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IN THE NEWS....

# Educators get taste of Guard



Photo by TSgt. Elisabeth Matulewicz

**Linda Heiberger gives a thumbs up to an A-10 flying beside the KC-135. SSgt Phil Skiteck, 270<sup>th</sup> EIS, talks with an educator.**

**By Paul Ruppel**

Intelligencer Staff Writer

*The following article appeared in the June 3 edition of the Intelligencer and is reprinted with permission.*

Friday wasn't like any professional development day 44 local teachers, administrators and guidance counselors have ever had.

It was a chance to go 17,000 feet in the sky, lay in the back of a tanker plane moving at 300 mph to watch an A-10 fighter jet refuel and learn a bit more about what the Pennsylvania Air

National Guard has to offer students who may be interested in the military.

The 111th Fighter Wing's second annual "Educator Flight" at the Willow Grove Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base was a way for commanders and recruiters to reach out to schools and spread word of the benefits they offer to high school graduates will to make a six-year commitment.

"We're hoping that during your career you're going to meet some young people who are interested in what we have to offer, and we have a lot to offer," Col. Gregory Marston told the assembled

educators during a slide-show presentation Friday morning.

Marston highlighted the federal and state tuition payments that can range between \$29,000 and \$42,000, plus \$15,000 cash bonuses for those who join up in critical areas. The wing's more than 1,000 personnel perform 89 different kinds of tasks, he said.

Parents and counselors always perk up at the mention of tuition assistance and avoiding college loans, Marston said, but to drive home the point for students he added a slide that shows a run-down jalopy next to a souped-up sports car, which drew laughs from the audience.

Another mantra was the wing's slogan: "We're staying, we're hiring." It's an attempt to let the community know the Air National Guard unit will be joined by Army National Guard and Army Reserve Forces that will stay at the Willow Grove base despite the departure of some other military branches.

After the morning presentation, it was time to walk around an A-10 Thunderbolt in a hangar, then take off in two KC-135 Stratotankers from the 111th's sister unit out of Pittsburgh to practice refueling over North Central Pennsylvania.

The educators – many of them holding cameras and camcorders as they waited in netted seating on either side of the tanker's cargo hold – looked out windows to see the A-10's pulling alongside, then got a chance to lay down beside the boom operator in the back of the plane as the fighters moved behind to download fuel at almost 1,000 gallons a minute.

Upon landing, it was time for a group photo in front of an A-10, lunch and a final send-off.

*Educators continued on page 10.*

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## Promotions



SrA Megan Bass, 111LRS  
 SrA Clyde Gibson, 111CES  
 SrA Thomas Green, 111CES  
 Sra Christine Kohler, 111CES  
 SrA Joseph Searle, 103FS  
 SrA Jovan Tate, 111MXS



SSgt Christopher Coyne, 111CES  
 SSgt Victoria Lemut, 111MXS  
 SSgt Andre Ligon, 111MDG  
 SSgt James McKeon, 111MXS  
 SSgt Todd Reichel, 111MXS  
 SSgt Stephanie Rich, 111MDG  
 SSgt Thomas Yaw, 111MDG



TSgt Mark Kauffman, Jr., 111MXS  
 TSgt Matthew Kauffman, 111AMXS  
 TSgt Jeds Reilly, 111CES  
 TSgt Joseph Smith, MOF



MSgt Albert Kinney, 111AMXS  
 MSgt Stuart Mann, 111FW  
 MSgt Thomas Rauch, 270EIS  
 MSgt Shannon Robinson, 111CF

## Enlistments

MSgt Richard Crockett, 111SFV  
 MSgt Darlen Groben, 103FS  
 A1C Jamin Stevenson, 111OSF  
 SSgt Jacob Willson, 111AMXS

## Upcoming Events

July 16-26	Volk Field, WI deployment
August 8-19	Combat Hammer Exercise, Hill AFB, UT
September 10	Operation Salute, Penn State Main Campus
October 15	Flight of Freedom Ceremony, Willow Grove



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**Col. Gregory Marston**  
 Commander

**Lt. Col. Preston Smith**  
 Community Manager

**1st. Lt. Renee Lillis**  
 Public Affairs Officer

**SrA Ricardo Cruz**  
 Information Manager

# MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

By Col. Don Carmeans

111th Maintenance Group Commander

I want to be the first to thank all the men and women of the Wing for their "OUTSTANDING" performance during the recent ORI. A special congratulation goes to all our "Superior Performers and Teams".

In true 111th fashion it was a total team effort with all squadrons and Groups chipping in to ensure our success. All reinspected areas to include Maintenance, POL, Survival Recovery Center, Visual Information and COMSEC received either excellent or outstanding ratings. During Major General Skiff's remarks at the IG Out Brief he noted that our ratings when combined with last years grades reflected admirably on our combat readiness and the quality of our Wing.

While the primary focus of this ORI was on Maintenance, we owe a huge debt of gratitude to the Support and Operations Groups for their outstanding support not only during the ORI but during the entire year as we prepared for the retake. Col.

Andy Ryder and his staff provided much needed manpower support to maintenance allowing us to concentrate on core maintenance capabilities while simultaneously preparing POL and the SRC for reinspection as well. Lt. Col. Chip Eissler and the Operations Group tailored their training requirements for the entire year, supporting maintenance training requirements and ORI preparations allowing us to have 15 fully mission capable aircraft ready for the ORI. Believe me; we know we could not have done this without you.

While we are all rightfully proud of our accomplishments the end result does not begin to tell the story. As we prepared for the retake we've also had to deal with the cloud of our uncertain future hanging over our head. Lesser airmen and wings would have quit, but not the 111th.

The character displayed by everyone who participated and contributed to our preparation and successful retake was the most impressive accomplishment to me.

Through two OREs and four surge flying drills, we persevered through cold



weather, snow storms (remember February) and torrential rains in April. I salute each and every one of you for the dedication and pride you displayed toward our mission. Col Marston said it best when he told the IG – I'll place our airplanes, our training and most importantly our people up against any A-10 Wing in the Air Force because you are the best.

## AF, ANG budget crunch impacts wing

A projected \$3 billion deficit in the active duty Air Force's operations and maintenance budget is forcing officials to cut back spending. Other services and components are having similar, or even worse, financial problems including the Air National Guard.

The National Guard Bureau is short approximately \$100 million in 2006 and still has big bills to pay for operations, maintenance and military personnel expenses. The bottom line – cost of war. Across all services, the ongoing costs of operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, are still running \$4 billion to \$5 billion a month.

According Lt. Col. Thomas Doyle, 111<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing comptroller, all guard units lost approximately 27 percent of their 2006 budget. The 111FW's operations and maintenance budget was cut by about 26 percent this year. And base operating expenses such as supply, contracting services, travel, equipment and computer buys are also significantly impacted.

This translates into a shortage of training days and cutting back on all nonessential travel and purchases.

"This is one of the toughest year's we've seen," said Doyle. "Active duty cuts may be even worse." But he went on to say that 'budgeteers' are optimistic next year's budget will address these shortages. "Next year should be better," he said.

*Information for this article was taken from AFNS.*

Remember

**All UTA make-ups must be completed and paperwork submitted to Finance by Aug. 20.**

**No RUTA sheets will be accepted after that date, no exceptions.**



# Let the next generation know

## *Women in uniform also guaranteed their freedom*

By CMSgt Jenny Pappas  
111th Services Flight NCOIC



More than 220 years ago, Deborah Sampson disguised herself as a man to join the Massachusetts regiment of the Revolutionary Army. She treated her own combat wounds to keep her secret, but was discharged after her third injury when a doctor discovered she was a woman. She married Benjamin Gannett, raised a family, managed their farm, and lectured about her service throughout New England.

In the Civil War, women both black and white served as nurses, saboteurs, scouts, and couriers. A few led troops into battle as color bearers and many helped prisoners and slaves escape. During the Spanish American War, the invaluable service of female nurses led to the creation of the Army and Navy Nurse Corps. When World War I erupted, they were right there in the front lines to treat the sick and wounded. During World War II, nearly 400,000 women took on new roles in all military branches serving as nurses, translators, pilots, mechanics, cooks, and physical therapists. For the first time, women served as commissioned officers.

There are many stories of women who served alongside men to gain and preserve liberty, but you will have difficulty finding them in the history books. Nearly 2 million women have served in military roles since America was founded.

In 1948, the Women's Armed Services Integration Act gave women a permanent place in the armed forces. Since then, women

have served alongside servicemen in peacetime and in deployments and conflicts such as Korea, Vietnam, Grenada, Panama, Desert Shield/Storm, Somalia, Bosnia, Afghanistan, and Enduring Freedom.

Now there is a place where the collective history of women in the military, along with individual stories of registered servicewomen, are preserved. The *Women In Military Service Memorial*, at the main gate to Arlington National Cemetery, is the nation's only major national memorial honoring all women who have defended America throughout history. Their patriotism and bravery are now a part of our nation's collective heritage.

It's time for the women of the 111th to add our names to the list of these proud women. To do this, visit their web site, [www.womensmemorial.org](http://www.womensmemorial.org), to register. Just click on *membership*. How awesome would it be for all the women of the 111th to participate? In addition, there is some great information about events, history, the memorial, and a special *in search of...* area. The Women In Military Service For America Memorial Foundation guarantees each registered woman's story a permanent place in America's history. It's our individual experiences that make up the collective history. Go to their web site and fill out a registration form for yourself. Do you know of a woman veteran that would be interested in preserving her place in history? Spread the word! Help preserve this important and long overlooked portion of history. Remember, every servicewoman's story is important.



## Breakfast with the Easter Bunny

The Easter Bunny made an early visit to 111FW children this year. Hosted by the Family Readiness Group, Breakfast with the Easter Bunny was served on Apr. 12, two weeks prior to Easter. In addition to breakfast, children dyed eggs and enjoyed many craft projects - they created their own Easter bonnets that were decorated with flowers and leaves.

The main event of the morning was the egg hunt. When the okay was given, children raced around the side lawn of the building in a frantic search for the pastel-colored treasures. The children filled their baskets with eggs and proudly showed them off to moms, dads and grandparents. Each child had the chance to visit with the Easter Bunny, have their picture taken and take home basket full of Easter goodies.

Thank you to everyone who helped with the organization and assisted to make this a fantastic event.



# The military and your social security benefits

By MSgt. Al DePue  
111th Fighter Wing First Sergeant



Most of us know that the government takes Social Security out of our pay. And that's IT!!

For those serving in the military, including the Air National

Guard, it is important for you to understand the connection between Social Security and serving in the military.

You don't want to wait until your nearing the end of a long military career, to find out what the financial effects of Social Security are on your retirement pay. Hopefully, this over view will help everyone plan for the future, especially the younger troops.

Since 1957, military pay for active duty or active duty training has been covered. As for the Reserves/Guard, weekend drills have been covered since 1988.

On top of that, you get special earnings credits for serving in the military, which are added to your Social Security record. If you were in the military prior to 2002, there are special rules that may apply to you concerning credit for extra earnings for being in the service.

What that means is that you could receive additional Social Security credits, which leads to additional Social Security benefits. MORE MONEY!

Serving between 1978 -2001 you are credited with an extra \$100 in earnings, with a maximum of \$1200 a year for every \$300 in Basic ACTIVE DUTY pay.

The one exception is that if you joined before Sept 1980 and did NOT have at least 24 months of active duty, you may not be eligible for the additional earnings. You can check with Social Security.

No one needs more than 10 years (40 credits) of work or military service to be eligible for Social Security. Your benefits depend on your earnings averaged over your working lifetime. MORE earnings means MORE MONEY for retirement!

## Now, where do we stand with Social Security? —2006

The Social Security tax rate is 6.2 percent up to maximum of \$94,200. Also, we can't forget about the 1.4 percent we have deducted from our military pay for Medicare. Since the government is your employer, they match the taxes you pay.

## The Bottom Line-2006

Maximum military earnings for 2006 that will be count toward future Social Security benefits: \$3800. The number of credits you need to qualify for Social Security depends on age and type of benefit you are eligible for.

Remember to check the form that Social Security sends out that shows your earnings and what your retirement would

be if you retired at a specific age. Don't wait for 20 years and try and go back to see if the amount you earned per year is correct.

## Get answers to your Social Security questions

For answers to your questions or other assistance, contact Social Security at: 800-772-1213

Or visit <http://www.ssa.gov/> to view general information, use online benefit calculators or apply for benefits online.



## Period of the Peacemaker - 1952

Master Sgt. Ralph J. Perrie  
111FW Historian

Late in 1951, the 111th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing was formed and assigned to the Strategic Air Command at Fairchild AFB, Washington. They became part of the 92 Bomb Wing (H) and flew the B-29 *Superfortress*.

September 1952 marked the beginning of real progress for the Wing. Part of the unit transitioned to the RB-36 aircraft. For the first time, crews were formed from personnel from the three squadrons and moved into the RB-36 program. Wing personnel attended RB-36 training at Travis AFB, California.

The RB-36 *Peacemaker* aircraft was a reconnaissance version of the B-36 bomber. The number 1 forward bomb bay was fitted with 14 cameras while the number 2 bay carried up to eighty 100 lb photo flash bombs for night time aerial photography. This aircraft also was equipped with electronic counter measure (ECM) gear.

Externally, the RB-36 was similar to the B-36 however the reconnaissance version had many more antennas and four large radomes.





**By Master Sgt. Vickie Zimmerman**  
**111FW Administrative Assistant**

It's the time of year when many people roll up their sleeves and get dirty out in the yard. On May 13, fifteen members of the 111th Fighter Wing and Family Readiness Group rolled up their sleeves for a good cause – the residents at Holland Glen in Hatboro, PA.

Our project was to do major gardening to two courtyards at Holland Glen, home to ventilator dependent, respiratory impaired and multi-system failure children and young adults. We arrived at 9 a.m. and were greeted to donuts, muffins, juice and coffee. Sharon Shecter-Cohen, Director of Operations; Ted Fisher, Director of Support Services and Shawn Rotzell, Facility Director, were on hand to greet and help us.

We started by cleaning out old shrubs, grasses, leaves and other debris. After lunch, we spent the afternoon planting and spreading mulch. We spread playground mulch in an area where the home is planning to set up toys. The flowers, shrubs and mulch were provided by the Gia Nicole Angel Fund and were delivered by Colibrearo Landscaping and Nursery in Horsham, PA.

One of the many highlights of the day – a family of ducks Senior Master Sgt. Dave Soldano found while cleaning around a rose bush. Also, a few of the boys came out to watch our work. They enjoyed having us there and seeing the changes occur in the courtyards. We finished around 3 p.m., perfect timing because it started raining.

The end result was beautiful. Some of the children are mobile and can now enjoy a place to play outside for some time. The smaller courtyard will provide the caretakers, who put in long hours and give unconditional love to these children, a place to relax and enjoy.

We were a tired group of individuals, but the satisfaction in helping others definitely outweighed any aches we were feeling or would feel days later.

We will continue to support Holland Glen with another clothing drive and pruning the courtyards in the fall. If anyone is interested in joining us, please call me at 215-443-1500 or Jean Moretti at 215-443-1409.



**Front row from left: Brianna Roberts, Donna Erickson, Phong, Barbara Soldano, Sarah Blank, Katrina from The Angel Fund, Tinh. Second row from left: Kris Doyle, Alice Jenkins, Dave Soldano, Christina Soldano, DJ Soldano. Third row from left: Arnold Zimmerman, Vickie Zimmerman, Jean Moretti, John Moretti, Randy Barlip, Chuck McNevin**



**One of the many highlights of the day – a family of ducks Senior Master Sgt. Dave Soldano found while cleaning around a rose bush.**

# Earn \$2,000 for enlisting new and prior service recruits

To maintain today's readiness and strength requirements while preparing for tomorrow's challenges, the *Guard Recruiting Assistance Program* promotes strength from within by recognizing and rewarding those who help the ANG achieve its goals.

Air Guard Recruiting Assistants can earn additional income assisting ANG recruiting efforts by identifying well-qualified men and women for service in the ANG. RAs earn \$2,000 for each new recruit who enlists and reports to Basic Training or for each prior service member who affiliates with a unit for three months and performs three drills.

GRAP is a contracted program designed for individuals who voluntarily apply online at [www.GuardRecruitingAssistant.com](http://www.GuardRecruitingAssistant.com) to become eligible to serve as a part-time Recruiter Assistant (RA). RA applicants are verified and hired by a contractor, not the ANG.



Once a Potential Airman is identified and pre-qualified, the RA will coordinate a meeting with their local ANG recruiter. The recruiter, RA, and Potential Airman will then work closely to process the Potential Airman and move them towards enlistment.

Upon enlistment, the RA will receive an initial payment of \$1,000, with a second \$1,000 payment upon successful shipment of a NPS to Basic Training. As for a PS recruit, the RA will receive the initial payment of \$1,000 upon enlisting in the Air National Guard with MilPDS and AFRISS having been updated, and the second \$1,000 payment upon the PS successfully completing 90 days in their drilling unit. Note: exact payment timelines vary depending upon prior service/non-prior status and availability of training seats.

How do I sign up? If you're interested in becoming a Guard Recruiting Assistant, apply online. Or for more information, contact the 111FW recruiting office at 215-443-1515.

## Retrain to Retain

### Available Positions: Enlisted

1C3X1 - COMMAND AND CONTROL  
1N0X1 - INTELLIGENCE APPLICATIONS  
1T1X1 - AIRCREW LIFE SUPPORT  
2A0X1B - AVIONICS TEST STATION AND COMPONENTS  
2A0X1D - ELECTRONIC WARFARE  
2A3X1A - AVIONICS SENSOR MAINTENANCE  
2A3X1B - AVIONICS GUIDANCE & CONTROL SYSTEMS  
2A3X1C - COMMUNICATIONS AND NAVIGATION SYSTEMS  
2A6X1C - AEROSPACE PROPULSION  
2A6X2 - AGE  
A6X3 - EGRESS  
2A6X4 - A/C FUEL SYSTEMS  
2A6X5 - A/C HYDRAULIC SYSTEMS  
2A6X6 - A/C ELECTRICAL & ENVIRONMENTAL SYS  
2A7X1A - A/C METALS TECHNOLOGY  
2A7X3 - A/C STRUCTURAL MAINTENANCE  
2A7X4 - SURVIVAL EQUIPMENT  
2E1X3 - GROUND RADIO  
2E2X1E - ELECTRONIC COMPUTERS AND SWITCHES  
2E6X2 - COMMUNICATION CABLE SYSTEMS  
2E6X3 - TELEPHONE SWITCHING AND INSTALLATION  
2F0X1 - FUELS  
2G0X1 - LOGISTICS PLANS  
2S0X1 - INVENTORY MANAGEMENT  
2T3X1 - SPECIAL PURPOSE VEHICLE & EQUIPMENT  
2T3X2B - SPECIAL VEHICLE MXS AND REFUELING  
2T3X7 - VEHICLE MXS CONTROL AND ANALYSIS  
2W0X1 - MUNITIONS  
2W1X1 - A/C ARMAMENT SYSTEMS  
3A0X1 - INFORMATION SYSTEMS  
3C2X1 - COMM COMPUTER SYS SPECIALIST  
3E0X2 - ELECTRICAL POWER PRODUCTION

3E2X1 - PAVEMENTS AND CONSTRUCTION EQUIP.  
3E3X1 - STRUCTURAL  
3E4X1 - UTILITIES SYSTEMS  
3E4X2 - LIQUID FUELS SYSTEMS MAINTENANCE  
3E4X3 - ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL  
3E5X1 - ENGINEERING  
3E7X1 - FIRE PROTECTION  
3E9X1 - READINESS DP  
3M0X1 - SERVICES  
3P0X1 - SECURITY FORCES  
3P0X1B - COMBAT ARMS CATMS  
3S0X1 - PERSONNEL  
3S2X1 - EDUCATION AND TRAINING  
3V0X1 - GRAPHICS/WEAPONS SYS VIDEO SPEC  
3V0X3 - VISUAL INFORMATION PRODUCTION  
4E0X1 - PUBLIC HEALTH  
4N0X1 - MEDICAL SERVICE  
4V0X1 - OPTOMETRY  
4Y0X1 - DENTAL ASSISTANT  
6F0X1 - FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

### Available Positions: Officer

52R - CHAPLAIN  
43E3A - EMERGENCY SERVICES PHYSICIAN  
44F - FAMILY PRACTICE PHYSICIAN  
44G - GENERAL PRACTICE PHYSICIAN  
42E3 - OPTOMETRIST  
46N3E - CRITICAL CARE NURS  
47G - DENTIST  
48 - AEROSPACE MEDICINE PHYSICIAN  
32E - CIVIL ENGINEER OFFICER



# Medical group returns from Oklahoma

By Senior Master Sgt. Josek Hreczan  
111th Medical Group

On April 29, seven members of the 111th Medical Group graduated from a 60 hour program at the Response International group's facility, located in Oklahoma City, OK. They successfully completed courses in Basic Extraction Program, Confined Space Entry Training, Heavy Collapse Extrication, Pre-Hospital Trauma Life Support and Advanced Provider Training.



The following airmen completed the program: Capt. Anthony Martin, TSgt. Damon Bates, SSgt. Andre Ligon, SSgt. Belitza Hernandez, SSgt. Thomas Yaw, Sra Charles Hill and Sra Jessica Noble.

Students spent a considerable amount of time in the classroom learning about rigging, search, reconnaissance, ropes, lifting, hauling, confined spaces and extraction. They also received additional medical training patient assessment, spinal immobilization, splints, bleeding control, shock management, vital signs, blast and burn injuries and shock treatment.

"We learned a lot, the training was very intense and definitely enhanced my medical skills and knowledge," said Sra Noble.

Armed with knowledge from the classroom, students were ready to be exposed to actual field conditions. They used their newly acquired knowledge and skills in many life-like situations such as a collapsed structure. The students were required to shore up structures and to locate, treat and extricate victims. "As students, we had to constantly come up with plans and ideas for any given situation," SSgt. Ligon said.

All the students agreed that they were thankful for being able to attend the program. "The training I received was great and it made us think outside the box. It definitely presented us with challenges for patient assessment and treatment," said TSgt. Bates.

## Military Family Relief Assistance Program

**The Military Family Relief Assistance Program provides assistance, in the form of grants, to eligible Pennsylvania service members and their eligible family members.**

Such financial needs may include but are not limited to the following:

- A sudden or unexpected loss of income directly related to military service
- Emergency need for child care
- The death or critical illness of a parent, spouse, sibling or child resulting in immediate need for travel

**Eligibility:** MFRAP applies to Pennsylvania residents who are currently serving:

- On 30 or more consecutive days of active duty with the PAARNG PaANG or Reserve Components of the Armed Forces.
- On 30 or more consecutive days of active duty with the active armed forces (Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines, Coast Guard).
- On 30 or more consecutive days of state active duty for emergencies or duty under the Emergency Management Assistance Compact in the PAARNG or PaANG.
- The program also applies to certain members of the families of the eligible service members, as long as relatives are residents of Pennsylvania.

**Applications:** Application forms are available online at [www.dmva.state.pa.us](http://www.dmva.state.pa.us), or call the Department of Military and Veteran's Affairs PA MFRAP office toll free at 1-866-292-7201, or visit any PNG Family Assistance Center.

## Veteran Administration Enrollment

The VA will provide combat veterans free health care for any illness possibly associated with service against a hostile force in a war after the Gulf War or during a period of hostility after November 11, 1998.

Returning guardsmen should enroll with VA within two years of discharge from active duty. Enrollment is a simple process and can be done on line at [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov).

Questions about VA enrollment or benefits can be forwarded to Ken Jacoby at 717-861-8772 or [Kenneth.jacoby@pa.ngb.army.mil](mailto:Kenneth.jacoby@pa.ngb.army.mil).

**For Family Readiness Group questions, contact Jean Moretti, Wing Family Program Coordinator at 215-443-1409 or e-mail: [jean.moretti@pawill.af.mil](mailto:jean.moretti@pawill.af.mil)**

Did you know?

**You can receive a Family Separation Allowance if you are deployed for more than 30 days.**

**The Guide to Reserve Family Member Benefits is a reference to all your family benefits. For more information visit [www.guardfamily.org](http://www.guardfamily.org)**

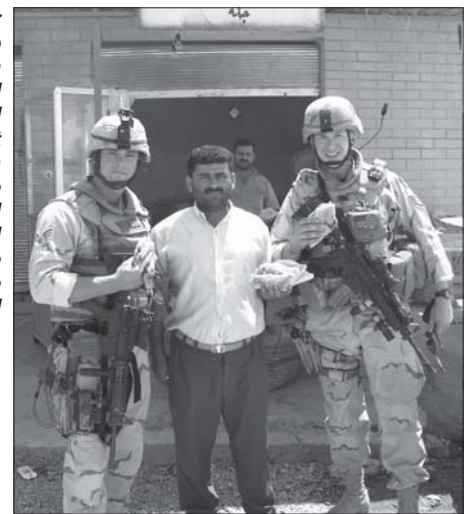


# From the Sandbox

The following photos and captions were provided by Staff Sgt. John Dell (right), 111th Security Forces Squadron, who is currently deployed as a member of the 506th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron at Kirkuk Air Base, Iraq. Dell is one of 13 111SFS personnel (below) deployed to Iraq for 120 days.



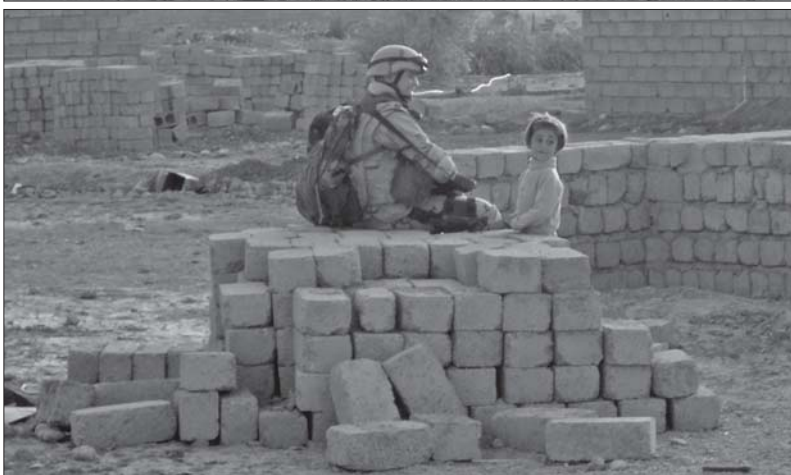
(right) This is just after buying a couple of lamb sandwiches. The guy had a grill on the sidewalk and cooked the lamb and veggies (for those that eat veggies) right there, then threw it in a small roll-like loaf of bread. Gotta tell you it was the best meal I've had since leaving the US. Pictured here are Jonesy, the store keep and I in front of the store.



(left) One of the guys playing soccer with some kids in town - with a soccer ball we gave them.



(bottom left) A1C Schuch and a little girl



(bottom right) This donkey managed to get through the outer ring of triple strand C-wire and was being "escorted" off base.



The educator had been promised a once-in-a-lifetime experience, and most felt that's exactly what they got.

"Awesome" and "humbling" were how Linda Heiberger, Organizational Advancement Director and the Eastern Center for Arts and Technology in Upper Moreland, described the flight. Her job at the vocational technical school is to help find students for the school.

Likewise, Kerry Monk, a guidance counselor at Central Bucks South and liaison to military recruiters, said Friday's program was "top-notch" and "definitely and eye-opener."

Having military recruiters or Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps programs in local high schools are propositions that can sometimes prove controversial, like in North Penn High School earlier this school year.

But Heiberger said no parent has ever told her they didn't appreciate recruiters in school, as they have during their annual career fair.

Nor had Monk ever experienced that situation at CB South or East where he previously worked. He said they're always professional, approachable and never in the

faces of students when they set up about once a month in the cafeteria.

Usually it's the student, or sometimes a parent, who first mentions the military as a potential career interest, Heiberger and Monk said.

Both said Friday's visit to the Willow Grove base helped them better understand the benefits that can be available to students and career paths that may match up with their interests.

Heiberger spoke with the unit's photographer, who had earlier received training in graphic arts before joining up.

With confusion in the local community about what is happening to the base, Heiberger also was pleased to gain a better understanding she pass along to students.

She and Monk admitted to not really knowing beforehand that all of the 111th's deployments since and including the Vietnam War were on a volunteer basis, although the President does reserve the right to activate them involuntarily for missions.

The 111th has deployed as a unit three times since the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks and



Photo by TSgt. Elisabeth Matulewicz

**MSgt. John Cima, 171st Air Refueling Wing KC-135 crew member talks with attendees.**

continually has some personnel rotating into overseas positions, including about three dozen right now. Marston and about 40 wing members are headed to Iraq in September to take charge of Baghdad Airport for four months.

"We don't send a lot of kids into the military. We send a lot off to college," Monk said. "But learning about the tuition benefits as well as the training and how it translates into civilian life and careers, I think some of the kids who might be involved in the technical programs might find that another option is available to them for training and good-paying jobs."

## ***IN MEMORY OF MSgt JOHN CASS***

**Master Sergeant John Cass, died May 11, 2006 at the age of 44, as a result of complications during recovery following heart surgery.**

**John was a member of the 111th Communications Flight and active member of the Base Honor Guard. He had 17 years of military service.**

**He will be remembered and missed by his many friends at the 111FW.**

The Summary Court Officer at the 111th Fighter Wing asks that anyone with a claim for or against the estate of MSgt John Cass to please contact Lt Col Claudia Malone at 215-443-1555 NLT 1 August 2006."



**John's wife Deidre gave birth to their son, John Charles Cass II (8 pounds, 15 ounces), on May 26.**



**John and Deidre with daughters Lauren, Erin and Colleen.**







## Military heritage continues with AF Honor Guards

**By Maj. Jacqueline Siciliano**

111MSF Commander;

Base Honor Guard Commander

A few months ago, I was privileged to attend the in residence Basic Protocols and Honors Training Program with the United States Air Force Honor Guard, Bolling AFB, DC. I witnessed one of the most solemn of military ceremonies, the rendering of Full Military Honors for one of our fallen heroes at Arlington National

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**“Unfortunately, just as our honor guard numbers are dwindling, the need for volunteers is rising.”**

**- Maj. Jacqueline Siciliano**

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Cemetery. Forty-four members of the United States Air Force Honor Guard Ceremonial Flight stood at attention on one of the coldest days of the year, while the Chaplain spoke of the heroic actions of this hero.

Simultaneously, a team of honor guard pallbearers stood motionless, holding the U.S. Flag over the casket. Approximately 50 feet from the casket was the Air Force Honor Guard Firing Party and the United States Air Force Band. It's at these times that even the strongest feel a lump in the back of the throat, knowing that this brave warrior is truly “not forgotten.”

Yet, we're in danger of losing the ability to perform such a tribute. I'm sure you've heard the rumors and have seen articles in the Wing news letter. Our honor guard membership is dangerously

low. In fact, across the Air Force, some of our fallen comrades may not get an honor guard at their funeral. Some retirees may miss the honor of having a flag detail at the end of their 20-plus years of service.

As I watched the ceremony, I was saddened at the thought that a moment like this may occur without full military honors. Unfortunately, just as our honor guard numbers are dwindling, the need for volunteers is rising. Further, legislation passed by Congress mandated that military honors will be rendered for each eligible retiree or veteran. As a minimum, a ceremonial flag folding, presentation to next of kin and playing of Taps will be required. Even though military personnel strength is decreasing, the demand for funeral honors is increasing. Between 1989 and 1997, veterans deaths increased by 18 percent. By the year 2002, veteran deaths increased another 25 percent. These trends are forcing active duty bases to look to local Guard and Reserve units for honor guard augmentation. Unless the current low membership changes, our honor guard professionals will be pushed to the breaking point.

**The honor guard needs your help.** As a member of the honor guard, you touch the lives of many. There is no greater feeling than to present the flag of freedom to a spouse, parent, or child of a veteran, at the end of a military funeral. Retirement and promotion ceremonies, flag details and other military functions are also times when you can stand tall and be proud. Besides the intrinsic value, there are also benefits such as free honor guard specialty items and a unique decorations program. Don't allow this time-honored tradition to wither away. It is part of our military heritage. Honor the honor guard and become a member today.

## The honor guard needs your help

### Honor the honor guard and become a member today



# Volunteering and 'can do' attitude lead to award for first term airman



**SrA Jennifer Weikel**  
**111FW First Term Airman of the Year, 2005**

SrA Jennifer Weikel, 111th Logistics Readiness Squadron traffic management journeyman, has accomplished a lot during her first enlistment, earning her the 111th Fighter Wing's First Term Airman of the Year award for 2005.

Lt Col Mark Landis, 111th Logistics Readiness Squadron commander, describes Weikel as a selfless and dedicated airman who consistently volunteers to fill manning voids.

Weikel volunteered to work extra nights and weekends to help prepare cargo for the 2005 Operational Readiness Squadron. She also helped process 197 short tons of cargo while working in the In-Check section of the Cargo Deployment Function, directly contributing in an excellent rating for the ORI.

In 2005, Weikel also volunteered for a sixty-day deployment to Manus Air Base, Kygystan, to work as a Third Country na-

tional escort, ensuring base security and protection.

Weikel is pursuing an Associates Degree in Elementary Education at Montgomery County Community College where she is a full-time student and dean's list honoree. She plans to ultimately earn a Bachelor's Degree in Health and Physical Education.

Weikel actively volunteers on base, in her community and beyond. She volunteers with the Family Readiness Group every year for the wing holiday party. She participated in missionary work in Jamaica helping to build a home for missionaries. She's also an active member of her church where she volunteers as a basketball coach for the church's youth program.

Her hard work and contributions to the wing and local community, accompanied by a smile and "can do" attitude, is something for others to emulate.



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**1151 Fairchild Street**

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**14-15 October 2006**