

Sandy Hog Gazette

111th Fighter Wing
Volume 17 Issue 1

Horsham Air Guard Station

PA Air National Guard
March 2013



Two National
Guardsmen
receive Catto
Medal

Page 8



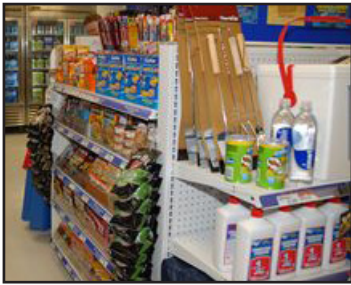
SAVE THE DATE!

Annual Retirees' Reunion Dinner

Mon. April 1 at 7 p.m. at La Casa DiLucias Restaurant
14425 Bustleton Ave (intersection of Philmont Ave.)
Philadelphia, Pa 19116 215-677-6111

The cost of the reunion dinner is the cost of whatever you order. The food is excellent and reasonably priced. A cash bar will be available. Menu available online at: <http://www.lacasadilucias.com/dinnermenu.html>. For more information, contact Vincent Celenza at: 215-728-6008.

AAFES Shoppette available during April UTA



A mobile AAFES will be visiting Horsham Air Guard Station during April's drill weekend. They will be selling convenience items such as: snack foods, cold drinks, and other items found in a military shoppette.

Stop by and see what they have to offer! There are ongoing discussions with

AAFES representatives, pertaining to the possibility of a base shoppette here in the years to come.



111th FW food drive

The 111th FW Human Resource Advisor (HRA) and First Sergeants Council are collecting non-perishable food items for local families in need.

Please drop off donations to your unit first sergeant, the Wing HRA in building 203 room 228, or in the collection box located in the main lobby of Headquarters building 203. We will be accepting donations during the next three UTA weekends: March, April and May.

Education fair to be held on April 13

Sat. April 13, 2013 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Building 203 HQ Auditorium
Horsham Air Guard Station
Hosted by the 111th Fighter Wing

Come and visit with representatives from local and online colleges and universities. Get started or finish your degree!



111th Fighter Wing

Commander
Col. Howard "Chip" Eissler

Executive Officer
1st Lt. Tim McManus

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The deadline for submissions to the April issue of the Sandy Hog Gazette is Friday, March 15. E-mail articles and photos for consideration to: pa.111fw@ang.af.mil.

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Mission of the 111th Fighter Wing

The 111th Fighter Wing provides protection of life, property, and the preservation of peace and order when tasked to do so by state or federal authorities. The Wing also provides operational and support units, as well as qualified personnel, to support wartime tasking and contingency commitments of any nature.

111th FW website at: <http://www.111fw.ang.af.mil>

Pennsylvania Code of Military Justice receives an overhaul



By Maj. James Best
111th FW Judge Advocate General Office

George Washington once said, "Discipline is the soul of an army. It makes small numbers formidable; procures success to the weak, and esteem to all." If you have served on active duty, you may be aware that the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) governs the conduct of active-duty military personnel. However as members of the National Guard, whether traditional guardsmen or active guard reserve (AGR), we are not subject to the UCMJ most of the time. Rather, we are subject to the Pennsylvania Code of Military Justice (PCMJ). This article will explain when we are

subject to the PCMJ instead of the UCMJ as well as outline recent changes to the code.

As the Supreme Court has stated, we are

actually members of "two overlapping but legally distinct organizations" – the Pennsylvania Air National Guard (Pa ANG) and the National Guard of the United States (NGUS). The role of the Pa ANG is to train, respond to natural disasters and undertake certain law enforcement missions. When fulfilling these roles, our commander in chief is the governor not the president. When drilling, attending technical training, and when responding to natural disasters, we are not subject to the UCMJ, but to the PCMJ – even when attending training in another state. The role of the NGUS is to fight wars. So, when activated to deploy under Title 10 of the U.S. Code, we are temporarily relieved from our duties as members of the Pa ANG and become part of the NGUS. Also, we cease being subject to the PCMJ and become subject to the UCMJ. So, for most of our careers in the guard, we are subject to the PCMJ.

In general, the PCMJ provides for punishment for conduct that is prejudicial to good order and discipline, such as failing to obey lawful orders, insubordination and the like. It does not cover many crimes such as homicide and rape, which are punishable by the state's criminal justice system. The goal of the PCMJ is not to duplicate Pa.'s criminal justice system, but to provide for military justice for crimes related to military service.

The PCMJ was recently overhauled. Before the recent changes, many of the provisions of the PCMJ dated back to 1949 or earlier. The new PCMJ is based on a model code that at least 14 other states have already adopted. The PCMJ now has an explicit statement

that the PCMJ applies 24/7 to any offense related to the military, whether we are wearing the uniform or not, even if we are outside the state. Although, this was always the case, the new PCMJ now makes the point clearly. So remember, by joining the guard, we have agreed to be subject to the PCMJ at all times.

The new PCMJ also increases the possible punishments under a Non-Judicial Punishment action, which is similar to an "Article 15" under the UCMJ. The old PCMJ had a maximum punishment of \$10 or a reduction of one grade. Now, commanders may impose a fine up to \$500 and a reduction of two grades. Similarly, the new PCMJ greatly strengthens the maximum punishments for courts-martial. For instance, the maximum fine was changed from \$200 to \$10,000. Pre-trial confinement is also allowed now. The new PCMJ provides much more effective disciplinary tools for commanders and brings Pa.'s military justice system in line with that of many other states.

If you have any questions about the new PCMJ or are seeking any legal advice, please do not hesitate to contact the 111th FW legal office at 215-323-7161.



Cover photo:

Members of the 3rd Regiment U.S. Colored troops stand guard during the wreath laying ceremony honoring fallen Army Guardsman, Maj. Octavius V. Catto on Feb. 23. Catto was assassinated in 1871 near his home, in what is now considered Old City Philadelphia. Soldiers of the 3rd Regiment can be regularly seen through the region wearing period-correct uniforms at parades, events and commemorations. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Christopher Botzum.

Your "Other Family"

**By Chief Master Sgt. Harley Delp
111th Communications Flight**

I hope that you've had a good chance to really enjoy time with your family and friends this past holiday season. It seems that Christmas and the New Year fly past on the calendar so quickly. We're soon left with only the cheerful memories of those precious times having fun with aunts, uncles, nephews, and nieces. There's really no one else that knows us like our family does.

We've been with them through good times and some tough times, through fair weather and a few storms. But your family is always there for you, and you are there for them...no matter what happens. Those bonds are so strong that little can tear them apart.

Over the years, I've come to believe that many of those same principles apply to our 111th family. This realization came to me after allowing myself to become involved. It took a bit of effort to plunge myself into some of the many opportunities to give back here.

My original reasons for joining the unit years ago had more to do about opportunities for myself: to learn technical skills, to train with advanced military systems, and to gain

experience in a technical field. Those reasons are OK, but that is just a part of what it means to be a full member of this family. Equally important aspects of our involvement here are: building personal relationships, helping one another discover better solutions, participating and volunteering with various Wing programs and organizations; and facilitating improvements that can enhance our mission goals.

These are some of the less tangible things that are difficult to define and don't come from memorizing dozens of Air Force Instructions. These aspects probably have the greatest impact in predicting future successes. They are some of the qualities that make us a family. They also happen to be qualities that will ultimately produce the most benefit to you personally.

The people around you are an especially diverse group. Get to know them better. On any given drill weekend, I'm amazed that in the span of just a few minutes, I may have just had a discussion with a state police officer, a defense contractor engineer, a commercial pilot, a health care technician, and a Verizon cable splicer.

Our family is not without its characters too. It's what adds a unique flavor to the things we do together, and helps us to get a chuckle out of



**Chief Master Sergeant
Harley Delp**

some of the unusual circumstances that arise.

Some of my favorite brothers and sisters in my 111th family are the people that spend so much of their time giving their energies and efforts toward helping us to be a family: by supporting us, our spouses, and children through the programs and events they sponsor. Of course, I'm referring to our own "Family Readiness Group & Key Volunteers Group." They are selflessly compelled to make a difference in our lives merely because they want to show their support for the sacrifices we make in serving our country.

Please take a moment to say a "Hello and Thank you" to them this drill weekend. They meet Sunday at 1 p.m. in building 203, room 106. Show your gratitude for their efforts by bringing your family members to events like family day and the holiday party.

I urge you to seek out opportunities to become increasingly engaged with our Wing family. Take advantage of those moments that offer a chance to become better acquainted with your brothers and sisters throughout Wing. You might be surprised at just how much your "Other Family" needs and appreciates your efforts to make a difference. Have a safe and happy 2013.



**Several Family Readiness Group & Key Volunteers Group members
pose with Santa and Mrs. Claus during a holiday party held on Jan. 6.**

Cody appointed 17th Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force

To the Airmen of the United States Air Force:

Yesterday I was appointed as your 17th Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force. It was an incredible day, and as we begin this journey with you I wanted to send a quick note to let you know a little bit more about me.

First and foremost, I could not be any prouder of the men and women in our United States Air Force and their families. Thank you for your service. Our Air Force consists of 690,000 diverse, highly skilled, dedicated and brilliant people, and none is more important than another. We must all work together as a team to produce unbeatable airpower for our Nation.

As General Welsh has said, every one of us has a story. Mine revolves around the Air Force. I am proud to have been an Airman for just over 28 years now. I married an Airman; Athena is a retired CMSgt, and our son is an Airman. We understand the sacrifices you make and the challenges you face, this is family business.

Coming out of AETC, I have a pretty clear view of how we train and educate Airmen. I believe education and training are the foundation of our airpower advantage and must be protected. This will be one of my focus areas. Education and training, along with experience, are the keys to the deliberate development of Airmen that will ensure the continued success of our Air Force today and into the future. I expect us to continue focusing on all three of these things.

We cannot have airpower without Airmen. We rely on Airmen to accomplish our missions. I think it's critical that we make sure you have the resources you need to do your job. Our programs and services should meet the needs of our Airmen and their families. This will be another of my focus areas.

While we're doing all this, we also need to strike an appropriate work/life balance. Our Nation demands a lot from its Airmen, and that is not likely to change, but if we can eliminate unnecessary additional duties and find ways to use



**Chief Master Sergeant
of the Air Force
James A. Cody**

technology to give us some time back, I think we should do that. On top of that, our workplaces must be safe and productive environments where innovative Airmen can function at their best. This will be another of my focus areas.

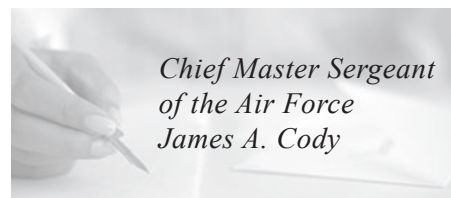
From the pioneering spirit of CMSAF Paul Airey to the bold leadership of CMSAF Jim Roy, our force has prospered from a long line of brilliant and visionary Chief Master Sergeants of the Air Force. It is my mission to continue that legacy in the best way I can.

It's most important to me that you know Athena and I will be working with you, your family, your development, and your mission in mind.

Thank you for your service to our Nation.



March is Women's History Month



Hotaling appointed 11th Command CMSgt of Air National Guard

Fellow Airmen of the Air National Guard:

On February 4, 2013, I began my service as your 11th Command Chief Master Sergeant of the Air National Guard. The appointment to this position is truly humbling, and Marie and I consider it a great privilege and opportunity to be able to walk alongside each of you as we represent the needs of the enlisted force.

Marie and I recognize that your decision to serve is no small choice and that as professional Airmen and representatives of our Air National Guard, you and your families make daily sacrifices, and for that we thank you.

As we begin our journey I want to assure you that I stand ready to

represent and address those matters that influence the enlisted community's health, morale and welfare. As I serve as your Command Chief, I intend to maintain open and honest dialogue to ensure your voice is heard in both policy and execution on behalf of our Nation, our States and our Air National Guard.

I look forward to engaging with our Guard Airmen over the next four years. I'm here to champion your causes and to ensure that your voice is heard. I'm confident that working together we will continue to execute our mission to fly, fight and win our Nation's wars and serve our communities.

From the original Minutemen of 1636, to the expeditionary Citizen

Airmen of 2013, our Air National Guard represents a proud heritage and a legacy of combat ready response domestically and abroad that is only accomplished by men and women who stand ready to balance that responsibility. You are America's heroes because you are America's Airmen.

You should know that Marie and I take your contribution seriously and as such we will be working alongside you and your families to ensure that you are provided everything you need to accomplish your



**Command Chief Master Sergeant
of the Air National Guard
James W. Hotaling**

mission. Maintain that Warrior Spirit and thank you for your continued service.

*Command Chief Master
Sergeant of the ANG
James W. Hotaling*



Your Air Force Association

Sixty-six years ago, Gen. Henry "Hap" Hap Arnold, the first and only general of the Air Force, told Gen. James Doolittle to create an organization to promote airpower. The Air Force Association was there then, before we had an independent service, and it's here now educating various groups on the Air Force and honoring the heritage of our Airmen and their families.

Did you know?

- The Air Force Association

initiated the CCAF and the 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year?

- The Air Force Association created the idea of a Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force?
- The Air Force Association publishes the Air Force Magazine every month?

Whether downrange or not, your service matters. Because of your sacrifice our Air Force is second to none.

The Air Force Association provides spousal scholarships, insightful daily news updates from around the Air Force and money saving benefits through AFA Veterans Benefits Association.

The Air Force and the AFA are

in the business of family, ensuring the needs of your loved ones are met. Whether it's promoting and subsidizing education through multiple scholarship programs, or helping to heal the wounds of war through the Wounded Airmen program, the AFA is working with the Air Force to make family the priority.

The Air Force Association story is part of the Air Force story, your story. The AFA tells the Air Force story not only in Washington D.C. but throughout the nation. It's a story that Arnold, Doolittle, and Sgt. John Levitow would be proud of.

Those interested in joining the AFA should visit: <http://www.afa.org> for further information.

Corbett signs legislation to benefit Pennsylvania's citizens

Governor Tom Corbett ceremonially signed seven pieces of legislation that will benefit Pennsylvania's military veterans and Pennsylvania National Guard on Nov. 12.

"Today is about honoring a debt; a debt earned in blood and sacrifice," Corbett said. "These bills are various in their goals. But they share the single purpose of repaying part of the debt we owe to those who have guarded our freedom and place their very lives between us and our enemies."

The ceremony was held this morning, nationally observed as Veterans Day, at the Pennsylvania National Guard's Keystone Conference Center at Fort Indiantown Gap.

Joining Corbett at the signing today were members of the Pennsylvania National Guard, including The Adjutant General Major General Wesley Craig, as well as representatives of several veterans' groups, lawmakers, state and local leaders.

Legislation ceremonially signed today included:

- The Veterans Trust Fund, sponsored by Sen. Lisa Baker (R-Luzerne), will provide for veterans' programs. Financed through several sources, the fund will receive \$1.7 million after the sale of Scotland School for Veterans Children, and continue to grow, providing help and assistance for veterans.

- "V" Designation on Driver License, sponsored by Rep. Jeff Pyle (R-Armstrong), requires PennDOT to issue a driver's license or ID card with

a "V" for Veteran identifier at no additional cost, for persons who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces. While participation is voluntary, it will allow veterans to qualify for discounts or other benefits.

- Pennsylvania Code of Military Justice, sponsored by Sen. Mary Jo White (R-Butler), substantially revises the code, enforcing order and discipline for members of the Pennsylvania National Guard who are not in active federal service. The code, which had not been updated since 1975, will give commanders more effective options in dealing with military offenses. The new code is based on a model already enacted in 14 other states and under consideration in 22 more states.

- Uniformed Military Overseas Voting Act, sponsored by Sen. Bob Robbins (R-Butler), simplifies and provides uniformity to the registration and absentee ballot process for uniformed service voters and overseas civilian voters for all elections within the state.

- Veteran-Owned Business Procurement Program, sponsored by Sen. Tommy Tomlinson (R-Bucks), encourages state agencies to contract with veteran-owned and service-



**Pa. Governor
Tom Corbett**

disabled veteran-owned small businesses.

- Establishes special license plates for World War II veterans of the U.S. Merchant Marine and for all veterans of U.S. Military Airborne Units, sponsored by Rep. John Bear (R-Lancaster). Prior to this legislation, special military license plates were available to World War II veterans of all other military services except the Merchant Marine.

- Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Commission, sponsored by Rep. Marcia Hahn (R-Northampton), which provides training for all police officers in the state on recognizing and interacting with veterans and other individuals suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and Traumatic Brain Injury.

For more information, visit <http://www.pa.gov>.





Army Maj. Gen. Wesley E. Craig, adjutant general of Pa. (left) with 2013 Octavius V. Catto Medal recipients Army Sgt. 1st Class Bruce E. Facer, Sr. (center) and Tech. Sgt. Kevin Watson (right) at an official award ceremony held Feb. 23 at the Union League in Philadelphia.

Two Pa. National Guardsmen receive Catto Medal

Story and photos by Master Sgt. Christopher Botzum

Two servicemen with the Pa. National Guard were recognized on Sat. Feb. 23 at the Union League in Philadelphia during the second annual Major Octavius V. Catto ceremony for their contributions toward citizenship, volunteerism and commitment to duty.

Army Sgt. 1st Class Bruce Facer, Sr., readiness non-commissioned officer, Bravo Company, 628th Aviation Support Battalion, Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa. and Air Force Tech. Sgt. Kevin Watson, recruiter with the 111th Fighter Wing, Horsham Air Guard Station, Pa. and were the recipients of this year's award.

Facer, having served in three branches of the military, began his career in 1985 with the Navy. In 1990 he enlisted in the Pa. Air National Guard then transferred to the Pa.

Army National Guard in 2000, where he has been since. Facer has pursued a broadening of his professional development courses over his Army career to include small arms/range operations, small arms simulation course and small arms master gunner.

Facer's community service includes serving more than 20 years in the Mount Carmel volunteer fire department, of which he spent two years in the lieutenant capacity. He also is active in his local Elks Club in a lead capacity, promoting community activities such as sponsoring parades and visits to elderly veterans in his area.

Watson, as well, has a multiservice background having enlisted with the U.S. Marines as an infantryman in 2001 where he deployed on three occasions to Iraq conducting counter-insurgency operations. Watson joined the Pa. Air National Guard in 2006, initially in the fire fighting career

field and has since transferred to be a recruiter with the 111th Fighter Wing.

Working with a local Civil Air Patrol squadron, Watson had organized a cadet orientation program and instructed cadets in physical fitness and land navigation

(Story continued on next page)



Tech. Sgt. Kevin Watson, recipient of Pennsylvania's Octavius V. Catto Medal, and wife Melissa, attended the Feb. 23 presentation ceremony at the Union League in Philadelphia.

In the Local Community

Catto Medal

(Continued from previous page)

at the Horsham Air Guard Station. He also devotes time to the local Boy Scout troop as an active Eagle Scout leader providing mentorship and guidance to the members.

"I'm so humbled and surprised by my selection to receive this award," said Watson.

The Major Octavius V. Catto Medal, commemorating a martyred Civil War era Guardsmen from Philadelphia, was re-established two-years ago to recognize Pa. National Guardsmen for their public service and community support.

Catto, an African-American major serving as the inspector general with 5th Brigade in the Army Guard here, was assassinated on the streets of Center City Philadelphia in 1871 during elections by political opponents to the African-American's right to vote.

Catto was called to active duty to quell an uprising resulting from the opposition and violence to thwart the black vote. While heading home to prepare himself and others, he was shot dead near his house.

The funeral that followed would be the largest gathering for a public funeral since the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln. He had been remembered as a philosopher, educator and activist, yet still his grave marker carries "The Forgotten Hero" engraving.

"It is no coincidence that the Catto remembrance ceremony happens in February," speaking at an earlier event said Dr. Anthony (Andy) Waskie, professor and historian at Temple University in Philadelphia. "It comes at the tail-end of black history month and closely marks Catto's birthdate."

The earlier event was held at 6th and Lombard streets at the



Starr Garden Recreation Center. Community leadership such as Philadelphia's mayor, Michael A. Nutter and Fire Commissioner, Lloyd Ayers were in attendance to pay their respects during a wreath-laying ceremony. The event was sponsored by, among others, the O.V. Catto Society, the General Meade Society of Philadelphia and the 3rd U.S. Colored Troops military unit.

"I find it so amazing that a man brought down at only 32-years-old could manage to do so much in such little time," said keynote speaker, Air Force Lt. Col. Scott Hreso, acting Mission Support Group commander of the 111th Fighter Wing as he spoke to the tightly-packed crowd of nearly 100 about the leadership examples set forth by Catto and his father. "An activist for equality, a professor and dean, of what is now Cheyney University, and from what I hear, quite a baseball shortstop."

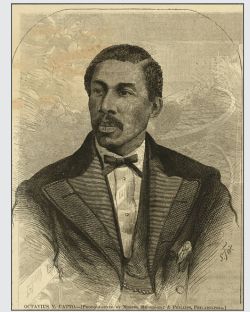
Army Maj. Gen.

Lt. Col. Scott Hreso, vice-air commander of the 111th Fighter Wing, speaks to a standing room only audience on Feb. 23 at the 18th annual O.V. Catto Memorial Ceremony held at the Star Gardens Recreation Center at 6th and Lombard streets in Philadelphia. Hreso spoke to the attendees about the positive leadership and commitment Catto demonstrated nearly 150 years ago.

Wesley Craig, the adjutant general for Pennsylvania presided over the official awards presentation hosted by the Union League of Philadelphia.

These two members represent the best of the 1 percent, said Craig talking about the military membership population of the U.S.

The award namesake, Octavius V. Catto, was born in Charleston, S.C. in 1839, and moved to Philadelphia in 1848. He was the son of William Catto, a minister and an anti-slavery activist, who would later join up with Frederick Douglass, Henry Garnet, Robert Purvis, and Charles Redmond.



Source: Library of Congress

Octavius became an advocate for the passage of the 15th Amendment to the Constitution, which guaranteed freedom to vote regardless of race, color, or previous servitude status. He was invited to join the Pennsylvania National Guard's 5th Brigade, promoted to the rank of Major, and assigned as the brigade's Inspector General.

During a controversial election day in Oct. 1871, while walking through a disputed district to his home to retrieve his uniform and equipment, Catto was accosted by a hired assassin and known associate of the political opposition. He was shot first in the back, then shot again at close range. He fell dead a few steps from his home on South Street.

Sergeant called to duty as civilian with US Army Corps of Engineers

By T.W. Lyman
US Army Corps of Engineers Kabul

What happens when a veteran Pennsylvania Air National Guard master sergeant is moved to action? The Corps of Engineers, the United States and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan all benefit.

Greg Greis, who has been with the Guard 23 years, saw something his brother posted which articulated Greis' feelings about civilians serving in war zones in support of our nation.

The post read:

"To recognize the important work, dedication and commitment of the Civilians serving as Department of the Army employees, the Secretary of the Army and the Chief of Staff of the Army announced the establishment of the Army Civilian Corps in a memorandum dated Jun. 19, 2006.

Read the Memorandum: **Army Civilian Corps Creed**

*I am an Army Civilian - a member of the Army Team
I am dedicated to our Army, our Soldiers and Civilians
I will always support the mission
I provide stability and continuity during war and peace
I support and defend the Constitution of the United States and consider it an honor to serve our Nation and our Army
I live the Army values of Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity, and Personal Courage*

*I am an Army
Civilian"*

"I always felt the average American didn't realize the contributions other citizens are making in the defense of our nation," Greis explained. "I wanted to be part of the effort. I believe the efforts of the civilian force were not emphasized enough and the civilian effort is equally important if we are to get the mission accomplished."

The Minersville, Pa. native volunteered to support Operation Enduring freedom with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Kabul, Afghanistan. The district, comprised of approximately 500 military and civilian personnel in Kabul and throughout the northern and eastern regions of Afghanistan, directs the construction of hundreds of projects designed to reinforce the country's infrastructure after more than 30 years of war.

Greis, a graduate of Gwynedd-Mercy College and Minersville High School, has been a member of Transatlantic District-North (TAN) since September. He is a construction control representative currently working to complete three of his eight projects. The value of the three nearing completion is more than \$21.5 million and range from a diesel power plant and storage facility to logistics school facilities for the Afghanistan National Army.



Air Force Master Sgt. Greg Greis wears individual body armor headed to a construction site.

The irony of Greis' volunteering to serve as a civilian is that he deployed in uniform twice; once to Qatar with the Air Force during Operation Enduring Freedom in late 2010 through 2011 and to Bosnia for Operation Allied Force in 1999, where he went while assigned to Aviano Air Base.

The 51-year-old father and grandfather is a union electrician and works in the States for the Philadelphia District on the remediation of a \$600 million Environmental Protection Agency Welsbach superfund site as a construction control representative.

His experience and maturity have helped him earn fast rapport with the

(Story continued on next page)

In the Local Community

Sergeant called to duty **(Continued from previous page)**

Afghan quality assurance employees who work with him.

“The best part of my job with TAN is mentoring the local national quality assurance representatives and teaching them how to be good inspectors. They are quick studies and eager to perform well. Their progress is very encouraging,” Greis said.

Greis’ career with the Corps of Engineers began in 2009. He enlisted into the Air Force in 1982 out of Wilkes Barre, Pa. and joined the Air National Guard after three and a half years in the Air Force.

He has earned the reputation, among the Afghan workers, of a problem solver. Greis explained, “Because I was able to work a solution to one challenge, every time there is a hiccup the Afghan workers will ‘look for the American’ for a resolution. They’re perfectly capable of working it out, but they depend on us because we have a good relationship. Having worked with other service members worldwide and contractors back in the States allows me to get my point across more effectively.”

Paul C. Holcomb, P.E., Kabul Area Engineer had this to say about Greis, “Greg demonstrates absolute integrity in all that he does. He

has passion for the mission and doing the right thing for each of his construction projects. We are very pleased to have someone with his energy and willingness to help our Afghan contractors succeed. Greg is a true example of the professional construction managers we have serving in USACE Transatlantic District North.”

Greis’ time with TAN is only a year currently, but there is little doubt he’s made an impression and served as an exceptional American ambassador. He’s also personified service as many other Corps employees have in Afghanistan.

Phillies Phantasy Camp a hit with Burke

Liberty USO sponsors Pa. NG members to play in the big leagues

Story and photos by Master Sgt. Christopher Botzum

Senior Master Sgt. Roger Burke, supply supervisor with the 111th Fighter Wing, returned here mid-January after a 5-day trip competing with fellow Phillies fans in their annual Phillies Phantasy Camp held in Pinellas, Fla.

The camp brings baseball enthusiasts together to authentically suit-up and play competitive, yet friendly baseball, coached by former Philadelphia Phillies players. Approximately 130 campers were drafted into 10 teams and played two 7-inning games against each other over the course of the event.

The Liberty USO of Philadelphia announced in December 2012 and sponsored two Pa. National Guardsmen, Burke and Army Staff Sgt. Barton Hartzell, training non-commissioned officer with the 56th Stryker Brigade Combat Team

Headquarters, to participate in this year’s camp.

“The experience was overwhelming,” said an energized Burke. “I’ll have those memories for a lifetime!”

At the end of the event, Burke was awarded the 2013 Phantasy Camp Golden Glove award.

“We had to compete for our positions in the field. Initially we were rotated until our coaches placed us in positions to be most competitive. No one escaped pitching duties though. That 60-foot distance to the plate wears you down. I more or less served it up”, said Burke.

Burke’s team was coached by Phillies shortstop, Kevin Stocker of the 1993 World Series Champion team and lefty-relief pitcher, Rheal Cormier of the 2001 – 2006 Phillies.

“It was certainly a diverse group. Our catcher was 60-years-old. Most of our players were from the Philly



Senior Master Sgt. Roger Burke poses for a photo with bat in-hand.

area, but two were from Australia,” he said. “The only game our team won was pitched by a 78-year-old who ran a 5-inning, 1-run game.”

“One of the things that really broke the ice for me at the onset was something Stocker told me during a hitting slump I was in. He said, ‘Thank goodness it’s not hitting that defends our county.’”



Meet the Member: Senior Airman Pareshkumar Brahmbhatt

**Story and photo by Tech. Sgt. Marie Harmon
111th Fighter Wing Public Affairs**

Senior Airman Pareshkumar Brahmbhatt, a cyber-surety specialist with the 111th Communications Flight, grew up in Northeast Philadelphia, in a very diverse neighborhood. This diverse cultural experience gave him the opportunity to understand and be more open-minded toward others.

"It made me more driven living among the immigrant community," said Brahmbhatt. "I saw all the different hardships that they had gone through to get here and that had left a mark on me."

Brahmbhatt became interested in the Air National Guard while attending high school in Philadelphia. During his high school days, Brahmbhatt joined the Civil

Air Patrol program and started to take flying lessons at Northeast Airport with a retired Air Force captain and a teacher with the CAP program.

"It's a life I can look forward to," said Brahmbhatt regarding his military career exploration.

Brahmbhatt joined the Air National Guard in 2008, after hearing a speech given by an officer from the 111th Fighter Wing at one of their CAP meetings. The speaker had emphasizing the educational benefits of joining the military.

"The Air National Guard gave me a good route into the military without signing away my life," said Brahmbhatt.

Brahmbhatt deployed in April

2010 through August 2010 to Joint Forces Base Balad with the 270th Engineering and Installation Squadron.

Brahmbhatt spoke on one of his best experiences while returning from the deployment in Qatar; a promotional program gave him the opportunity to go the mall in Qatar, said Brahmbhatt. "I got some Haagen-Dazs ice cream from the mall in Qatar, not many people can say that, and I got to go ice skating in the mall at Qatar."

Brahmbhatt is attending Drexel University fulltime, where he is working on his bachelor's degree in physics and a minor in mathematics.

During the past four-years, Brahmbhatt has been on working on robotic research as a member of Drexel's Autonomous Systems Laboratory. The group focuses on humanoid robotics and helicopters.

Brahmbhatt is preparing for the next Defense Aerospace Research Program Agency or DARPA challenge. The university's program, led by mechanical engineering professor, Dr. Paul Y. Oh, will give the team members 27-months to design, prepare and test a "search and rescue" firefighting robot. The robot shall be designed to go into burning building and perform tasks such as turning off gas valves, extracting victims and moving heavy objects.

In the future, Brahmbhatt would like to continue his work with robots, doing research and starting his own "trash to electricity" company. He stated his experience with the National Guard will help him with his future plans because of the knowledge he has obtained while being deployed. "That's one of the benefits of the Guard; I can have a life outside the military and still be in the military."

Did you know *myPers* can assist you with your Retirement Process?

Are you a Regular Air Force, Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve or AF Civilian member nearing retirement eligibility and asking yourself, “Where do I begin?” The answer to that question is *myPers*.

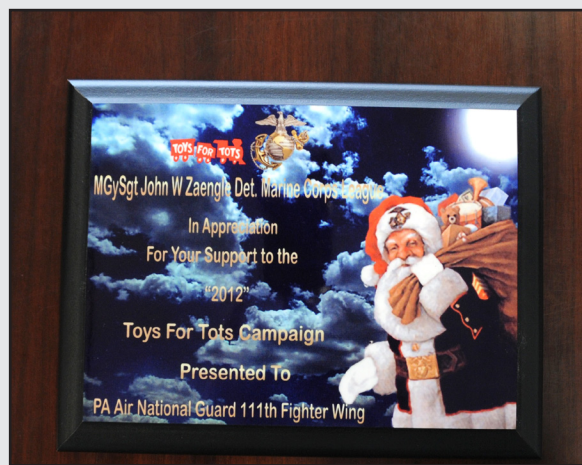
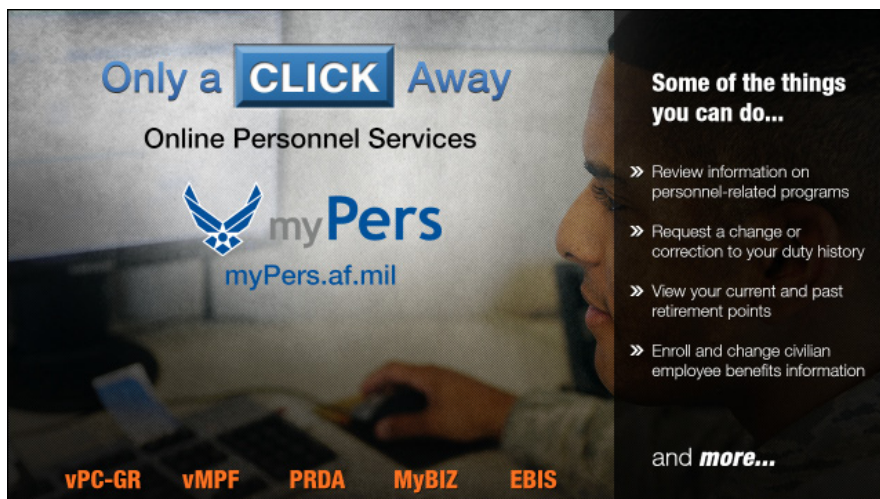
The *myPers* website is a total force source for personnel information and services. It’s available 24/7 and is where you can find answers to your questions and conduct personnel business online when it is convenient for you.

To get started on your retirement quest, log on to the *myPers* website at mypers.af.mil. As *myPers* is personalized, the information you see upon entry is tailored to your

Air Force affiliation. Once there navigate to the “Learn More About” section on the left side of the page and click on the “Retirement” link. Your component’s Retirement Home Page provides everything you need—from information on eligibility and the application process, frequently asked questions (FAQs), and

relevant online service tools --to benefits/entitlements and other guidance you may need surrounding a retirement from service.

For more information, visit the *myPers* website at: <http://www.mypers.af.mil>.



Marine Corps League honors Wing volunteers for “Toys for Tots” campaign support

Story and photos by Tech. Sgt. Elisabeth A. Matulewicz
111th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Marine Corps League Gunnery Sgt. John W. Zaengle and Detachment Senior-Vice Commandant Al DePue presents a “Toys for Tots” plaque to Col. Howard “Chip” Eissler, 111th Fighter Wing commander, Horsham Air Guard Station, Pa. Air National Guard, on Feb. 14 in appreciation for the hard work and support Wing members provided to their organization during last

year’s “Toys for Tots” campaign.

Wing members helped the Marine Corps League by collecting donations from over 900 drop-off locations across Montgomery County and transporting them to a warehouse, where league volunteers sorted and packaged them, before being distributed into the local community. This year, approx. 18,000 toys were given to 9,000 children in the local community.

DePue served in the Marine Corps and is a retired master sergeant with the 111th.

Family Readiness Group News

EFAC Quarterly Event &
Family Readiness Group



DATE: 13-14 APR 13

4-5 MAY 13

Raffling Baskets for

- Mother's day
- Father's day

Don't need to be present to
win.



Basket will be available to view March
UTA BLDG 203, Main Hallway

Come support EFAC and FRG!



RAFFLE BASKETS

Moving Up, Moving In, Moving Out

PROMOTIONS

To Airman 1st Class

Brandon Lipoff 111th SFS
Robert Custer 111th SFS

To Senior Airman

Timothy Herman 201st RHS, Det. 1
Alexis Job 201st RHS, Det. 1
Christopher Laird 111th SFS

To Staff Sergeant

Michael Hreczan 111th Medical Group
Clarence Walker 270th EIS

Tyler Wardenski

111th Comm. Flight

To Technical Sergeant

Ryan Ward

111th Medical Group

To Captain

Daniel Taylor

111th AOG

To Lieutenant Colonel

Jonathan Boulet

111th AOG

To Colonel

William Griffin

111th FW

Michael Shenk

111th AOG

Operation: Military Kids "Eyes of a Military Child" Creative Arts Contest

Operation: Military Kids in Pennsylvania knows our state has amazing military kids and we would like for them to share their story! We are teaming up with the American Legion Auxiliary #432 in Wheatland to look for creative, innovative military kids to submit artwork or poetry depicting the life of a military child.

Selected submissions will be exhibited at the OMK Salute to the Military Child Family Fun Fair on April 7, 2013 at Penn State's Snider Agricultural Arena. Selected entries also have the potential to be used in other OMK and Penn State Extension outlets.

Contest Guidelines:

1. Contest is open to military children of currently serving and retired military personnel as well as siblings of currently serving military personnel in grades Pre-K through 12th.

2. All entries must be postmarked by Mar. 15, 2013.

3. Artwork and poetry must highlight the life of a military child.

4. Only original work will be accepted. Submissions copied from a book, the web, or clip art are prohibited and will be disqualified.

5. All submitted artwork must be in its original form and accompanied by completed entry form signed by parent or guardian. Scanned or faxed copies of artwork will not be accepted.

6. Artwork must be mailed or delivered to:

OMK Creative Arts Contest
115 ASI Bldg
University Park, PA 16802

7. All entries must be clearly labeled on the back with the following information:

☐ Title for poetry piece or artwork

☐ Child's first and last Name

☐ Current school grade

8. All submissions must be no bigger than 8.5" x 11".

9. Submissions may be the medium of your choice. Use of bright colors or dark, bold designs for artwork would be appreciated.

10. Age categories are as follows:

☐ Preschool - Kindergarten

☐ 1st - 3rd grade

☐ 4th - 6th grade

☐ 7th - 9th grade

☐ 10th-12th grade



11. Prizes will be awarded as follows for each category:

First Place: \$25

Second Place: \$15

Third Place: \$10

The official contest entry form can be found at: <http://extension.psu.edu/4-h/pdfs/omk-documents/eyes-of-the-military-child-creative-arts-contest/view>. For more information, please call: 814-865-2264.

Operation: Military Kids is a partnership of Army Child, Youth, and School Services, National 4-H Headquarters/USDA, and Penn State University's College of Agricultural Sciences Cooperative Extension. Visit our website at: <http://www.operationmilitarykids.org/public/statePOCHome.aspx?state=Pennsylvania>.



2013 HEROES NIGHT

APRIL 4 & MAY 7

7:05PM GAMES

POLICE, FIREFIGHTER, EMS & MILITARY GROUPS

2 1/2 Hour All-You-Can-Eat Buffet in PPL Picnic Patio

Groups of 24 or more

\$22/person - Includes game ticket, buffet & soft drinks

- Buffet menu: Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Mac & Cheese, Cole Slaw, Baked Beans, Chips, Watermelon & Cookies

Ceremonial first pitch for one lucky group member

PA Announcement & scoreboard recognition

CALL 610-841-PIGS TO BOOK YOUR GROUP TODAY!



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The "Minuteman Report" highlights news, current events and items of significance within the National Guard.



Your benefits.
Your community.
Your safety net.

Statewide News:

View newsletters of our sister units:

193rd Special Operations Wing

"The Scope"

<http://www.193sow.ang.af.mil>

171st Air Refueling Wing

"Tanker Times"

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

Pa. Guardians Magazine

<http://www.portal.state.pa.us/>

portal/server.pt/community/public_affairs_office/13469

National News:

On Guard Magazine

Published every Jan., April, July, Oct.

<http://www.ng.mil/features/onguard-mag/default.aspx>

Airman Magazine

Published bi-monthly and now available online:

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

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

<http://www.dvidshub.net>



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