



Pittsburgh Pirates' shout-out program hits homerun

by Staff Sgt. Stacy Gault, 171st Public Affairs

Expect to see some familiar faces on the scoreboard if you attend any Pittsburgh Pirates games this summer. The 171st Air Refueling Wing is again participating in the Pirates' shout-out program for the second straight year.

The Pittsburgh Pirates in-game entertainment department started the program last year, which plays video messages from deployed military members before every home game. With the member's family and friends usually in attendance, it gives them the chance to see and hear from their soldier or airmen.

In early April before the 2009 baseball season began, a Pirates film crew spent the morning on the 171st flight line taping recently deployed unit members. Last year 17 people from the unit participated. This year, more than 50 people have recorded video messages.

Master Sgt. Lisa Custer, 171st chaplains assistant, recorded her own message after returning from Kyrgyzstan. She said the program gives the unit and military more exposure, honoring past and present veterans and it may even inspire young adults to join the military.

Lt. Col. Steven Painter, 171st security forces commander, kicked off the program this year with his video, opening day. His wife, Rosie, and their three sons were at the game, allowing them to see their dad from thousands of miles away.

"I think it's comforting and reassuring to families. The community is reaching out. They took the time to do this and it gives the family a sense of appreciation. They need to know that people care, and not just at the base," said Custer.

In addition to the shout-outs, unit members were involved in the ceremonies on the field as well. For the second straight year, the 171st honor guard presented the colors for the National Anthem. Also, Capt. Sarah Micklo, 171st operations, sang God Bless America. Micklo had also sang the National Anthem at the July Fourth game in 2007.

April 5, 2009. Previously deployed members of the 171st Air Refueling Wing record public shout-outs for the up coming Pittsburgh Pirates' baseball season. The media team of the Pirates set up in front a KC-135 aircraft to record shout-out for Tech. Sgt. Lisa Custer, 171st Chaplain's assistant. Custer recently returned from Kyrgyzstan. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Edward W. Reich III)

"The first time, I was very nervous but I was very proud to be with everyone in the unit on the field on the Fourth of July, celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the Air Force. I was very honored that they asked me to sing the national anthem," said Micklo.

See "shout-out" Page 5



Prepare for more change

by Brig. Gen. Roy Uptegraff, Wing Commander

As we all know, a series of embarrassing incidents involving nuclear operations in the Air Force has led to some sweeping changes in our Air Force leadership and organization. Recently, Global Strike Command stood up as the Air Force's center for nuclear combat operations. Although our tankers tie into Global Strike Command, our force will remain with Air Mobility Command unless world events drive us toward nuclear combat support operations. To this day, the Air Force is highly concerned about its reputation in the nuclear arena and is taking action in many ways to restore America's confidence in this mission. One such action is revising the regulation that governs inspections.

AFI 90-201 is the Inspector General's directive. As I go to press, a newer version of this regulation is in coordination and set to go to the field in the very near future. This directive has been ricocheting around the Pentagon for almost a year. It introduces unprecedented changes to include no-notice inspections in the Guard and Reserve. As the Chair of the Air Directors Field Advisory Council (ADFAC), I was brought into the coordination of this document to assist the National Guard Bureau in getting the language right. I learned that a flat out non-concurrence for no-notice inspections would not stand. Chief of Staff, Gen Schwarz, has made nuclear operations his top priority in today's Air Force. However, AFI 90-201 goes beyond the scope of the nuclear mission. It encompasses any and all inspections for the no-notice and limited notice venue. We hope we are successful in developing regulatory language that meets the intent of the Chief of Staff without creating undue harm to our Guard's daily operations. ADFAC's membership encompasses all weapon systems in the Air Guard and these leaders have been instrumental in pursuing the way ahead for AFI 90-201. After all, what is there to inspect when most of our Guardsman are not on the base? How can we be subject to a unit compliance inspection when in fact the base cannot be fully operational today? Fortunately, the Deputy Inspector General of the USAF is a guardsman. Major General Dean, the Deputy IG, has been our key advisor as we create various courses

Commander's CORNER

of action. Although there are key differences in our structure and mission, we have also been working closely with the Air Force Reserve. By the time you read this, AFI 90-201 should be out and we can expect to see the major commands develop their own directives in response to this one.



In a previous newsletter, I discussed the threats to our computers. I am becoming more convinced we are at war in the world of computers also known as cyberspace. I cannot emphasize enough how important it is to keep your home computers up to date with its operating system and protected with antivirus software. Last month we heard all about the "CONFICKER worm" which is a very sophisticated program that can turn your computer into a hacker's tool. What is the hacker's intent? It is robbery. These guys are out to steal your money, your identity and in such a way that recovery will be long and difficult if you can ever recover. As I go to press I learned most of the CONFICKER infected computers reside in Asia. Only 5.8% reside in the United States. We came to a near shutdown of our military internet communications in November 2008 and I would not be surprised if that happens in the future. Keep in mind all current members of the 171st are entitled to antivirus software which we provide for your home computer. Also, ask your supervisor about our Microsoft Home program which permits you to buy new Microsoft software at a next to nothing cost. We want you to be safe at home with all of your important personal computer activities.

Be safe and think safety as you get outside and enjoy the season. Motor vehicle safety is an arena we can all improve. Enjoy your spring and keep in your hearts our terrific airmen presently serving overseas.

Our Air Force is committed to promoting diversity in our ranks, which is a continuing source of strength, innovation, and excellence among Airmen. To help local efforts that encourage awareness and appreciation of diversity, SAF/PA has partnered with the Defense Media Activity to produce a diversity mini-page on Air Force Link, which you can access directly at www.af.mil/diversity/index.asp.

Of particular interest is the "Diversity and Equal Opportunity in Our Air Force" video available on the page's video channel link.

"Editorial Staff"



Brigadier General Roy E. Uptegraff, III Commander

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Strength is in Numbers

by Command Chief Master Sgt. Vic Guerra

As you read this, many of our unit members will be or are attending the Pennsylvania National Guard AssociationS (PNGAS) Annual Conference. PNGAS is one of the many Professional Military Organizations which you are eligible to belong.

What are Professional Military Organizations and why should you belong? Professional Military Organizations are formed to recognize and represent groups of individuals, and their ideals, interests and goals. They often spur camaraderie and esprit de corps, and frequently provide lobbyists for military legislation. Some of the Air National Guard/Air Force related Professional Military Organizations are PNGAS, which I mentioned previously, and its national parent organizations the National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS) and the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS); the Air Force Sergeants Association (AFSA), and the Air Force Association (AFA). There are others related to all branches of the military such as American Veterans (AMVETS) and Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). This by no means is a complete list as there are numerous Professional Military Organizations out there. These are just a few that readily come to mind.



The general goals of many of these Professional Military Organizations are:

- Maintaining a strong national defense by recruiting and retaining skilled and highly capable personnel;
- Maintaining compensation and benefits at sufficient levels to attract and retain personnel for careers in service to the Nation;
- Represent the interests of military personnel, and their families and survivors, and respond to assaults upon the compensation and benefits earned by military members through years of dedicated service;
- Educating the public on the extraordinary demands and sacrifices associated with a career in uniformed service, and the need to maintain a system of compensation and benefits to attract and retain the kinds and numbers of high-quality personnel needed to meet the nation's defense requirements, both today and in the future.

The more specific goals of the various Professional Military Organizations differ depending on the membership the organization represents. For instance, in addition to the general goals I just mentioned, PNGAS has the interests and goals of Pennsylvania National Guardsmen (both Air and Army) at heart; as do NGAUS and EANGUS, only on a national level. You can also see how the other Professional Military Organizations would represent their membership's specific goals and interests as well.

Whatever your personal interests, I encourage you to join one or more of the Professional Military Organizations that echoes and/or embodies your personal ideals, interests and goals. When it comes to representing your best interests, there is strength in numbers.

FITNESS CORNER: Tech. Sgt. Ed DiPofi will be at the gym every Tuesday and Wednesday from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. through June 10. If you need assistance with a training program, help passing the fitness test or just want to lose weight, stop by and see him. Take advantage of this free offer.

There will be physical training both Saturday and Sunday of each UTA from 8 a.m.-noon. Anyone interested must show up in workout clothes. Meeting place will be at the gym but training will be conducted outside (weather permitting). The contact is Master Sgt. Kim Rose at 412-776-7400 or Tech. Sgt. Ed DiPofi at (412) 680-8142.

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
May UTA:
13 May
Estimated pay date for the
May SUTA:
29 May

Services plans to have the card reader in use for May's UTA. You will need to bring your ID card to the dining facility. Your ID needs to be up to date; reflecting your current military status in order for the computer to bring up correct payment information. Any questions? Give Master Sgt. Daryl Ferricks a call at 412-776-7657.

I play for Team Pittsburgh now and always

by Col. Becky Steidle, Support Group Commander

As I look back over my 23 year career here in Pittsburgh, I take heart knowing that the organization I joined in 1986, is far different than the organization I am now prepared to leave. Four significant changes come to mind...

•I was one of only a handful of folks who could talk and understand UTCs and SORTS, and their relationship to our readiness. Today it's understood by most, and it's a daily part of our jobs.

•We were loading our tankers with a forklift! After a long battle, we finally have the proper equipment – a new generation loader AND the people with the correct AFSC to operate it – go STO!

•We had our first Wing tanker deployment, ever. We went to Volk Field, WI. (Anyone remember Keystone Badger?) Now, deployments are common. Did Kyrgyzstan even exist then?

•There were two military units, with two different personalities that didn't always work/play well together. They say, misery loves company. Midland, TX (1996 ORI) may have been miserable and many other unappealing things, but it created ONE unit, with one identity.

Throughout all the changes, all the inspections, events and activities, it's been the people who were most memorable. I've chosen to forget the bothersome and miserable.

I have been fortunate and had some great leaders. I deliberately said leaders, because it takes a leader to motivate folks to do what we do. We can't offer folks bonuses and pay raises or more vacation or retirement benefits for good work. We succeed by instilling in our folks a sense of purpose and pride; being a member of an organization greater than ourselves, a team if you will - a team with a proud mission.

The leaders I've worked for have always supported me and LET ME DO MY JOB. I never had a micromanager



Col. Becky Steidle, 171st Support Group Commander, reflects on her career before she retires June 1. (U. S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Ann Young)

telling me how to do my job. I was given a task and allowed to work out the details. I've tried to do that for the folks who have worked for me. The vast majority of folks want to do a good job – let them! Get out of their way.

I also felt my leaders would back me if problems occurred. I've tried to always support and protect my folks.

The Air Force is not the same as when I joined in 1979. I was always taught to make a decision based on what was good for the mission.

Times have changed. From big Air Force, I hear more about changes made to save money not because it's best for the mission.

I have always tried to make things better. Three things I believe are better than when I joined:

1. Our folks stay in hotels on UTAs not the 911th.
2. Christmas Family Day has become an event for the entire Wing.
3. Our Dining Out is a class act and a lot of fun.

Thirty years ago this month, I took an oath. I believe and I hope you agree, I've lived that oath every day. I've worn the uniform proudly. Most importantly, I leave behind great leaders, officers and enlisted, to continue to support our nation. Thank you for great memories. I'll see you at December Family Day!

History CAMPs out here in May

by Senior Master Sgt. Pat Riley

The 2009 Council on America's Military Past (CAMP)(www.camp-jamp.org) conference is scheduled for May 7-10, 2009 at the Hyatt Regency, Greater Pittsburgh International Airport. CAMP was founded in 1966 and is one of the leading national military history organizations dedicated to preserving, interpreting and sharing our military heritage.

Senior Master Sgt. Patrick Riley, 171st Security Forces, is chairing a session of speakers on May 7, which include talks on notable area historical sites including Legion Ville, Soldiers and Sailors Hall, Braddock's Defeat and Pennsylvania and Fort Ligonier. Talks on the Allegheny Arsenal and Fort Pitt are tentatively scheduled for this session. Mr. Arthur Fox, author of "Pittsburgh During the American Civil War, 1860-1865," will speak at the banquet, scheduled for Saturday night. Tour buses will depart Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Tours include the Flight 93 Memorial, Bushy Run Battlefield, Fort Ligonier, Air Heritage Museum, Legion Ville, Ambridge Ship Yards, Fort Pitt, Allegheny Arsenal, Allegheny Cemetery, Soldiers and Sailors Hall, Fort Necessity National Battlefield, Braddock's Grave, Jumonville Glen and Dunbar's Camp. The cost for CAMP membership is \$40 per annum. Conference costs are \$50 for non-members and \$40 for CAMP members. Individual talks are generally free and many more are scheduled than the above noted. The Hospitality Suite is open each night (free) and many history books are generally on sale in the book-room. For more information feel free to contact Senior Master Sgt. Riley at 724- 378-1798.



April 5, 2009. Tech. Sgt Wayne Bullers, previously deployed member of the 171st Air Refueling Wing records public shout out for the Pittsburgh Pirate baseball season. The media team of the Pirates set up in front a KC-135 aircraft based at Coraopolis, PA. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Edward W. Reich III)

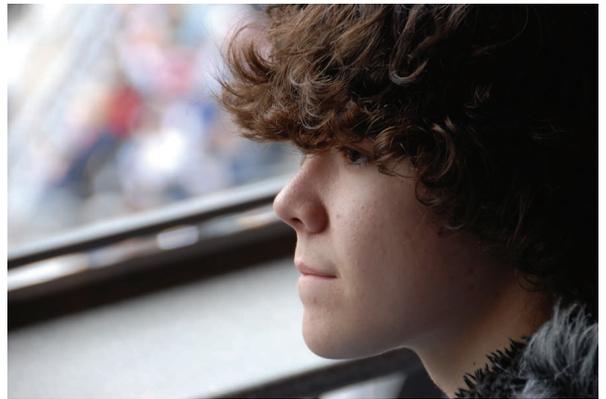
“shout-out” continued from Page 1

She made a few changes the second time around. She wore two earplugs instead of just one. “During the sound check, there is very little delay. But during the game, there is actually a three second delay. When I sing with a full crowd in the stadium I won’t be distracted.”

Micklo said it’s important to get out in the public like that where there isn’t normally a military presence. To show people that not only are we serving our country both here and overseas, but we’re also involved in the local community.



Capt. Sarah Micklo, 171st Air Refueling Wing KC-135 pilot, sings God Bless America at PNC Park in Pittsburgh, PA during the opening ceremonies on April 13. The 2009 season marks the 123rd year of Pirates baseball in Pittsburgh. (U.S. Air Force photo by Capt. Dicie Hritz)



Tyler Painter, 15 year old son of Lt. Col. Steven Painter, 171st Air Refueling Wing Security Forces commander, watches as his father’s shout-out is played during Pittsburgh Pirates opening game ceremonies April 13. When asked how he felt while watching his dad on the megatron, he responded “It made me proud.”(U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Ann Young)



Left: The family of Lt. Col. Steven Painter, 171st Air Refueling Wing Security Forces commander, gathered at PNC Park April 13, to view Painter’s shout-out to them from his deployed location in Iraq. Lt. Col. Painter’s shout-out marks the first one of the 2009 Pirates baseball season. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Ann Young)

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY!! To those of you celebrating this event during the month of May and a belated greeting to those of you we missed in the previous months.

We extend our sympathies to the family of Retired Chief Master Sergeant William C. Roberts. Bill died March 13, 2009. He was 75 years old. He died of complications related to arterial degeneration and diabetes Bill spent many years working in Supply and finished his career as the Logistics Plan Superintendent in the 171st Consolidated Maintenance Squadron. He had 37 years total service.

RECENT RETIREMENTS The following personnel recently retired in February and March: Master Sergeants George Holsky Jr., Rex B. Brown, Trent A. Mazur, Joseph F. Fenny, Ralph V. Todaro and Technical Sergeant John D. Robinson. Congratulations! If we may be of any assistance please contact us.

DON'T BE A STRANGER! Stop by and visit some Thursday. We learn new things from your visits and maybe we can help resolve a problem you may have. Looking forward to your visit!

BRUNCH The next brunch will be the third Monday in July - details will follow next month.

I'll put the scissors down if you will

by Deb Krall, Wing Family Program Coordinator

I was recently reading a series of articles by Gabrielle J. Melin, M.D. on MayoClinic.com. The articles dealt with negative thinking. I then was browsing through my Family Fun magazine and notice some advice on handling kid's bad moods. I even did some web searching and found a site that boasts "Quick Help for Bad Moods".

Count me in! I think I am normally an optimist and find that if I am in a bad mood I tend to want to be alone. I don't like to inflict myself in that state on others. I usually put myself to bed early (timeout). Experience has taught me it is really for the best. Otherwise I end up so frustrated with myself that my bangs' touching my forehead makes me angry. A situation I have remedied several times by cutting them myself. If you see me with my forehead completely exposed, with stubbles standing straight up where bangs once were, please just give a knowing nod and don't mention it. After all, hair grows back!

Now, you can identify with the reasons I was so interested in the advice. Which lead me to think of all of you, my Guard Family. I doubt that I struggle alone so here is a briefing on what I have learned.

Most bad moods are caused by our thoughts. If we alter our thoughts, we can alter our moods. I know, easier read than done. But, it makes sense, doesn't it? If we could accomplish this, we could like each other and ourselves more.

One suggestion I read was to change clothes. Trade the 'bad mood' clothes for something comfortable! I think it could work.

I also read that if you would stop "shoulding" on yourself and others, you would see great results. You know the routine: "I should have said ...", "He shouldn't have ...", "We should have...". One of my favorite grief counselors, Darcie Sims suggested the same thing at the TAPS Conference I attended years ago. I have been following that advice for some time. Try it. You will be amazed.

Think about how you came to be in the bad mood in the first place. Often it stems from jumping to conclusions, over-generalizing, or seeing things in only pass or fail. Few issues are that simple. Most jumping to conclusions has a negative impact. Avoid this by gathering more information. Over-generalizing often occurs because of a single negative result. Because the end result was unfavorable before, doesn't mean you must follow the same path again. Few things are pass/fail or black/white. Most of life isn't either wonderful or terrible. You must find your own peace and contentment. Accept yourself and love yourself. Change the qualities you dislike in others by eliminating them in yourself first. Make everyday count. Stop wasting time in a bad mood.

Prototype PT uniforms undergo wear tests

Master Sgt. James Lynn (left) and Capt. Nick Ferry workout in the uniforms that are currently being tested at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, and elsewhere. Capt. Nick Ferry, program manager for the PT uniform, described it as "100 percent polyester with a moisture management system and an anti odor lining." He added that the prototypes differ from the current PT uniform in features including: no hood or vents, better reflectivity, decreased noise and lighter weight. The uniform consists of a jacket and slacks, T-shirt, and tapered shorts with pockets and comfortable liner.

Emphasizing that the uniform still is in testing, Captain Ferry said that wearers initially "loved the fabric." He added they also "appreciated the longer length in shorts and the better fitting liner." (U.S. Air Force photo/Bonnie White)





President Obama visits Sather Air Base, Iraq - one of our own, guards Air Force One

4/8/2009 - Staff Sgt. Matthew Smith guards Air Force One on the flightline April 7 at Sather Air Base, Iraq after President Barack Obama arrives for an unannounced visit. Shortly after arriving, the president addressed a crowd of nearly 1,500 servicemembers, government civilians and contractors at Al Faw Palace at Camp Victory, Iraq. During his speech, the president commended servicemembers for their focus and dedication and promised them his support while in office. The visit marked the president's first trip to Iraq since taking office. Sergeant Smith, 171st Security Forces member, is deployed with the 447th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Amanda Currier)

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CONSTRUCTION ALERT!

The outbound side of the Parkway West is scheduled to be closed during the drill weekend. The tentative schedule for closing during the UTA is:

- May 1-4, outbound closure from midnight Friday to 5 a.m. Monday.