



171st basic training graduates honored by commander's visit

by Staff Sgt. Stacy Gault, 171st Public Affairs

About 900 Airmen graduate Air Force Basic Military Training every Friday morning at Lackland AFB, San Antonio. 13 Airmen from the 171st Air Refueling Wing graduated together on Feb. 27. More than 20 unit members attended the ceremony to celebrate their achievements and welcome them to the 171st family. The distinguished guests included Brig. Gen. Roy Uptegraff, 171st ARW Commander and Brig. Gen. Randall Marchi, Assistant Adjutant General - Army, PA Army National Guard.

"I was completely honored and stunned," said Airman 1st Class Clayton Schuler, 258th Air Traffic Control Squadron. "For Gen. Uptegraff and the command chief to come here is incredible. It shows all the support we have back home."

"I think our presence there just displayed how much we value their service from the beginning of their career to the end of their career," said Uptegraff. "We're going to be there for them."

Due to the transition from six-week basic training to eight-week basic training, there was a delay in getting BMT start dates for some enlistees. The recruits' training dates were entered simultaneously to ensure they attended basic training within one year of their enlistment date.

Before the Airmen graduated, they were individually presented their Airmen's coins by their training instructor. Family and friends lined the square drill pad next to the welcome center as they anxiously awaited their first opportunity to reunite with their loved ones after more than two months of separation.

As Ray Charles' rendition of 'America the Beautiful' played in the background, a transformation occurred before the crowd's eyes. After eight and a half weeks of intense education, these trainees officially earned the title of 'Airman.'

The Airmen's coin and retreat ceremony was added to the graduation festivities in 2007. Gen. Marchi used one word to describe the coin ceremony during his first visit to Air Force Basic Training, "Outstanding," Marchi said.



Airman 1st Class Kamal Boksmati receives a coin from Brig. Gen. Roy Uptegraff after graduating Basic Military Training on Feb. 27. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Sara Bressler)

"I was so impressed with the coin ceremony especially the recognition of the families, Airmen and all service members."

The graduation is comprised of drill and ceremony at the parade grounds surrounded by static aircraft showcasing the tradition and heritage of the Air Force. As part of the ritual, Airmen pass in review the official party and reaffirm their oath of enlistment. Following the ceremony, Gen. Uptegraff presented his coin to each of the graduates.

"I saw the pride in the eyes of our Airmen, pride in the presence of the families and certainly pride in the presence of our leaders from Pennsylvania," said Gen. Uptegraff. "It was, without a doubt, an uplifting experience."

The wing's student flight has had a profound effect on the preparation of basic training for recruits and the number of honor graduates at the 171st. Airman 1st Class Megan Clancy and Katie Mulvihill were added to the long list of basic training honor graduates at the 171st.

Being a part of the student flight helped prepare Mulvihill for basic training. "I knew what my expectations were and I could concentrate on my military bearing," she said.

Beware of geese and worms

by Brig. Gen. Roy Uptegraff, Wing Commander

As I mentioned last month, we recently visited 13 of our newest airmen when they graduated from Basic Military Training at Lackland Air Force Base and I could not be more proud. Since we had some of our state staff members with us, we made a stop in Harrisburg on the way home to drop them off. En route to landing at the Harrisburg International Airport, the air traffic controllers directed that we break off our current approach because of a flock of large birds on our glide path for landing.

Apparently, the US Airways flight 1549 bird strike incident that led to the successful ditching in the Hudson River on Jan. 15 has created a greater awareness of the bird danger. Let's take a closer look at this type of hazard.

Each year, our 171st ARW aircraft encounter bird strikes. We have seen everything from a minor smear on the jet to complete catastrophic engine failure. Over 5,000 bird strikes were reported by U.S. Air Force aircraft in 2007.

Canada geese, which hit flight 1549, are a growing threat. In 1990, there were an estimated 1 million Canada geese. Since 2008 the population of geese has grown to 3.8 million, which is not good for us. A 12 pound Canada goose struck by a 150 mph aircraft at lift off generates the kinetic energy of a 1,000 pound weight dropped from a height of ten feet.

Why is the population of the Canada goose and other such birds growing? About 90 percent of all bird strikes in the U.S. are by species federally protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. We are working with the airport authority to reduce the threat of birds, deer and other wildlife that can have an impact on our air operations. However, most bird strikes occur at or below 3,000 feet above ground level. Aircraft operations

at Pittsburgh are in that threat environment approximately ten miles from the airport. There is new technology under development that can better detect this growing threat but it is years away from being placed in the field.

Another threat that has been growing this past year is to our computers. We can no longer place media devices in our government computers such as photo and flash drives. Last November, Washington suffered a severe, painful, and widespread attack on the Pentagon's most sensitive computers. The attack damaged networks in U.S. Central Command and penetrated at least one highly classified Department of Defense network according to published reports.

What has given us a wake-up call is evidence that the attack had official Russian state origins. The specific threat in this incident was "agent.btz." a computer worm. Agent.btz can allow attackers to take control of computers and copy their files. It is spread about the network by removable drives such as a flash drive. In March, we conducted a Strategic Command-directed, network cyber security awareness day to ensure we know, understand, and comply with our latest network directives.

Soon it will be time to crank up the lawn mower, pull the motorcycle out of the garage and trailer the Ski Doo. Our most fun season of warm weather is approaching and facts show it is more hazardous to the Wing than icy roads and sidewalks. Enjoy the coming warm weather, but please be careful. Your state and nation need you!



CORNER

Tanker Times online!

Don't forget to enjoy the Tanker Times online now. It can be found on the 171 ARW public website along with other great stuff!
www.171arw.ang.af.mil

New Deputy Director of ANG

Congratulations to Maj. Gen. Patrick Moio, who has been appointed Deputy Director of the Air National Guard. He took over his new post effective Mar. 6, 2009.

"Editorial Staff"



Brigadier General Roy E. Uptegraff, III Commander

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Giving Back

by Command Chief Master Sgt. Vic Guerra

Being a Pa. guardsman is not always about serving our country by deploying to austere locations. It's also about serving our local communities.

We become involved in community service for various reasons. Hopefully, it's for charitable, good-hearted reasons. Some may look at community service as a hassle. Although it can take some effort on our part, I view it as a good thing. It's the right thing to do. It can be very rewarding, enjoyable and fun!

A few weeks ago, a group of us from the Wing had some fun while performing some community service. Senior Master Sgt. Greg Haney, Master Sgts. Mike DiFrango and Paul Homza, Staff Sgt. Rachel Harrington and I participated in a volleyball exhibition at Moon Middle School, a local community school. The Wing was invited to participate in the exhibition by the Moon Township Police. The 911th Airlift Wing had a team there too.

We were all there to play Bob Holmes, a one man volleyball team. Bob travels around the country putting on entertaining volleyball exhibitions while helping the youth see that they can beat the odds. His message is "don't quit," and he talks about the effects of drugs, alcohol and sexual peer pressure. If you're interested, additional information about Bob Holmes can be found at www.beatbob.com. All of us really enjoyed the game, though we lost 15-10. But we didn't go there to win, just to have some fun and support our local community.

There are many ways to support your local community. You can do it on your own, or as part of a group like we did, or with family members. My daughter, Cathy, and I volunteer at a local not-for-profit elderly care facility in our local community. We help senior citizens, mostly wheelchair bound, attend Sunday school. Not only are we helping those in need, but Cathy and I get some quality father/daughter time as well.

I'm sure everyone can find ways to support their local community. Whether it's on a regular basis or every once in a while. No matter what your level of involvement, it feels great to be giving back.



Briefs FYI

Golf Season Arrives

Maintenance Golf Outing
DATE CHANGE!

Friday, Sept. 4, 2009
Fort Cherry Golf Course
Contact:

Paul Palko, X7391 or
Brad Gilles, X7408

Stan Eval Golf Outing
Monday, July 13, 2009
Blackhawk Golf Course
Contact:

Rich Johnson
412-653-4083,
johnsonra1@comcast.net

POL Golf Outing
Sunday, Aug. 9, 2009
Copeland Hills Golf
Course

Contact: Jeff Favorite
X7385

Western States Open
Air National Guard Golf
Outing Sept. 9-11, 2009
Contact Rich Johnson

412-653-4083,
johnsonra1@comcast.net

Specter & Casey recognize Pa. guard's service to nation



U.S. Senators Arlen Specter and Bob Casey introduced a resolution in the United States Senate recognizing the tremendous contributions made by the members of the Pa. National Guard for their service to Pa. and the nation.

The 20,000-member strong Pa. National Guard is one of the largest National Guards in the nation, and more than 17,000 Pa. guardsmen have deployed in support of the global war on terrorism. The resolution commends the Pa. National Guard for its meritorious service; honors those who serve, or have served, and encourages the people of the United States to thank the Pa. National Guard for its continued service.

"Pennsylvania units have taken part in every conflict America has faced since the Revolutionary War, and contributions made by the men and women of the Pennsylvania National Guard to our nation's security continue to be nothing short of outstanding," Specter said. "I will continue to do all that I can in the United States Senate to ensure that the Pennsylvania National Guard has the necessary equipment, training and facilities to accomplish the missions it is called on to perform both for the Commonwealth and the Nation."

"Pennsylvania is very proud of the brave men and women who make up its National Guard," said Casey. "Today, we honor their dedication to Pennsylvania and the rest of the country. I will continue to work with Senator Specter to see to it that Pennsylvania's National Guard are well equipped as they are deployed ensuring our safety and security."

The Resolution is introduced on the heels of a visit last week to Washington, D.C. from Major General Jessica Wright, the Adjutant General of Pennsylvania, with members of the Pennsylvania delegation.

The base will participate in "Pick It Up PA Days" on April 17. We are looking for volunteers to help do a cleanup on McClaren Rd. Anyone interested please contact Lt. Col. John Tower, 171 MED at X7640.

Estimated pay date for the
April UTA:
15 April

Estimated pay date for the
April SUTA:
1 May

‘Snowbirds’ battle winter

by Staff Sgt. Stacy Gault, 171st Public Affairs

As winter breaks and signs of spring begin to pop out of the ground, many breathe a sign of relief, that they will not see snow or ice for another eight months. Especially those who have a part in launching the aircraft.

On a normal day with good weather, it takes two people to prepare a KC-135 for takeoff. Add bad weather to the mix, and the crew must be doubled to get an aircraft ready for the runway. Not only does it require more time for the maintenance specialists, Maj. Mike Koma said, the air crew goes out to the jet 30 minutes earlier than the normal, one hour and 10 minutes before takeoff.

Once a snowy weather forecast is predicted, a ‘snowbird meeting’ is assembled between representatives from operations, maintenance and civil engineering. During the meeting, the contingencies devise a plan of attack for which sorties will remain and which are cancelled. Before the precipitation begins, several airplanes are sheltered inside the hangars. It is a precautionary measure that will save time during pre-flight procedures and possibly prevent the use of de-icing fluid.

“In extreme weather, it can take almost 2,000 gallons of de-icing fluid, or a 60/40 mixture of water and glycol, for the controls and another 2,600 for the rest of the aircraft,” said Chief Master Sgt. Rich Grguras.

It comes at a high price. One gallon of de-icing fluid costs \$10.50 and there is also a cost of the hazardous material contaminating the environment. Since it is very important to correctly recover the fluid, an outside agency is brought in to dispose of the material.

To reduce these risks and costs, the aircraft are de-iced at the Pittsburgh International Airport rather than our own flight line. If time permits, aircraft are cycled in and out of hangars to let the snow melt naturally.

But it’s not just maintenance that has additional tasks when the snow starts to fly. Civil engineering has the responsibility to keep as much snow as possible off the flight line and ramp. This allows the tankers to taxi to the runway, according to Chief Master Sgt. Ray Collella. They have about a 20-truck fleet that include eight types of vehicles. This fleet requires additional upkeep from vehicle maintenance during these times.

Despite all the machinery help they have, it still takes eight hours to completely clean the flight line.

“But just as they finish one round, they usually need to start over because the snow is accumulating again,” said Collella.

While they are plowing for the aircraft, civil engineers are also responsible for cleaning the roadways throughout the base and parking lots.

In the business of flying, inclement weather has many adverse effects on getting planes off the ground. Despite maintenance, CE and ops being tasked more heavily in the winter months, they find ways to complete the mission and uphold our reputation as one of the best tanker units in the Air Force.

Purple Heart awarded at 171st



World War II veteran, 86 year-old David Rohm Jr. was awarded the Purple Heart at the 171st Air Refueling Wing on Saturday, March 7, 2009, for injuries he sustained bailing out of his crippled B-17 aircraft, sixty-five years ago. (U. S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Stacey Barkey)



It takes a combined effort from organizations across the base to keep the planes in the air during rough winter weather. Operations, Maintenance and Support all play an integral part in the winter mission.

Unit celebrates African-American heritage

Findlay Township, PA -- The 171st Air Refueling Wing hosted its 26th annual African-American Heritage Luncheon, Feb. 24, at the Airport Marriott. Olympic gold medalist, Pitt graduate and head track coach for the California University of Pennsylvania Roger Kingdom was the guest speaker.

The event allowed the unit to showcase their accomplishments while celebrating Black History Month. Invited guests, included politicians, school principals, counselors, students and 171st members joined together to celebrate this year's theme, "The Quest for Black Citizenship in the America's."

1st Lt. Darren Rogers, one of the event coordinators, said the luncheon is also a great recruiting tool for the unit. "It gives us an opportunity to tell our story to the community," he said. The 171st ARW recruits individuals from all ethnic backgrounds but they strive to achieve demographics that reflect the outside community, said Rogers.

Past guest speakers have included Hall of Fame, Pittsburgh Steelers wide receiver , Lynn Swann, Urban League of Pittsburgh President Esther Bush and WTAE News Anchor Andrew Stockey.



Top: DaMarra Underwood entertains head table with a song; bottom left: Brig. Gen. Roy Uptegraff poses with Quinten Monterro; bottom right: Brig. Gen. Uptegraff presents keynote speaker Roger Kingdom with a book (U.S. Air Force photos by Master Sgt. Ann Young)

Members of the 171st Air Refueling Wing attend Basic Training Graduation Ceremony, Lackland AFB, San Antonio, Feb. 26. Among the graduates were thirteen members of the student flight from the 171st. Left photo: Brothers Shawn, Tobias and Chris Bowser, all 171st unit members, pose for a photo after Tobias' BMT graduation. Right photo: Airman 1st Class Laura Latanzio receives a coin from 171st Wing commander Brig. Gen. Roy Uptegraff. Airman 1st Class April Lemon-McGrane, center, received the general's coin as well. (U.S. Air Force photos by Senior Airman Sara Bressler)



Retiree Office
300 Tanker Road #4210
Coraopolis, PA 15108-4210
(412) 776-7587, (DSN) 294-7587
FAX: (412) 776-7441
ray.long@papitt.ang.af.mil

Happy Easter to you and yours from the Retiree Office.

NOTICE: Effective April 1, the Retiree Office hours will be 8 a.m. to noon. This will be a permanent change. We extend our sympathies to the family of Master Sgt. Edward G. Batenich, USAF Retired. Ed died November 4, 2008. He was 86 years old. While in the Guard, Ed served as an aircraft mechanic with the 171st Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. He also served in Europe during World War II.

RECENT RETIREMENTS: Chief Master Sgts. James Christ and Robert Stanionis, Senior Master Sgts. Terry Lauper, Andrew Janov and John Tremel, Master Sgts. David Karas, Boonsom Glass, Glen Blough, Jamet Zeglen, David Leonburg, Thomas Sterns, Joseph Petrella and Jacquelin Birkbichl, Tech. Sgts. James Griffith, Drew Coll and Michael Whipkey. If we may be of any assistance, please contact us.

ID CARDS: This is no longer a walk-in service! You must have an appointment! Call Tech. Sgt. Tess Mackey at 412-776-7897 for your appointment.

BRUNCH: The next brunch will be April 20. Once again we will be going to Hoss' on Beaver Grade Road. Same time, 11:30 a.m. No reservations are required. Bring your friends!

Springing into shape

It's finally here, just what everyone's been waiting for. It's time to say goodbye to Winter and hello to Spring. And with that comes fitness testing. Annual testing will begin during April's UTA and end in October. Once again, the "Marginal" category has been eliminated and you now need a 75 or higher to pass. If you have questions, call Master Sgt. Kim Rose at 412-776-7400.

Do you want to shed your winter weight? Are you having problems passing the fitness test? Well, we have the tool for you and it's free. Yes, that's right, free! Tech. Sgt. Ed DiPofi, owner of Dipofi School of Boxing and Personal Training and an International Scientific Sports Association (ISSA) certified trainer will be at the gym every Friday before the UTA from 7 a.m.-noon and on Saturday of each UTA from noon-4 p.m. He can offer an individual fitness/nutritional analysis/personalized program to work on areas you need to focus on, and also make monthly evaluations to see where you are in the program. NOTE: You must show up in workout clothes. Tech. Sgt. Ed DiPofi may be reached at (412) 680-8142.



Join the Pittsburgh Green Knights Motorcycle Club

The "Green Knights" is a military motorcycle club that was founded in 1999 on McGuire AFB, N. J. It was the idea of Adam Buehler and Jeff Richards to create a club where riders can get together, discuss issues of the installation, lobby for biker rights, help each other, and go on rides. After gathering up a handful of riders from the base, they were able to form the first chapter of the Green Knights. It was the start of a slowly growing trend, and the basis of the current Air Force/Army policy to have a motorcycle club on every base. Currently there are fifty-seven chapters to include Pittsburgh.

In 2009 we started the 51st chapter of the Green Knights here in Pittsburgh. The Green Knights Chapter 51 "The Steel Horsemen."

Members range from all of the uniformed services, to retirees, dependants and DoD Civilians.

The Green Knights work hand in hand with the safety office and security forces to help riders retain their rights and still follow the regulations of the military. The Green Knights stand for SAFETY. Our safety director and officers keep the club updated on Department of Defense, Department of Transportation, and local changes to traffic regulations. The Executive Board also disseminates these changes to non-club members. We lobby for motorcyclists' rights on installations and have annual motorcycle awareness rides to let people know we are out there.

The Green Knights do not discriminate against any type of motorcycle or scooter. We are currently looking for new members. If you are military, retired, dependent, DoD, or a military contractor motorcycle rider, and would like to learn more about joining the Green Knights, contact the club President Dan Cervone at dan.cervone@papitt.ang.af.mil or fuelnaround@aol.com or pat.mostyn@papitt.ang.af.mil

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Welcome new 171st members

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| Terrance M Wareham | Ricky A Sneedan |
| Brian W Errett | Kevin A Stripp |
| Daniel E Bosi | Joshua J Shrock |
| Rachel M Muron | William J Edwards |
| Casey J Reiland | John M Blewitt |
| Brandon A Ribnisky | Darren T Bogacki |
| Cory M Overly | Dustin L Young |
| Corey R Mitchell | Vincent Orso |
| Raceal M MoGreal | Joseph G Swartz |
| Kristie M Volchko | Kevin J Geehan |
| Michael S Charles | Sean E Lockerman |
| John M Chrzanowski | Eric J Harpster |
| Eric A Blöse | Jacob J Cramer |

Congratulations on your promotion!

- | | |
|----------------|---------------------|
| Joshua Withers | Nicholas Moschietta |
| Eric Wearing | Gregory Woodard |
| John Dolan | Brendon Ancheta |
| Matthew Grala | John McLaughlin |
| Wray White III | Daniel Smith |



Show us your AETC Form 341s Airmen!



After graduating Air Force Basic Military Training, Lackland AFB, Texas, the following new unit members display their AETC Form 341s - Air Education and Training Command uses this to document discrepancies and excellence for non-prior service recruits in both basic training and Air Force Technical Schools:

Top row, left to right: Airmen 1st Class April Lemon, Lara Lattanzio (War Hawk Award), Katelyn Mulvilhill (Honor Grad), Megan Clancy (Honor Grad), Brittany Kinicaid
Bottom row, left to right: Jacob Tate, Kamal Boksmati, Demetrius Ladakos, Paul Szaller, Clayton Schluter, Matt Zajdel, Tobias Bowser (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Sara Bressler)

Become a Military Training Instructor



Air National Guard (ANG) members can once again apply for the Basic Military Training Instructor (MTI) program. Per the EAD Program

Manager, Air Force Personnel Center, is offering a few application options. Two apply to the ANG:

1. Two year tour - Airmen who have served previously as an MTI
2. Four year tour - Airmen who have never served as an MTI

Questions may be directed to the MTI Recruiting Team at Lackland AFB, DSN 473-1016/1018, Commercial (210) 671-1016/1018, or email mtir@lackland.af.mil.

Military training instructors receive:

- * An additional \$375 of special duty pay
- * An annual \$197 supplemental clothing allowance
- * 22 credit hours toward Community College of the Air Force Instructor of Technology and Military Science
- * A 4-year controlled tour
- * Unique opportunity to lead and supervise
- * A military training instructor ribbon
- * Free fitness clothing and jacket
- * WAPS test PFE only
- * Privilege to wear the time honored campaign hat
- * Compete for "Blue Rope"--top 10% military training instructor corps
- * Opportunity to earn AETC Master Instructor Badge

In Debt, Again

by Deb Krall, Wing Family Program Coordinator

I find that I again owe the members of the 171st my thanks. It is because of unit members that my information is getting spread around the local community.

Recently, I was invited to accompany Master Sergeant Jim Tree-marchi and Major Marvin Ee to the Saint Alexis School in Wexford. Jim's daughter, Beth, remembered a story her dad told her about receiving a box and notes from some school children years ago.

Now that Beth is a teacher, she decided to assist in doing the same for others deploying. We spoke at an assembly, and the kids went to work collecting and making cards. What arrived at my office a few weeks later was awesome. I was able to pack bags for the security forces to receive as they went out the door. Personal care items, snacks, notes and puzzle books

were in each bag.

I have received numerous calls about troops who have collected Girl Scout cookies and want to donate them. I have found several ways to accommodate each of the requests.

I received a call about a program that a unit member attended with his wife. It was sponsored by the 911th. He came back with some great ideas, a contact number, and the willingness to assist in implementing the program for the 171st. How awesome is that?

Many of you stop by when you hear of a relative, neighbor, or co-worker deploying. You willingly take them literature and contact information to ease the minds of those remaining at home. You understand that the family program is not just for you, but for all branches of the service.

You bring literature from conferences and ideas from other units you

visit. I am in your debt. You have accepted me and the family program and helped to form it into something useful. Please continue to get my information out there. More importantly, please stop by and share your needs and ideas.

Scouting Skills Weekend



The 2009 scouting skills weekend will be on the SUTA, May 16-17. The P.O.C. for the event

is Lt. Col. Tom Hess and can be reached by email: 171.arw.scoutday@ang.af.mil

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To the family of:



Lt. Col. Steven Painter takes command

Lt. Col. Steve Painter, 171st Security Forces, officially took command from Lt. Col. Artz Feb. 25. Forty-two of our security forces unit members are serving a six-month deployment in Iraq. According to Painter, they control all posts and roving patrols and are covering a large amount of territory on base at Sather.

