

Pennsylvania Guardsmen help make inauguration successful

Wing members provide inauguration medical support
by 2nd Lt. Chris Preffer

Ft. Indiantown Gap, PA - Since Sept. 11 the National Guard has taken a more active role in homeland defense. From Jan. 17-21 local guardsmen traveled to Ft. Indiantown Gap, PA to train for an attack of a different kind.

As the presidential inauguration drew closer, these Guardians had a part to play in homeland defense. Locally, 26 members of the 171st Medical Group joined their counterparts from the 111th, 193rd and Pennsylvania Army National Guard, at Ft. Indiantown Gap to form a 185 person CBRNE (Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear Explosives) Enhanced Response Force – Package (CERF-P) team.

See **“Medical Support”** Page 2



Lt. Col. Post, deployed medical commander, discusses deployment plan with medical personnel at Ft. Indiantown GAP.

Unit members maintain order at Presidential Inauguration
by Lt. Col. Don Accamando

Washington D.C. - Fifty Airmen from our unit traveled to Washington D.C., January 16-21 to participate in a joint state-wide task force to assist with the Inauguration of our 44th President Barack Obama.

The first few members of the team departed the base on Friday, January 16. They had the dubious job of establishing contact with the main command and control element in the District of Columbia area. The remaining 35 members followed on Saturday. The team would be officially assigned to Task Force Fall.

Several tasks were waiting for the group when they arrived. “We had to get the building in a livable state,” said Lt. Col. Perrott, 171st Air Refueling Wing, Deputy Mission Support Commander the Task Force liaison officer. Their bed down location was the P.E. Harris Education Center, an abandoned elementary school located in the D.C. inner city neighborhood of Anacostia, approximately seven miles from the Capital building.

See **“Maintain Order”** Page 7



Pennsylvania Guardsmen maintain order of a record crowd trying to board mass transportation after the Inauguration of President Barack Obama.

Wing Services feed Inauguration Task Force
by Lt. Col. Don Accamando

Washington D.C. – Nine 171st Services Squadron members served hot meals to Task Force Fall over the four day Inauguration support timeframe.

Equipped with a specially designed Single Pallet Expeditionary Kitchen (SPEK) and their extraordinary dispositions, a nine person Services team dug in to feed 1,100 hungry task force members assigned to their location. After all, that was their job; “to feed the troops” said 171st Services Squadron Commander, Maj. Michael Schmidt.

Once the team arrived on scene they unpacked the SPEK and were set up and ready to serve within 60 minutes. Since it was the dinner hour the team started cooking. The first plates of spaghetti, peas and peaches were being served!

See **“Feed Force”** Page 3



Services members pictured: Bottom row; Tech Sgt. Waldo, Senior Airman Jones and Tech. Sgt. Marshall, Top row; Master Sgt. Dubiel, Airman 1st Class Charles Zielinske, Senior Airmen Price and Renkin, Staff Sgt. Connor and Senior Airman Muto

A look ahead

by Brig. Gen. Roy Uptegraff, Wing Commander

Commander's CORNER



Last month I had the opportunity to listen to a Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR) road map brief given to the Director of the ANG and his staff by a senior leader of the Air Force's QDR office. I attended because of my membership on the Air Guard's Strategic Planning Council. The last QDR was in 2006. QDR occurs every four years and is mandated by Congress. QDR legislation was amended by the 2003 National Defense Authorization Act, which stipulated that the due date for the report is "in the year following the year in which the review is conducted, but not later than the date on which the President submits the budget for the next fiscal year to Congress." So, in February 2010, a QDR report will be presented by the Secretary of Defense to Congress. Have you ever heard the expression, "what goes around comes around?" In 1947, the founding fathers of the Air Force outlined their view for the future Air Force. Sixty-two years ago their vision was for orbiting space systems, global communication networks, high speed intercontinental precision delivery systems and use of directed energy. It seems that every review since has kept that founding perspective because that is where we are today. QDR is important because it defines where Congress needs to provide investment for all matters of national defense. The Air Force must clearly outline its requirements and be alert to the other Department of Defense components. For those of us in the National Guard, we must provide our inputs to the process. As you know, we are dealing with a continuously deployed operational Guard against a long war on terror. Are we equipped and manned for this? What about our traditional role as a strategic reserve? Will we get replacement aircraft, new missions and the technology to go with them? We appear to have a good seat at the table with able leadership at the National Guard Bureau to develop sound requirements and resources for the next twenty years.

Looking closer to home, we recently attended a Pennsylvania Congressional Legislative Breakfast with the key leadership of the Pennsylvania National Guard. This annual opportunity provides us with the chance to meet with our congressional representatives to ensure they know of our requirements and needs at the base level. For the 171st, we still highlight our need to modernize our sixty year old hangars. It is our vision to have new hangars and the planes to use them.

Speaking of the future, fourteen of our airmen just graduated from Basic Military Training at Lackland AFB at the end of February. We continue to enjoy a strong base of recruitment in Pittsburgh. These young airmen have what it takes to put today's strategic decisions to best use in the future. They are solidly trained, equipped and prepared to meet the mission. While these fine young men and women go on to further training, keep in mind those who are deployed now. Forty-two of our Security Forces personnel are currently serving in Iraq. Along with their Squadron Commander, Lt. Col. Steve Painter, they are part of a 150-man expeditionary squadron guarding Sather Air Base in Baghdad. We wish them mission success, good health and a return to Pittsburgh with honor.

"Medical Support" continued from Page 1

Over the five day period, the joint team trained for rapid medical response, taking part in four different hands on training stations. These stations included: learning to utilize an ultra sound machine, inserting an IV, suturing a wound and treating a simulated human. METI Man, named after the company that created it (Medical Education Technology Institute), is a human patient simulator controlled by a computer, which moves its eyes, blinks, speaks, breathes and displays a heartbeat and pulse. It exhibits bodily functions that signal conditions such as heart attacks, collapsed lungs and severe strokes. Airman 1st Class Lindey Pucel enjoyed working on METI Man because "you can't get this kind of training on a UTA weekend." 1st Lt. Rogers, of the 171st Medical Group, was excited for the IV practice arm because he found the vein and inserted the IV on his first try.

Not only did the members take part in training stations, but they also created and manned a convoy. The convoy consisted

of vans, trucks, buses and trailers that were equipped with enough medical supplies to employ a mobile hospital. "We don't want to go, but we're ready," said Senior Master Sgt. Guandolo. The CERF-P crew knew if they were called in, someone was hurt. Fortunately the CERF-P never received a call to action. The training received by our members proves invaluable and the Medical Group looks forward to attending this type of training again in August.

Aside from the training and manning of the convoy, the team found time to watch the Steelers take on the Baltimore Ravens in the AFC Championship game. At the Hollywood Casino in Grantville, Pa., 24 members of the 171st Medical Group bonded over food and football in the casino's restaurant. 1st Lt. Rogers commented that though the Steelers' victory was sweet, we had to employ morale enhancement for the Philadelphia fans in our CERF-P group due to the Eagles' loss to the Cardinals.

"Editorial Staff"



Brigadier General Roy E. Uptegraff, III Commander

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Recognizing Our Airmen

by Command Chief Master Sgt. Vic Guerra

There's no time like the present to recognize our Airmen, or to start the process. We often wait for some specific event to occur, such as returning from a deployment or upon retirement. I'm not saying that these aren't appropriate times, just that these shouldn't be the only times.

There are many ways we can recognize the achievements of our Airmen. The most common is probably through awards and decorations. Several documents/instructions exist that provide guidance and eligibility requirements for the numerous Air Force, Guard and State decorations and awards. These documents/instructions also describe how to prepare, submit and process the various decorations and awards. Some decorations and awards can be for accomplishments that span a prolonged period of time. That's why it's important to keep good records.

Another way we can recognize our Airmen is through programs such as Outstanding Airman of the Year (OAY) or the CMSgt Anton Stich Award. OAY is a way to identify, recognize and reward Airmen within our wing for their superior effort and performance. Because OAY is for performance/actions accomplished in a specific calendar year, it's important to keep good records on the Airmen you may be/are considering for OAY, and to start gathering information as soon as possible. It can be difficult to try to collect this information at the end of the year, after the fact. It's much easier to document performance/actions as they occur, when they are fresh in our minds.

The CMSgt Anton Stich Award recognizes Airmen who through either a single act or ongoing program were/are involved with personal or organizational humanitarian deed(s), and/or if they initiated plans and/or performed actions to improve the quality of life for a certain group of individuals or all enlisted members of the Wing, Pennsylvania Air National Guard or Air National Guard.

These are but a few ways we can recognize our Airmen, and if none of these fit the bill, there are others out there that may. If you can find no other way, perhaps a simple thank you and hand shake will do. What ever way you chose, remember there's no time like the present to recognize our Airmen.



Feed Force continued from Page 1

It sounds easy, but in reality it's not! The nine person team unloads a pallet which includes a tent, three compartment sink, and the "Sled," a metal cabinet that houses the "Babington Burners" used to heat the water that warms the meals. For our readers not familiar with the food preparation process, when using the SPEK, it's kind of "like cooking on a camping trip only harder" said Master Sgt. Missie Dubiel.

"To us, it's all about serving the troops; we served two hot meals every day and decided to offer hot soup, coffee, hot chocolate and tea when members returned from their duty hour rotations," said Dubiel.

In addition to the hot meals, the Services team provided two Meals Ready to Eat, (MREs) and over the four day event managed to serve a staggering twenty-five thousand meals!

It would be wrong to say that this mission was accomplished alone. The Services team was delighted to be assisted by soldiers from the Pennsylvania Army National Guard. "It was a delight to work with our Army counterparts. The teamwork that grew from this experience was something I'll never forget! It capped a once in a lifetime trip," said Dubiel.

In spite of a couple obstacles, getting started and the extreme cold, it is a safe assumption that the entire Task Force was well fed because of a historic Team Pittsburgh performance by our Services airmen.

Family Care Office News

Pennsylvania Operation: Military Kids invites military families to join us at "A Night Under the Iraqi Sky" 6 p.m., Saturday, May 2 - Sunday morning, May 3, 2009 at the Carnegie Science Center in Pittsburgh. The cost is \$10 per family. Your family will be treated to:

-Overnight Family Event -Cultural Workshops -Planetarium Show -Omni-max Show -Free admission to Carnegie Science Center and Sportsworld on Sunday, May 3!

Registration is limited to the first 150 people. Please contact Operation Military Kids at 814-865-2264 for more information and to register.

C. E. Kelly Commissary will be at the 171st for a pre-order sale on Saturday, 4 April 2009. Orders must be received by the Wing Family Program Office NO LATER THAN 8 March 09. For additional information and an order form contact: Deborah Krall, 300 Tanker Road #4249, Coraopolis, PA 15108-4249, or email Deborah.krall@papitt.ang.af.mil

Briefs FYI

Golf Season Arrives

Maintenance Golf Outing
Monday, June 15, 2009
Fort Cherry Golf Course
Contact Paul Palko 412-776-7391

Stan Eval Golf Outing
Monday, July 13, 2009
Blackhawk Golf Course
Contact Rich Johnson 412-653-4083,
johnsonra1@comcast.net

POL Golf Outing
Sunday, August 9, 2009
Copeland Hills Golf Course
Contact Jeff Favorite 412-776-7385

Western States Open
Air National Guard Golf Outing Sept. 9 - 11, 2009
Contact Rich Johnson 412-653-4083,
johnsonra1@comcast.net

Estimated pay date for the
March UTA:
18 March
Estimated pay date for the
March SUTA:
25 March

Tax help available

The tax assistance center, located in room 207 of building 300, will be open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from February 24 through April 9 by appointment. Appointments can be made by calling extension 7527 on Tuesdays and Thursdays or by going to Steelweb under Hot Items and placing your information in a time slot on the spreadsheet.

Bittersweet send off for Security Forces team

by Lt. Col. Don Accamando, 171st Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

Members of our Security Forces Squadron said their final goodbyes today before boarding a chartered flight that would eventually take them to their deployed base in Iraq.

Twenty-five of forty-two Airmen departed today for a six month deployment where they will provide security of crucial military base infrastructure and assets in the Iraq area of responsibility. The second half of their team will join them later this month.

Col. Frank Sullivan, Chief of Staff for the Pennsylvania National Guard, along with Command Sgt. Maj. Don Shiner flew in from State Headquarters to pass along well wishes from the State Staff. "I spent a year at the same base you're going to and it's a great place." said Col. Sullivan.

In addition to the State leadership, Brig. Gen. Uptegraff could not contain the immense pride he has in this group and knows that they will perform admirably. He encouraged each member to hold onto the Air Force core values of Integrity, Service and Excellence, and encouraged them

to "return with honor." He is equally proud that this group will be commanded by our own Security Forces Commander, Lt. Col. Steve Painter.

"We have the training, we have the right people, and we are ready to do this," Painter said. Lt. Col. Painter is anxious to dig in as commander and serve with a mixture of regular Air Force, Guard and Reserve Security Forces team members.

It was a bittersweet hour for the families of those deploying. Weeks of pre-deployment training, and a host of briefings came down to this final good-bye! This group is unique in the sense that it is comprised of a wide range of age groups. For some it will be a return trip, for many others however, a first major deployment.

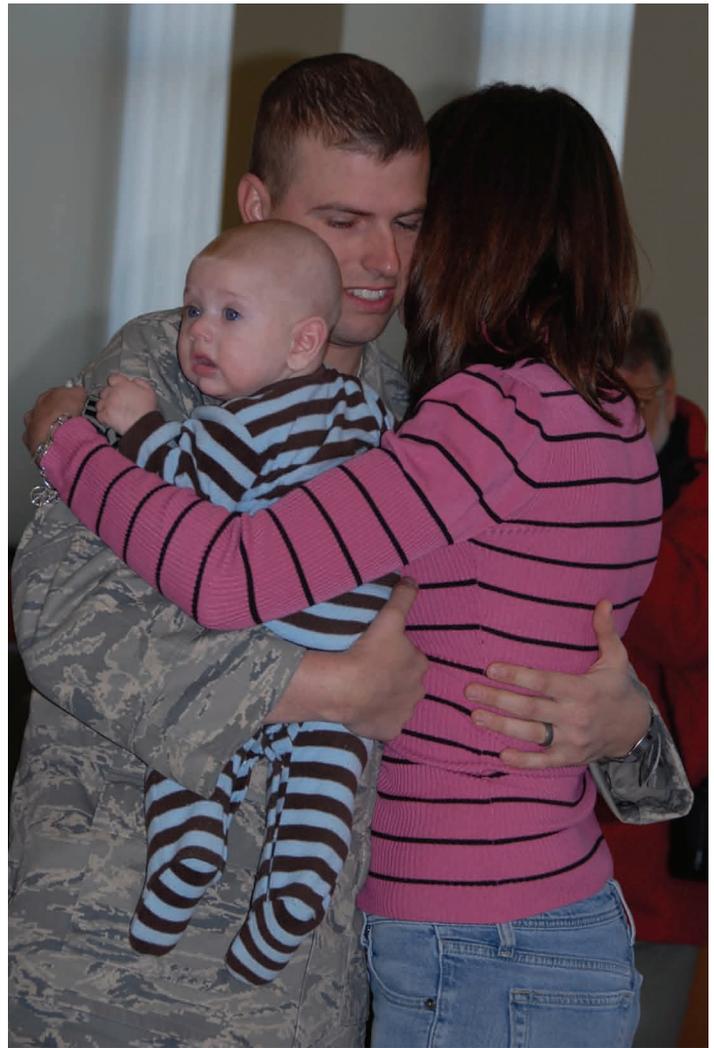
Looking around the Aerospace Dining Facility you could see the pride and sadness on the faces of the many family members who came along to say farewell. Many of us have been through this same process and know the feeling. This new generation of deployers will no doubt carry on the fine tradition of the 171st and return, mission accomplished.



171st AIR REFUELING WING, PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA -- Twenty-five of forty-two Airmen departed February 5, 2009 for a six month deployment where they will provide security of crucial military base infrastructure and assets in the Iraq area of responsibility. The second half of their team will join them later this month. Members of the 171st Security Forces Squadron said their final goodbyes today before boarding a chartered flight that would eventually take them to their deployed base in Iraq. Senior Airman Emmanuel Ilagan, Terrible Towel in tow, gets a hug from his wife before deploying to Iraq. (U. S. Air Force photos by Master Sgt. Ann Young)



Staff Sgt. Adam Schwiederowski gets his daughter a cup of juice before leaving for his deployment to Iraq.



Staff Sgt. Michael Broker, 171st Security Forces Squadron enjoys one last hug from wife Amy, and six month old Avery, prior to departing for Iraq.



Airman First Class Shawn Strobel shares a private moment with his mother before deploying to Iraq.



Staff Sgt. Brian Erickson says goodbye to a loved one before leaving for Iraq.

Know your Group's/Section's Critical Indicators

Each Group assigned to the Wing has an OPSEC Coordinator assisting its commander in two ways. They review their section's sensitive information and help determine its classification and educate their personnel on ways to release this information. Once classified, this information becomes our Critical Indicators.

In this issue of the *Tanker Times*, we look at the Maintenance Group's Critical Indicator's which have been submitted by its OPSEC coordinators, Chief Master Sgt. Paul Palko and Master Sgt. Denise James. This information is divided into 3 categories: Aircraft, Personnel and Equipment/Supplies.

Critical indicators for aircraft include:

1. Reporting Aircraft Fleet Maintenance Status or Mission Capability Rate
2. Repair Status/Estimated Time of Completion for Non Mission Capable aircraft
3. Limitation information on Non or Partially Mission Capable (NMC or PMC) aircraft
4. Aircraft scheduled maintenance plans
5. Aircraft Modification schedules for GATM or CCAB
6. Deployment plans specifying aircraft (by tail number) to be used
7. Procedural guidelines or checklists for Emergency Actions

For personnel, the Critical Indicators include:

1. Personnel manning levels
2. Unit Type Code (UTC) assignment information
3. UTC/UMD mismatch information
4. Identification of key personnel by name or location
5. Squadron or Flight training status information
6. Radio call signs
7. Deployed billeting locations and routes to work-site

And lastly, the Critical Indicators for Equipment/supplies are:

1. Equipment or shipping lists for UTC
2. Status of bench stock or forward supply point stores
3. Aerospace ground equipment status-powered and non-powered
4. Engine spare information and status
5. Communication equipment types and frequencies

The deadline for submitting each Group's Critical Indicators is 31 March of each year IAW 171 ARW OPSEC Training Plan.

Find Money for College

HFLA (Hebrew Free Loan Association) offers loans at zero percent interest and PHEAA (Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency) is offering state grants for baccalaureate students with precedence for veterans.

The HFLA of Pittsburgh, located at 4315 Murray Ave Pittsburgh, PA 15217, offers interest free loans on a non-sectarian basis to individuals and families whose needs are significant and who may not qualify for assistance through normal financial institutions and resources. This may sound too good to be true, but it is. HFLA believes, "interest free loans, instead of charity, fill an important gap in our social system by promoting self-sufficiency with dignity." Over the years HFLA has loaned thousands of dollars, at zero percent interest, to college students who require a little more financial assistance. For further information or to setup an appointment contact Norma Williamson at 412-422-8868

With the growing need for financial assistance in the pursuit of academia, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania continues to offer free money and this year precedence is given to veterans. Applications are accepted once you complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) and check the veteran status box.

The grants are only given to veterans currently serving or those with other than dishonorable discharges and precedence is based on most recent separation from active duty. All veteran-students are considered regardless of their financial status.

Eligibility requirements for the State Grant program are:

- Complete the FAFSA
- Be a Pennsylvania resident for at least 12 months
- Be a graduate of an approved high school or have a GED
- Meet criteria for financial need
- Attend a PHEAA-approved school
- Be enrolled for at least six credits as an undergraduate
- Be enrolled in an approved program of study for least two academic years in duration
- Earn, through classroom instruction, at least 50% of the total credits/clock hours required for completing the program of study
- Maintain satisfactory academic progress (if prior State Grants were received)
- Not have previously earned a bachelor's degree or its equivalent

Deadlines for FAFSA turn in are May 1st for all renewing and first-time applicants in undergraduate baccalaureate degree or two-year college transfer programs. August 1st for first-time applicants in business, trade, technical, and nursing schools or two-year terminal (non-transferable) programs at community, junior, or four-year colleges. For those attending the summer term only August 15th is the deadline. Students attending classes during summer term who wish to apply for a Pennsylvania Summer State Grant may do so by filling out the Summer State Grant at http://www.pheaa.org/stategrants/summer_grant.shtml. Although you may still apply after August 15th, your application will be considered late and may not be approved unless you are attending an approved business, trade, or technical school. For additional information visit PHEAA.org or call 1-800-692-7392.

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



Welcome new 171st members

- Martin L. Feroce
- Rachel E. Hough
- Daniel M. Hoffer
- Denise R. Martin
- David E. Kepple
- Kristopher R. Minnich
- Christopher R. Biddle
- Nicholas J. Warren
- Craig A. Carter
- Ethan J. Winter
- Jeremy L. Sherbondy
- Rachel L. Wedel
- Chadd F. McElfresh

Retention Corner

Master Sgt. Don Schauer and Staff Sgt. Elizabeth Simoneau

The Post 9/11 GI Bill that is scheduled to become effective in August of 2009 continues to evolve as the VA and DOD work out all of the details of the new program. Members that are eligible for Chapter 30 or Chapter 1607 benefits will likely be given the opportunity to switch their eligibility to the new program, otherwise a deployment of at least 90 consecutive days in support of a contingency operation will be required to establish eligibility. New recruits will still be eligible for the MGIB-SR, Chapter 1606, just like they are now. The new benefit includes many new features that may make it a better choice for some of you. Some of you may be better off keeping the benefit you already have. Details about how to transfer benefits to your family members, or exactly who will be eligible to do that have not yet been finalized. Currently, there are no forms to fill out, systems to update, or charts to use for figuring out what you may be eligible for. Details will be made available to Unit Career Advisors (UCAs) as they are released from the VA and DOD. Currently, the best source of info, details, and answers to questions about the Post 9/11 GI Bill is the VA website: www.gibill.va.gov

“Maintain Order” continued from Page 1

Before the team could claim occupancy several housekeeping modifications had to be performed. The task force volunteers were told to expect the worst when they arrived. They were briefed that the days would be long, and they could expect to sleep in a dormitory setting on cots.

Room assignments were repeatedly changed until a workable arrangement was found. Once in their rooms all members began putting cots together. Temperatures in the single digits presented challenges because the heat wasn't working. Even the simple pleasure of getting a drink of water was tough. It wasn't long though before the task force was fed and bedded down for the first night.

Thanks to the electronic wizardry of Master Sgt. Mike De-Franco, 258th Air Traffic Control Squadron, First Sergeant, the task force managed to enjoy the AFC Championship game.

Once in action, task force members carried out important inauguration duties. Many were assigned the important task of ensuring public safety, while others ensured traffic flow. Maintaining control of a crowd that exceeded one million was not easy.

One task force member was involved in reuniting a lost child with his 80 year old grandmother; a task that might have proved impossible without the convenience of cellular phones.

Helping eager citizens get into the city was the easy part, trying to organize a tired, hungry, and cold crowd waiting for a ride home was a different story. At one point the crowd grew to an estimated quarter million people. The traffic was snarled and as buses slowly filled and departed at a snail's pace, the frustration of the crowd grew.

1st Lt. Eric Munshower, 171st Budget officer, was a Task Force “platoon leader” and recalled the confusion shared by the masses trying to make their way out of the city upon the ceremony's conclusion. “I knew within minutes that we needed to develop an alternate plan to get these people moving,” said Munshower.

Taking matters into their own hands, the platoon decided to engineer a more efficient plan that would allow 20 buses to load simultaneously. By ingeniously opening spaces in the man made barrier, 800 people could swiftly board an outgoing bus.

As the crowd thinned and cooler heads prevailed all Task Force Fall participants could breathe a bit easier. No major incidents were reported and a weary group of volunteers made their way back to camp.

After some back briefs and hot wash notes, the task force bedded down for its last night in the Capitol city. In the morning they would be tearing down camp and making preparations for their four hour ride home.

“It was an exciting experience, a part of history,” said Munshower. “It was an honor working with the Army,” something the lieutenant looks forward to doing again some day.

Congratulations!

Thomas Gill



James H Hershberger Jr



Gary B Godfrey
Jerry Scurlock
Nicole M Brown
Jason W Snyder

Tricia Bashor
Heather Rehil
Patrick Dennison
Joshua Bradac
Shane Lubish



Rinaldo Policicchio
Courtney Hoberek
Traci Morris
Gregory Woodard



HIGH

Flyer



Aircraft: 59-1468
Hours Flown: 34.8
Sorties Flown: 16

Crew chiefs: Joe Ferrara, Ed Stengel, Brian Rodriguez, Erik Larson and Justin Blinkey. This aircraft beat out second place 58-0117 by only 0.9 hours.

No, You May Not Wear Your Uniform to Court!



After receiving a traffic ticket or being arrested, military members often wonder whether they may wear their uniforms to court for their hearings. Also, NCO's and Officers sometimes wonder whether they may attend court hearings in uniform to support their troops. Occasionally, the Legal Office staff even receives questions about this matter. The simple answer is "No, they may not." The Adjutant General, Major General Jessica L. Wright, made this clear last fall when she issued a memorandum to

discredit upon the Pennsylvania Air National Guard or the United States Air Force.

It is rare that military members are in hearings in civilian court for any matter related to their military service. Rather, the infraction, or illegal conduct, occurred when they were not engaged in any activity related to military service. Yet the member desires to wear their military uniform to court for the implicit purpose of receiving leniency from the Judge because of their military service. And, judges often tend to grant such leniency

this affect. Moreover, it is clear from AFI 36-2903 that Air Force members, including members of the Air National Guard, are prohibited from wearing their uniforms in civilian court. Some do not understand the reasoning behind these rules. Simply put, military members may not engage in conduct that would serve to bring

to a member simply because the person is in the military. Normally the member does not even consider the impact this has on the reputation of the military services.

In general, when persons violate the law they have failed to live up to commonly accepted standards of behavior. When members wear their military uniforms to hearings when answering for their violations, they unacceptably place at risk the reputation of military servicemembers in general and the military services. The public has a right to expect that military members will serve admirably and will not expect special treatment in return. Military members may not both ask the public to believe that military standards are higher than civilian standards and at the same time ask not to be held to civilian standards. Thus, military members should accept the consequences of their actions by properly appearing in civilian courts and not seek leniency and/or risk damage to the reputation of the military services by improperly wearing a military uniform when answering for misconduct. Doing anything less would violate our core value of Service Before Self.

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To the family of:



171st members receive recognition while deployed

January 17, 2009 - 171st Services Flight member Airman 1st Class Joseph Braner is coined by Gen. David Petraeus, U.S. Central Commander.



The Transient Alert/Crash Recovery Section, which Master Sgt. Heitzenrater was a part of, received the Tusgee Team award not once, but three times. This award recognizes the team's impact on the mission. Master Sgt. Heitzenrater was also recognized with the Tusgee Senior NCO of the month Award.

Master Sgt. Ron Heitzenrater is congratulated by Gen. Norton A. Schwartz, Chief of Staff of the U.S. Air Force, and Chief Master Sgt. Rodney J. McKinley, Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force.

