



PENNSYLVANIA AIR NATIONAL GUARD Vol. 8, No.7 January 2009 Pittsburgh, PA

Pennsylvania Guardsmen contribute to Global Deterrence mission

by Airman 1st Class Ryan Whitney 36th Wing Public Affairs

11/16/2008 - ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE, Guam -- Members of the Pennsylvania Air National Guard are playing an active role in supporting the Global Deterrence mission here since their arrival Oct. 27.

Airmen deployed from the 171st Air Refueling Wing and their KC-135 Stratotankers are here as support for the theater security package, refueling aircraft such as B-52 Stratofortresses that have a vital role in Andersen's Global Deterrence mission.

The 171st ARW also supports many exercises that are active throughout the Pacific, for instance the AnnuEx 20G, a bilateral exercise between U.S. and Japanese forces that takes place over the Pacific Nov. 12-14 and 17-19.

"We are here to support the bombers in the Theater Security Package, however we are the only Air Mobility Command asset, so we support whoever needs it," said Lt. Col. Ray Hyland, 171st ARW operations officer. "Last week we supported the [Navy] F-18s, and we will be escorting B-1Bs back to their home in a few weeks."

The Airmen are deployed here until January, when one of their sister organizations will replace them. Although the Wing is deployed for

2 months, the time that each individual will spend on Guam varies depending on the job the person does.

"We are a pretty self-sustaining unit," said Hyland. "We have brought with us everyone that we could need, from communications and readiness personnel, to the pilots and boom operators, we even brought along our flight surgeon,"

Most of these Airmen will only remain on Guam for two to three weeks before being replaced; while the pilots and boom operators will remain in theater for a week longer.

"We are an all volunteer force. The people here are normal civilians; firefighters, police officers, teachers, carpenters and so on. They are taking time out of their force to come here and serve their country," the colonel continued.

Although this is not the 171st ARW's first time here, it is the Air National Guard's first time that they have supported a full Air Expeditionary Force rotation. In the past it was a mixture of members from different units across the ANG that volunteered to come here.

When their time here comes to a close Jan. 1, 2009, the 171st ARW and their sister unit will swap deployment locations for the remainder of the AEF tour.



Pilots Lt. Col. Jim Brown and Lt. Col. Dave Jackson perform pre-flight KC-135 Stratotanker checks prior to a B-52 Stratofortress refueling mission originating from Anderson Air Force Base, Guam on Nov. 12, 2008. Both are assigned to the 171st Air Refueling Wing, Pennsylvania Air National Guard deployed to Anderson A.F.B. in support of Pacific theater refueling operations. (U.S. Air Force photo by: Master Sgt. Kevin J. Gruenwald)

There and back again

by Brig. Gen. Roy Uptegraff, Wing Commander

Commander's CORNER



Happy New Year everyone! The year 2008 will go down in our history books as one of our most challenging years. From USAF inspections to combat support operations, we did it all. Congratulations and farewell to 2008. Welcome 2009! This will be a year of back to basics. Our deployment level will be low, which means we will have the opportunity to train and prepare for a Unit Compliance Inspection (UCI) in 2010. In 2010 we will also return to the Air Expeditionary Force (AEF). We are already working with the IG to ensure the timing of our UCI will not impact our AEF commitment. Of course, the unpredictable nature of war can change the picture between now and then.

Our military presence in Afghanistan could grow in the coming year while our footprint in Iraq could shrink. The type of air war in Afghanistan has significantly changed since the days of air wars like Desert Storm. Close air support (CAS) is now the primary mission. In Desert Storm, just 6% of the sorties were CAS missions and those missions were considered to be an emergency reaction to forces on the ground. Today, precision weapons, rapid retargeting and the use of sensors for battlespace awareness have revolutionized CAS. Virtually all fighter and bomber missions flown in Afghanistan are categorized as close air support. Between 2004 and 2007, CAS sorties in Afghanistan nearly doubled. The need to have continuous air support over Afghanistan exists now more than ever. The troops are protected whether bombs are dropped, flares are used to frighten the enemy, a screaming low level pass compels the enemy to retreat, or the mere presence of coalition aircraft deters an attack. What this means to us is there will continue to be a growing requirement for the air refueling mission over Afghanistan. If more troops go in, more KC-135's will follow. I have no doubt we will be asked to help fill shortfalls other KC-135 units will face in 2010.

As we move into this new year, I'd like to salute Colonels Mangis and Murphy! Thank you for your service to the 171st Col Murphy and all the best as you move into your new position as our State Director of Operations. Congratulations Col Mangis for your step up promotion into the military position of Vice Commander, 171st Air Refueling Wing. Well done gentlemen.

And finally, in closing, though the holiday season is behind us, I encourage all of you to keep an eye on each other. We have been through a lot. We have been away from our families and our civilian jobs due to four months of continuous deployments. Winter is dark, dreary and does not loan itself to getting out very often. Let's make sure we are all OK. Not one of you is an ordinary citizen. You are highly burdened by strict military requirements that reach into your homes and jobs, and you quietly shoulder those responsibilities. Most of your friends and neighbors will never fully understand that. Our morale is high because collectively, we understand and appreciate each other. Keep up the good work!



171 AIR REFUELING WING, PITTSBURGH, PA -- New 171st Air Refueling Wing Vice Wing Commander Gerard Mangis is promoted to Colonel in front of friends, co-workers and family on December 7, 2008. Helping him to enjoy the occasion are wife, Joyce and daughters Emma and Grace. (Air Force photo / Master Sgt. Stacey Barkey)

"Editorial Staff"



Brigadier General Roy E. Uptegraff, III Commander

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Guardian of Freedom

by Command Chief Master Sgt. Vic Guerra

What does The Airman's Creed mean to you? Hopefully you have seen it or heard it recited. This is the third of a four part piece on what The Airman's Creed means to me.

The third part of The Airman's Creed reads:

*I am an American Airman,
Guardian of Freedom and Justice,
My Nation's Sword and Shield,
Its Sentry and Avenger.
I defend my Country with my life.*

I am an American Airman. What that means is defined throughout the creed.

Guardian of Freedom and Justice. One who protects and preserves our inalienable Rights, of Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness, as well as the right to be treated justly with equity and fairness. It's what we stand for, especially as Guardsmen, and is ingrained in our sense of duty and honor.

My Nation's Sword and Shield. These are symbols of our ability to strike and defend. The sword is a symbol of military power and authority; our willingness to fight to protect and preserve freedom and justice, wherever it is threatened. The shield symbolizes our willingness to protect and defend our Nation against all aggressors.

Its Sentry and Avenger. As our Nation's Sentry, we stand guard in defense of our Nation during a time of peace, a sentinel. A line from "A Few Good Men" comes to mind and paints a picture of what this means to me: "...nothing is going to hurt you tonight, not on my watch." As our Nation's Avenger, we are vindicators, taking vengeance on those who have done us wrong, whether doing so at home or elsewhere.

I defend my Country with my life. Our willingness to do whatever is needed, whenever needed, even making the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our families, our friends and our County.

Standing for what is right and not being afraid to do so is what being a Guardian of Freedom is all about.



Identity Theft (from the December 2008 Cyber Threat Bulletin)

Identity theft occurs when a criminal uses your personally identifiable information, (PII) your name, social security number, bank account information, or credit card number without your authorization to perform fraudulent crimes in your name.

The crime takes many forms. Thieves steal identities by doing anything from dumpster diving to cyber crime. Criminals cannot be stereotyped as people too dumb to do anything other than break bones or rob liquor stores. We must realize criminals include graduates from Ivy League universities and even computer savvy teenagers when it comes to cyber identity theft. The days of dumpster diving for personal information have not passed, but now compete with automated programs searching millions of pieces of data to collect social security numbers, bank account information, and even things as simple as your pet's name. Creating, buying, or using one such automated search program often proves more lucrative and less time consuming than the traditional data collection methods.

Email accounts, bank account and credit card information all require a password to access. Most intrusions into your accounts can be prevented with a combination of a properly protected computer, situational awareness, and the use of a strong password. But take heed! There is another way cyber criminals often access password protected information. If you were to forget a password, you are often asked to provide some specific data to unlock the account. Information such as your birthday, a school you attended, or your pet's name may be some of the security information requested to authenticate the user. Much of this information can be found on the internet, in public records, or even on a personal Facebook or MySpace account. Cyber criminals are able to find an abundance of seemingly useless information and reset your password, create false accounts, and eventually steal your identity.

Briefs FYI

Informational briefings on State Sponsored Life Insurance will be held Sunday January 11th

PNGAS offers \$1,000 of life insurance for all Pennsylvania Guard Members at no cost to the airman. There is also additional coverage available to members of the Pennsylvania National Guard. If an individual chooses to supplement their SGLI with SSLI, they can apply for up to \$260,000 of coverage for only \$19.66 a month. This coverage provides a payment to the beneficiary within 24 hours and members can continue the coverage when they leave the National Guard. For more basic information, please visit www.ssli.org.

African American Luncheon guest speaker chosen

This year's African American Luncheon guest speaker will be Roger Kingdom, a two-time Olympic Gold Medalist in the 110 high hurdles (1984, 1988). Kingdom is a five time National US Champion (1985, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1995). He was ranked five times number one in the world by *Track and Field News* (1984, 1985, 1988, 1989 and 1990). In the Seoul Olympics Kingdom joined the late Lee Calhoun (1956, 1960), as one of only two men ever to win consecutive Olympic titles in the 110 hurdles (1984, 1988).

In Zurich Switzerland on August 16, 1989 Kingdom separated himself from the others by surpassing the World mark of 12.93 set by Renaldo Nehemiah. He became the second person ever to break the 13-second barrier. His new mark of 12.92 clearly established him as one of the greatest high hurdlers ever to compete. Kingdom's mark of 12.92 still stands as the American record today.

Get your \$20 ticket now for the February 24th luncheon at the Pittsburgh Airport Marriott. Purchase it from Public Affairs, Recruiting, 2nd Lt. Darren Rogers or Senior Master Sgt. Charlie Thomas.

Estimated pay date for the

January UTA:

21 January

Estimated pay date for the

January SUTA:

4 February

FAMILY DAY 2009





Water bottle labels provide needed assistance to school

Master Sgt. Ed Byard, 171st Maintenance Group

The 376th Expeditionary Maintenance Group, Manas Air Base, Kyrgyzstan collected Nestlé Pure Life Water bottle labels as part of Nestlé's "Go Play Program" during the month of October.

The program was administered by Staff Sgt. Tiffany Slaven of Pittsburgh, PA. at the request of Master Sgt. Ed Byard of East Palestine, Ohio, both unit members recently returned from Manas AB. Ed's wife, Kathy Byard is in her 34th year of teaching at Robert Bycroft School in Lisbon, Ohio. During a visit to the school after returning from Manas AB in early October, Byard observed the staff members drinking Pure Life water and collecting the labels. Recalling that to be the brand of water consumed at Manas AB, he initiated the program at Manas AB through his co-worker, Staff Sgt. Slaven who was deployed to the same location at that time. While deployed she personally oversaw the program from start to finish and returned with the collected labels. Nestlé's program supplies recreational equipment for registered schools. The beneficiary of this drive, the Robert Bycroft School in Lisbon, Ohio is a school for special needs children with physical and mental handicaps. The hundreds of labels collected during this drive will assist the school in obtaining much needed equipment for physical recreation and therapy. The 376th is composed of personnel and aircraft from several units and, during this time frame, members of the Pennsylvania Air National Guard's 171st Air Refueling Wing from Pittsburgh, PA.



The 376th Expeditionary Maintenance Group, Manas Air Base, Kyrgyzstan collected Nestlé Pure Life Water bottle labels as part of Nestlé's Go Play Program during the month of October. Pictured are Terri Flint (Adapted Physical Education Instructor), Go Play Program Coordinator, Master Sgt. Ed Byard representing the 376th Expeditionary Maintenance Group, and Cindy Stoughton, Robert Bycroft School Building Supervisor with the collected labels. (Photo provided by Master Sgt. Ed Byard)

Military families have important role in Operations Security (OPSEC)

As a family member of the military community, you play an essential role in our success, and we could not perform our job without your support. You may not know it, but you also play a crucial role in ensuring your loved one's safety by securing your knowledge of the guard's day to day operations. You can protect your loved ones by protecting the information that you know. This is known in the military as "Operations Security" or OPSEC.

What is OPSEC? OPSEC defines the steps needed to deny potential adversaries from discovering critical Department of Defense information. As the name suggests, it protects U.S. operations - planned, in progress or completed. At times, success depends on secrecy and surprise so U.S. forces can accomplish the mission quickly and effectively. Enemies of freedom want this information and they are not just after the military member to get it. They are listening to you, the military family member.

The posting of pictures and information on blogs, virtual communities like MySpace and Facebook, and family websites has the potential to jeopardize critical information and the safety of loved ones, and the entire unit. Do not post personal information such as addresses, phone numbers and specifics about children and family members. If you are going to speak about your role in the military, make sure to state that your views do not necessarily reflect those of the Air National Guard, Air Force or Department of Defense.

There are many countries and organizations that would like to harm Americans and upset National Strategic Objectives. It is possible, and not unprecedented, for spouses and family members of the our military community to be targeted for intelligence collection. This is true at home and abroad. So what can you do?

Help keep your family and critical information safe by considering the following points. Do not use your military dependent ID cards when asked for ID off base. Avoid giving details about what kind of work your family member performs for the base or government. Use blogs, chat rooms, and personal web pages wisely, paying particular attention to the information you share. There may be times when your spouse cannot talk about the specifics of his or her job. It is very important to protect certain information such as flight schedules, temporary duty locations, installation activities, unit names and rosters just to name of few things. Government telephones and computers are subject to monitoring at all times. Cell phones are also an easy means of communication to monitor.

Critical information while not classified as Secret, contains facts about military intentions, capabilities, operations or activities. When adversaries gather small pieces of critical information, it is easily connected and could jeopardize mission accomplishment and personnel safety of our soldiers and airmen. Critical information must be protected to ensure any adversary does not gain a significant advantage. By being a member of the military family, you will often know some elements of critical information. Do not discuss these outside of your immediate family circle, and especially never over the telephone, email, or on internet web pages.

If anyone, especially a foreign national, persistently seeks information from you on the activities of your spouse or the unit immediately notify the 171 ARW Security Forces, Public Affairs, or Wing OPSEC Office. Let's all do our part to think and practice OPSEC, at work, at home, in public. Everywhere and at all the times!

You have just entered the ...

RECRUITER ZONE

Our Recruiting Team -- (412) 776-7495

Master Sgts. Sue Smith and Skip Powell, Tech. Sgt. John Frazier, Senior Airmen Shayla Pollard and Senior Airmen Lindsey Duncan
Contact us toll free at 1-877-249-5193 or through the web www.papitt.ang.af.mil



Congratulations!

Sean A Buzzard
Dana L Boettger



William C Costello
Shane M Endres
Robert H Smeresky



Kevin J Thompson
Charles F Jones
Sandra L Wirfel
Shawn A Leydig
Wayne R Bullers
Wesley D Burt
James J Stack



Shenandoah N Welsh
Cassandra J Lape



Brandon T Marree
Timothy D Ernst



Welcome new members of the 171st

David A. McLaughlin
Andrew W. Gracey
Joshua T. Radzukinas
Zachary K. Young
Jessica D. Mayberry
Brian S. Duncan
Matthew J. Artman
William A. Schenck
Shawn M. Boyle
Jonathan M. Steffine
Michael J. Sosnak Jr.
Justin C. McAninch

Retention Corner

Master Sgt. Don Schauer and Staff Sgt. Elizabeth Simoneau

As we begin a new year, here are some interesting 171 ARW statistics:

We currently have 1452 members including the 146th Weather Flight and the 258th Air Traffic Control Squadron

- 394 or 27% have more than 20 years of service
- 66 of those with more than 20 years are officers (that's 40% of our officers)
- 377 or 26% are first-term airmen
- 575 or 30% are 30 years of age or younger
- 368 or 25% are between 31 and 40
- 509 or 35% are more than 40 years old
- 132 of our enlisted members, 9%, will hit their ETS before June
- 21, or 1.4% will hit the mandatory retirement age of 60 within two years
- 242 or 17% of our members are female
- 90% of us live in Pennsylvania. The rest of us are spread among 26 states, including Alaska!

Local education opportunities are plenty and there are military friendly schools in the area. If your New Year's resolution includes continuing your education, there is no time like the present. Here are some current education statistics:

- Approximately 25% of us are enrolled in Community College of the Air Force
- 600 171 ARW members have 60 or more college credits
- 200 have completed at least a Bachelors Degree
- 50 have at least a Masters Degree
- There are at least 16 of us with a Doctorate or Advanced Professional Degree.

Better get started....

HIGH Flyer

Aircraft: 59-1468
Hours Flown: 59.3
Sorties Flown: 11

Crew chiefs: Joe Ferrara, Ed Stengel, Brian Rodriguez, Erik Larson, and Justin Blinkey

171st
Freedom Rider

ATTENTION: GRAPpers

GRAP will be reactivated on this coming Monday the 1st. (December) A message will be sent out to all RA's from Docupat on Monday morning. If an RA had a current nominee in their account on/before 13 October 2008 when the program was shut down and an accession (enlistment/oath) occurred during the program suspension, your account will be reviewed for a G-RAP payment once verification of the accession is received. No exceptions to this rule! I fully expect some RA's to cry foul if someone they had been working with enlisted anyway during the shut down period without the person being put in the GRAP system. Back on Oct 13th when the program shut down, a message went out to all RA's telling them that no nominations will happen after the 13th of October which equates to No payments for enlistments that occur after the October 13th. No nominations during the shut down period, no payment for those enlistments.

More in the air than just football

By Staff Sgt. Stacy Gault

As country recording artist Laura Bryna stood proudly on the 50 yard line at Pittsburgh's Heinz Field Sunday, November 16th, there was more than football in the air.

The sell-out crowd of over 62,000 Steelers fans roared as Bryna paid tribute to the military with her hit single "Hometown Heroes" followed by the National Anthem and a 171st Air Refueling Wing KC-135 Stratotanker flyby.

There was some doubt that the weather would cooperate with the finely tuned flyover. A scant eighty-five seconds was the allotted time for the refueling tanker to reach the stadium from the established holding point up the Monongahela River once the anthem started.

As snow swirled throughout the stadium, 171st pilot, Captain Jason Figley, said "it looked bleak at times if the flyover was going to happen. But for a brief period, the clouds lifted, opening a window of opportunity for the tanker to fly along the river and over the stadium to showcase the rare spectacle."

tory, providing as a fitting backdrop for the "Hometown Hero's" salute.

Honored to be on the field with current and past service members, Bryna said she feels pride every time she sings the National Anthem. "You're standing on a field with people who are willing to give their lives for their country, and here I am living my dream because of them."

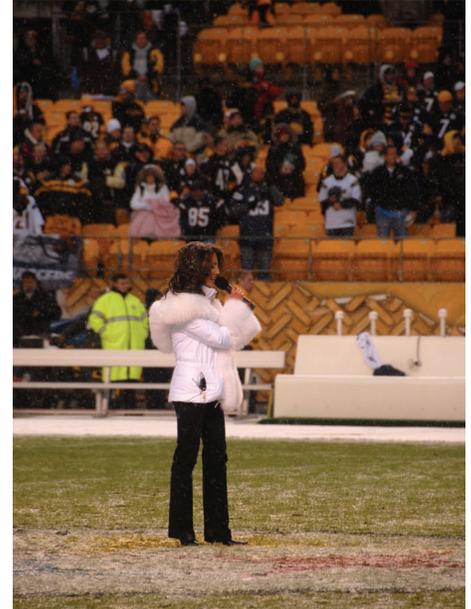
"People don't realize where the Air Guard is," Bryna explained, adding, "to me, you guys are everywhere. You're in Afghanistan, you're in Iraq, you're here doing border patrol, in California putting out fires, you're in Galveston helping with hurricanes."

The singer was selected after the Air Guard conducted an exhaustive search for a voice and personality they felt would support and align to their branding goals. An Air Guard representative saw Bryna perform songs from her new CD, "Trying To Be Me," at a CD launch event in January.

Throughout 2008, Bryna has visited numerous ANG bases, including the 118th Airlift Wing, Nashville, Tenn. where she filmed her "Hometown Heroes" video on

top of a C-130. In her travels, Bryna has gained an understanding of the Guard and its culture.

"The one thing that you all share, is that constant respect and love and pride you have for each other, your country, and the people you are protecting. It's actually incredible to be an outsider looking in; to watch that is unbelievable."



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To the family of:



A Nashville newcomer, Bryna was chosen as the voice of the new, multifaceted advertising campaign for the Air National Guard in May 2008. She calls it a "coming out party" for the Guard, hoping her involvement educates the public about the Guard's mission here and around the world.

Joining Bryna on the field were members of the 171 ARW and Titusville VFW Honor Guards presenting the colors for the day. Additionally, a local veteran who had served in each U.S. war, lined the field signifying America's long military his-



Left: Members of the 171st Air Refueling Wing's Honor Guard, along with a local veteran who had served in each U.S. war, helped set the stage for a military tribute on November 16, 2008 at Heinz Field. Above: Laura Bryna sang her hit single "Hometown Heroes" followed by the National Anthem. (U.S. Air Force photos by: Staff Sgt. Shawn Monk)