C172-Electromagnetic Spectrum
3S291-Education & Training
W13S3A-Weapons & Tactics Instr, Space & Missile Ops, Satellite C&C

271st COMBAT COMM SQ

2E151-Satellite, Wideband, & Telemetry Sys
2E251-Computer, Network, Switching, and Cryptographic Sys
2E673-Telephone Sys
2S051-Supply
2T351-Vehicle & Vehicular Equip MXS
2T377-Vehicle Mgmt & Analysis
33S3-Comm and Information
3A071-Information Mgmt
3C051-Comm-Computer Sys Operations
3C271-Comm-Computer Sys Control
3E052-Electrical Power Production

203rd WEATHER FT

15W3B-MAJ 0840229
1W051B-SSG 0840225

201st RED HORSE FT

2S000-Supply Mgmt Supt.
2S051-Supply
2T351-Vehicle & Vehicular Equip MXS
2T352C-Special Vehicle MXS
2T370-Vehicle Equip MXS
32E3A-Civil Engineer, Architect/ Architectural Eng
32E3E-Civil Engineer, Electrical Eng
32E3G-Civil Engineer, General Eng
3E051-Electrical Sys
3E052-Electrical Power Production
3E071-Electrical Sys
3E072-Electric Power Production
3E151-Heating, Venting, Air Conditioning & Refrigeration
3E251-Pavements/Construction Equip
3E351-Structural
3E451-Utilities Sys
3E571-Engineering
3E671-Operations Mgmt
3S051-Personnel
42G3-Physician Assistant

PENNSYLVANIA ANG HQ

2E171-Satellite, Wideband, & Telemetry Sys
34M4-Services Field
3S000-Personnel CEM
3S071-Personnel

Recruiting assistants - enlist and EARN!

The Guard Recruiting Assistant program is working tremendously for those who signed up and had have enlisted referrals with the 111th Fighter Wing. We have 90 active GRAP personnel who are currently in the system. Since we started in June 2006, we have had **36 enlistments with the help of the recruiting assistants**

The top GRAP performers are Staff Sgt. Kevin Watson, 111th Civil Engineering Squadron with nine referrals, Master Sgt. John Lyons, 111th Maintenance Squadron First Sergeant with four referrals, Senior Master Sgt. John Lauf and Master Sgt. Mark Armstrong, both from 111th CES are tied with three referrals each.

The GRAP pays \$2,000 per enlistment (for both prior service and non-prior service enlistments. That's awesome!

Many more traditional guardsmen could qualify for the program. All you have to do is sign up at www.guardrecruitingassistant.com. Go ahead and sign up and become part of the recruiting team. After you are a full fledged GRAP'ER, you can start as a recruiting assistant and tell others about your unit and explain what the best part time job in America is all about, "The Pennsylvania Air National Guard."

The recruiting office provides materials to help you recruit including information on current job openings, cash bonuses, college education benefits and all of the many other great entitlements we have to offer a perspective applicant.

We have a great unit with outstanding members. Let's share our unit with others so we can build our 111th Team with outstanding people like you.

Selective re-enlistment bonuses available for certain specialties

The bonus list for FY07 is now available. If you are eligible for reenlistment this year, see your unit career advisor for information and to find out if your Air Force specialty is included in the bonus list. If so, below are current requirements to be eligible for incentives.

Six year reenlistment:

- Must be fully qualified in the bonus AFSC (at least a 3-level)
- Must have less than 18 years time in service based on your Pay Date
- Must not be AGR or Technician

Three year reenlistment:

- Must be fully qualified in the bonus AFSC (at least a 3-level)
- Must have less than 20 years time in service based on your Pay Date
- Must not be AGR or Technician

If you have additional questions please contact Master Sgt. Felice C. Parker, Retention Office Manager at 215-443-1311.



ARMY STRONG

Staff Sgt. Lydon, a Pennsylvania Army National Guard recruiter, trains with a new recruit at the Army Guard Recruit Sustainment Program Center in Plymouth Meeting. Pennsylvania Army National Guard recruiters are now co-located with 111th Fighter Wing recruiters in Bldg 300 here. Lydon said the Army Guard recruiters are excited about the team-up and the support they receive from the wing.

The Recruit Sustainment Program Center in Plymouth Meeting is used to help teach, refresh, and prepare new recruits and other soldier for Army life. The program, which started in Fort Indiantown Gap, prepares soldiers for their first assignment and military career through a series of training phases. *(Photo by SrA Ricardo Cruz)*

Airmen mark 60th anniversary, throw out first pitch

Fans give warm reception to Pennsylvania Air National Guard's first Purple Heart recipients at Opening Day

1st Lt. Jay Ostrich
193rd Special Operations Wing

PITTSBURGH - Three years ago, the weather, terrain and local hospitality couldn't have presented a more startling contrast. It was exceptionally hot and not every person they met in the sands of Iraq's Sunni Triangle was particularly friendly to these Airmen from the 193rd Special Operations Wing, Middletown, Pa.

But on a frigid afternoon surrounded by beautifully manicured grass, more than 38,000 rabid Pittsburgh Pirates fans gave Senior Master Sgt. Don Koch and Tech. Sgt. Jeff Myers the warmest reception of their lives.

As the first recipients of the Purple Heart in Pennsylvania Air National Guard history, the duo was honored by throwing out the ceremonial Opening Day first pitch and catch, April 9.

Their participation marked the beginning of a statewide effort called "Operation Shining Diamond" to celebrate the Air National Guard's 60th anniversary at professional baseball parks throughout the commonwealth. The 111th Fight Wing also provided a three-ship A-10 flyover during the national anthem.

Throughout a rousing and lengthy standing ovation, fans gave thanks to these Airmen



Tech. Sgt. Jeff Myers and, Senior Master Sgt. Don Koch Purple Heart and Bronze Star recipients from Operation Iraqi Freedom, eagerly accept first-pitch advice from longtime Pittsburgh Pirates fan John Wray. Wray, 56, who had been to 50-straight Pirates home openers, loaned the glove he wore as a 6-year old to Sergeant Koch for the opening catch. (Photo by 1st Lt. Jay Ostrich)

who were injured in an improvised explosive device attack, which rendered both with extensive shrapnel wounds outside Mosul, Iraq.

"It gave me a big chill to be in front of that crowd," said Sergeant Myers, who later received a second Purple Heart and a Bronze Star after returning to duty in Iraq. "I know they appreciate what Airmen do and the sacrifices we make to ensure freedom and our way of life."

With more than 50 years of combined service to their commonwealth and country, the team supplied convoy security as gunners with the 1058th Air Expeditionary Force Transportation Company in 2004. Their seven-man team ran convoys for the U.S. Army's First Infantry Division throughout some of the most austere and hostile regions.

But the pair weren't the only people being recognized for

" I know they appreciate what Airmen do and the sacrifices we make to ensure freedom and our way of life. "

more than a half-century of dedication. Pittsburgh native John Wray, a Pirates fan who has logged in 50-straight opening day events, couldn't help but give a personal salute for their efforts. For the first catch, he loaned Sergeant Koch the very glove he wore to his first opening day game when he was just six-years old.

"These guys are really unbelievable heroes," said Wray who works as a fundraiser for a national church organization. "It couldn't be a greater honor to me than to have these servicemen use this glove and go make history."

With a steely-eyed gaze and perfect bearing, Sergeant Myers wound up and delivered an inside strike into the history books and a well-worn glove.

"History matters, because it means that what we did as a team has touched someone's life and hopefully made it a little better," said Myers, "We never planned on making history, we just wanted to make a difference."

Judging by the inundation of applause, high-fives and thanks given the Airmen here, they have done just that.

PaANG Deputy Adjutant General (Air) Promoted to Major General



HARRISBURG – The deputy adjutant general for air operations in the Pennsylvania National Guard, a former 111th Fighter Wing

commander, was confirmed and promoted to major general recently during a ceremony at the Guard's headquarters at Fort Indiantown Gap.

At a ceremony in front of friends, family and military leaders, Maj. Gen. Stephen M. Sischo thanked his wife, Susan, for her support and emphasized his appreciation for the sacrifices spouses and families make for those who serve.

"The willingness of our spouses and families to make significant sacrifices makes the Pennsylvania National Guard the great organization it is," said Gen. Sischo. "I could not have done this alone."

The general serves as commander of the Pennsylvania Air National Guard. He is responsible for overall operational readiness ensuring that the more than 4,000 assigned members are organized, trained and equipped to successfully accomplish their federal and state missions.

Gen. Sischo joined the Pennsylvania Air National Guard in 1997. He led contingency deployments to southwest Asia in 1999 and again in 2001, providing A-10 combat support for Operation Southern Watch. Gen. Sischo also served as 111th Fighter Wing commander from 2001 to 2004.

Gen. Sischo is a command pilot with more than 4,000 flying hours. He assumed his current position in November 2006.



Senior Airman

SrA Rachelle L. Wampolen, 111MXS
SrA George T. Beane, 111 AMXS
SrA Benjamin P. Long, 111 MSF
SrA Thomas J. McKiernan, 111 CES
SrA Scott M. Schriener, 111 MXS
SrA Joshua F. Rogers, 111 SFS
SrA Daniel J. Brooke, 111 CES

Staff Sergeant

SSgt Joseph R. Bonamico, 111 MXS
SSgt Rodolfo Arroyo, 111 AMXS
SSgt Jordan C. Wilson, 111 MXS
SSgt Adam Mundy, 111 MXS
SSgt Kelly M. Spence, 111 MXS
SSgt Jennifer Weikel, 111 LRS
SSgt Sean M. Duignan, 111 AMXS
SSgt Kathleen Detwiler, 111 MXS
SSgt Daniel Steenstra, 111 AMXS
SSgt Erin M. Lang, 111 MG
SSgt Jaime Saar, 111 AMXS
SSgt Daniel B. Shall, 111 SFS
SSgt Joshua P. Anthony, 111 LRS
SSgt Daniel E. Borona, 111 AMXS
SSgt Paul J. Pettet, 111 LRS
SSgt Charlie Y. Lau, 270 EIS
SSgt Derrick M. Allen, 111 AMXS
SSgt Ryan P. Duignan, 111 AMXS
SSgt William A. Arters, 111 AMXS
SSgt Christopher J. Murphy, 270 EIS
SSgt Duke Elliot-Harmon, 111 MXS
SSgt Joseph S. Runewicz, 111 AMXS

Technical Sergeant

TSgt Robert L. Felice, Jr. 111 CF
TSgt Clive R. Austin, 270 EIS
TSgt Troy R. Smith, 111 LRS
TSgt Daivd M. Young, 270 EIS
TSgt Jermaine L. Bird, 111 MXS
TSgt Wnifrid M. Santiago, 111 CES
TSgt Wesley C. Asay, 111 MXS
TSgt Micheal S. Mandes, 270 EIS
TSgt Jeremy A. McMaster, 111 OPS
TSgt Carolyn A. Debuque, 111 MSF
TSgt Jennie M. Brown, 111 CES
TSgt Angelia A. Heckman, 111 LRS
TSgt Dirk T. Hough, 111 CES

Master Sergeant

MSgt David J. Nespoli, 111 AMXS
MSgt Michael F. Dibattista, 270 EIS
MSgt John T. Delany III, 111 AMXS
MSgt Gregory J. Greis, 111 CF
MSgt Joseph F. Scheid, 111 LRS
MSgt William J. Labarre, 111 LRS
MSgt Roger T. Burke, Jr. 111 LRS
MSgt Allen R. Wesley, 111 LRS
MSgt Ryan T. Christman, 111 AMXS
MSgt Lamar D. Belton, 111 OPS
MSgt Stephen G. Beckage, 111 MSF
MSgt Kevin P. Egan, 111 MSF
MSgt Juan C. Gonzalez, 111 CMF
MSgt Gregory P. Farnak, 111 AMXS
MSgt David M. Burns, 111 AMXS
MSgt Edward M. DiMaio, Jr. 111 CES

Senior Master Sergeant

SMSgt John Finchen, Jr. 111 LRS
SMSgt William K. Ketner, 111 OPS

Congratulations!

Communications Flight NCOs earn academic honors

Master Sgt. Michele Houston and Tech. Sgt. Mike Rapatski, 111th Communications Flight were inducted into the Alpha Sigma Lambda Honor Society, Theta Sigma Chapter, April 11 at Gwynedd-Mercy College. Alpha Sigma Lambda is "the Premier National Honor Society for Nontraditional Adult Students."

Houston and Rapatski earned this distinction because they maintained extremely high GPAs while successfully balancing their work and family lives. Both are working towards a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration. Their induction into the honor society coincided with their last class to complete their degree at Gwynedd-Mercy.

Alpha Sigma Lambda's aim is to recognize the special achievements of adults who accomplish academic excellence while facing competing interests of home and work.

Deployment Stress on Guard, Reserve Has Lessened, Hall Says

By **Gerry J. Gilmore**
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – The stress of repeated overseas deployments for National Guard and Reserve members has lessened in recent years, the Defense Department’s reserve-component chief told a special commission today at a Capitol Hill hearing.

“We have relieved the stress on the (Guard and Reserve) force in the past couple of years,” Thomas F. Hall, assistant secretary of defense for reserve affairs, told members of the Commission on the National Guard and Reserves.

Established in 2005, Congress charged the commission to recommend any needed changes in law and policy to ensure the Guard and Reserves are organized, trained, equipped, compensated and supported to best meet national security needs. Its first official meeting was in March 2006, and its final report to Congress and the defense secretary is due in January 2008.

About 74,000 Guard and Reserve members are currently mobilized in support of the war against terrorism, Hall said. That number is 120,000-fewer servicemembers mobilized than there were 18 months ago.

A recent policy change has set the Guard-Reserve length of mobilization to one-year, Hall said, instead of 18 to 21 months.

Also, Guard and Reserve organizations are now mobilized as whole units, Hall said, rather than being “cobbled-together” from different elements and then deployed.

The reserve components intend to create more predictability for servicemembers and families by eventually establishing a mobilization schedule of a one-year deployment followed by five years of stateside service.

“We cannot get there now,” Hall acknowledged, referring to the 1-5 mobilization plan. “But,

clearly the Secretary has said a 1 and 5 (mobilization policy) in the Guard and Reserve is our goal.”

The defense secretary has also directed minimal use of the so-called “Stop-Loss” policy where servicemembers may be required to serve beyond their initial length of duty obligation, Hall noted.

The reserve components are growing, Hall said, noting that Guard and Reserve recruiting and retention is also up.

The men and women in the Guard and Reserve “are patriots and they’re staying in greater numbers than they ever have since 1991,” Hall said.



**PENNSYLVANIA AIR NATIONAL GUARD
111TH FIGHTER WING (ACC)
1151 Fairchild Street
Willow Grove ARS, PA 19090-5300**

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Permit No. 4517
Philadelphia, PA**

To the Family of: