



Dining Out

by Staff Sgt. Stacy Gault, 171st Public Affairs

The 171st Air Refueling Wing celebrated its 26th Annual Wing Dining Out August 21. More than 300 people gathered to celebrate the unit's accomplishments throughout 2009 and recognize individuals who exceeded their commanders' expectations.

This year's president of the mess was Lt. Col. Michele Papakie, 171st Equal Opportunity Office, and her son, Senior Airman Derek Papakie, 171 Medical Group, serving as Mr. Vice.

Airman 1st Class Lisa Weiss sang the national anthem as the base honor guard proudly posted the colors to begin the ceremony. Robert Morris University President, Gregory Dell'Omo served as the guest speaker and explained the role of RMU in the community and the importance of tradition in both the military and education.

The dining out mess was honored by having Maj. Gen. Steven Sischo, Deputy Adjutant General, Brig. Gen. Roy Uptegraff, 171st ARW commander Dr. Gregory Dell'Omo, and CMSgt Vic Guerra, 171st command chief, attend the dining out and serve in the official party.

The purpose of the dining out is to bring a unit together in an atmosphere of camaraderie, good fellowship, and social rapport. The basic idea is to enjoy yourself and the company you are surrounded by. The dining out is very effective in building high morale and esprit de corps.

The dining out is an excellent forum to recognize individuals and unit achievements. This year, the 146th Weather Flight was presented The Brigadier General Peter R. Phillipy Guardian Warrior Award. The weather flight received the award for their contributions to the wing throughout the year and their multiple inspections and deployments while receiving a fully in-compliance rating on their Unit Compliance Inspection and an overall 98.3% rating on their Stan-Eval – an outstanding grade and the highest rating received by any Air National Guard weather unit for the year.



From top: 1) The 146th weather flight accepts the Guardian Warrior award for their outstanding performance throughout 2009.



2) Setting up the POW/MIA table. 3) Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Peter Phillipy shares a moment with Lt. Col. Missy Papakie and her son Senior Airman Derek Papakie. Lt. Col. Papakie served as president of the mess, while Senior Airman Papakie was Mr. Vice for the evening's events. (U.S. Air Force photos by Tech. Sgt. Ed Reich)



Inspections are everyone's business

by Brig. Gen. Roy Uptegraff, Wing Commander

Commander's CORNER

What a summer! Although most of us were in Pittsburgh, we had approximately 40-60 folks deployed around the world. I am very proud of the service they gave. Recently, our security forces personnel returned from Iraq after a six month tour. It is always a heartfelt experience to welcome back our deployed airmen along with their families and loved ones. Congratulations to all of you and thanks from this extremely grateful commander.

Though we were in garrison this summer, we kept a demanding schedule from the base in conjunction with other AMC assignments such as: Northeast Tanker Task Force, Detainee Movement Operations (provided by our security forces), as well as airlift operations around the world.

Pittsburgh will be hosting the world's G-20 Summit at the end of September. We have been busy, preparing to support this presidential event. A significant combination of Pennsylvania's Air and Army guardsmen will be required to insure the conference's success. We need volunteers to take on this national security event. I will appreciate your stepping up for this. Thank you in advance!

Coming up this fall is an AMC COMSEC (communications security) inspection. This is a reasonably routine inspection, but it is one on which we did not fare well several years ago. Too many times, we take COMSEC for granted. Complacency is what has gotten us in trouble in the past and that is something that is squarely our own fault. We do not know the exact dates of the inspection, but we do know it is in November. There is nothing to this inspection. It usually consists of three NCO's going office to office with a checklist and verify we are COMSEC compliant. Classified documents are reviewed for currency and accountability. Vaults and safes are checked for security and accountability as well.

Some examples that the inspectors might be looking for: Is there a form 702 for the current month placed next to your section's safe? Are your COMSEC directives and regulations up to date? Are you properly trained?

Please check with your supervisor and ensure your section is good to go for the inspection.

While we are on a roll with inspections, I have concerns about the upcoming 2010 Health Services Inspection (HSI). This inspection will take a close look at our medical group's support to the Wing. It will examine our medical programs that ensure world-wide deployability of Wing personnel and how effectively we manage our medical records.

Of note is the ever-increasing number of airmen who are categorized as P4T. In a nutshell, "P4T" means a member of the Wing is questionably qualified for continued military service. By directive, it is the unit commander, the unit medical personnel and local supervisor who are responsible for prompt identification of members whose physical qualification for continued service in the Air Guard is in doubt.

One possible reason for the growing P4T's is the change in frequency of medical evaluations to once every five years with few exceptions such as air crew. During these less frequent evaluations there have been discoveries of surgeries, injuries, and other changes in health no one at the Wing knew existed. This is a problem!

Remember, it is mandatory to report any changes to your health to your unit commander promptly. Failure to report a disqualifying medical condition can disrupt our ability to deploy and lead to unfavorable personnel action. Every month before drill I review the status of our P4T category airmen and have noticed a large number have not provided medical information with regard to their health. This needs to end, especially with the UCI inspection on the horizon.

An ANG member with a known medical condition who refuses to comply with a request for medical information or evaluation is considered medically unfit for continued military duty and will be referred to their immediate commander for processing under AFI 36-3209, Separation and Retirement Procedures For Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve Members. In other words, that member is to be discharged from service. Please help us and let's get the number of P4T's going in the right direction.

2010 is going to be a very busy year. We have deployments, inspections and events to meet. Get ready!



Brig. Gen. Roy Uptegraff
(U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Ann Young)

"Editorial Staff"



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Thank you

by Command Chief Master Sgt. Vic Guerra

Welcome home to the Airmen from our Security Forces Squadron who recently returned from a tour overseas in the desert. Thank you for your service. Hopefully, too much hasn't changed while you were away and that "to do" list didn't get too long.

I'd also like to thank another group that, although they didn't deploy with these Airmen, are every bit a part of our 171st family and contributes to our mission success. Their dedication, support, commitment and patriotism is every bit as important as that from the Airmen in our Wing. I'm talking about our spouses, children, parents, significant others, friends, relatives, neighbors, communities and employers who support us.

An Airman's deployment is a family's deployment. Those we leave behind when we deploy have to deal with the things we took care of or helped out with while at home. Doing things with, or for the kids, house work, yard work, working on the car are just a few things that come to mind. Things we sometimes take for granted when we're home, but need to find a solution for when we deploy. Things always seem to wait until we deploy to breakdown, adding to the stress of both those at home and those deployed.

Thank you to all the family and friends, for without your support, we couldn't accomplish our mission while deployed, or here at home.

Hopefully, any issues that arose were handled by your family, friends or neighbors, or with the help of another resource, like Deborah Krall, our Wing Family Program Coordinator. She's a great resource for many family issues, and it doesn't have to be during a deployment. If Deb can't help directly, chances are she knows who can.

I'd also like to thank Deb for coordinating the homecoming reception, along with other Wing members and the Salvation Army (a Wing community family member), who worked to keep families and friends informed and comfortable as they waited for their Airman's arrival back here.

This includes spouses, children, parents, significant others, relatives and others, some made signs welcoming their loved ones home, some with flags ready to wave, and all with hugs and kisses ready to give their Airman. There were a few changes to the "scheduled arrival" throughout the day, and from what I heard and saw, everyone did a great job of communicating the changes and keeping everyone as comfortable as possible. Thank you all for your dedication and support in welcoming our Airmen home.

To all members of the 171st, whether you've recently returned home from deployment or have been home for a while or even those retired, I ask that you join me, and take the time to thank your family and friends for their support, as you support and serve our country. We shouldn't underestimate how important their continued support is to completing our mission, or how important it is to let them know how much we appreciate their support by telling them "Thank You."

(Deb Krall can be contacted at deborah.krall.ctr@ang.af.mil or 412-980-4835.)



Command Chief Master Sgt. Vic Guerra (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Ann Young)

Briefs FYI

Base Full Time Retirement Party:

Oct. 9, 2009

Appetizers – 6:00 pm
Plated Dinner – 7:00 pm
\$27.00 per ticket
Location: Holiday Inn,
8256 University Blvd,
Coraopolis, PA 15108
*retirees from 2009 TBA



Looking for 20 chefs for a chili cook-off being held here on Oct. 23. Deadline to sign up is Oct. 19. Submit your name or for info contact Maj. Michael Koma at Michael.Koma@ang.af.mil



The Base Honor Guard is now accepting applications for new members. Visit the public web at www.171arw.af.mil to download an

application. Turn applications in to 2nd Lt. Chris Preffer, 171st Public Affairs NLT Oct. 30. Interviews will be conducted during the November UTA. Any questions please email: Christopher.Preffer@ang.af.mil.

Estimated pay date for the September UTA:
Sept. 29

Estimated pay date for the September SUTA:
Sept. 23

171st ARW 2009-2010 planning timeline cut-out

SEPT 2009	Flight of Freedom G-20 Conference
OCT 2009	
NOV 2009	COMSEC Inspection
DEC 2009	
JAN 2010	
FEB 2010	
MAR 2010	ESOHCAMP LCAP Inspection/SAV
APR 2010	PNGAS
MAY 2010	AEF 5/6
JUNE 2010	AEF 5/6
JULY 2010	AEF 5/6
AUG 2010	AEF 5/6
SEPT 2010	HSI
OCT 2010	
NOV 2010	
DEC 2010	ASEV UCI

What is the Flight of Freedom?

by Capt. Dicie Hritz, 171st Public Affairs Officer

Each year the Flight of Freedom ceremony gives members of today's Pennsylvania Air National Guard an opportunity to reflect upon the accomplishments of the past year, remember fallen comrades, honor prestigious Pennsylvania Air Guardsmen, and publicly demonstrate their pride, patriotism, and dedication.

The Flight of Freedom was created to honor those serving and being recognized throughout the state for their outstanding service. The induction of newly selected individuals into the Pennsylvania Air National Guard Hall of Fame is a prestigious part of the Flight of Freedom.

The Outstanding Airmen of the Year are recognized at this annual event. The categories range from Airman of the Year to Senior NCO of the Year. The Airman of the Year categories are selected at each of the wings and then the wing nominations compete at the state level for the title of Airman of the Year of the Commonwealth of Pa.

Scholarship recipients are also recognized at the ceremony. Scholarship checks are handed out at the Flight of Freedom to this year's scholarship winners.

The 171st Air Refueling Wing is honored to host this year's ceremony here in Pittsburgh. In addition to the Flight of Freedom taking place here, the 171st ARW will be in the midst of preparing and planning for the G-20 Summit that will take place in the city of Pittsburgh in the days following the Flight of Freedom ceremony.



Members of the Honorary Commanders Association gather with military personnel for a group photo, Aug. 13. Gathered at the nose of one of the 911th Airlift Wing C-130 aircraft are HCA members and military representatives from the 171 ARW, 911 AW and 316 ESC. This concluded a tour of the 316th ESC naval operations, located near Baltimore, MD. (U.S. Air Force photo by 2nd Lt. Chris Preffer)

Welcome home security forces!



U.S. Air Force photos by Master Sgt. Ann Young

171st security forces had 28 members return home Aug. 15 from a six-month deployment in support of the operations in Iraq.

More than 250 friends and family members of those deployed unit members were on hand to welcome home their loved ones.

The anxious looks on everyone's faces were soon replaced by looks of joy and excitement upon being reunited with their respective airman on this joyous occasion.



Your Face?

by Tech. Sgt. Lisa Custer, 171 ARW chaplain's assistant

Recently we hired a new principal at the high school where I work. This was my first time interviewing someone I would be closely working with every day.

One candidate was asked the question: What are you going to bring to the table? His response was, he would be a hard worker, loves a challenge and would be the face of the building.

His response didn't seem like much at the time, but the more I thought about his answer the more it struck a chord with me. Especially the part about being the face of the building. Everything this man stands for or against will be known throughout our community. Parents, students, and staff will grow to love and respect him, or dislike him while

some just won't care either way. As long as he is the principal his face will be associated with our building.

This is much like you and your face. Family, friends, and co-workers know that you work full or part-time at the 171st ARW. They are proud and inspired by your accomplishments.

Whether you are officer or enlisted, work in maintenance, medical, operations, security, administration or whichever career field, we are all the face of the Air Force.

Do the right thing even when no one else is looking. Your face is: integrity first, service before self, excellence in all we do. You are an American Airman and the face of the Air Force.

TRICARE Retiree Dental Program

You and your family members are eligible for the TRICARE Retiree Dental Program (TRDP) as soon as you stop drilling and enter Retired Reserve status—even if you are under age 60 and are not yet collecting retired pay!

That's right! The TRDP, first authorized by Congress in 1997, offers a comprehensive dental benefits program to members of the National Guard and Reserve who, regardless of their age, have transferred to Retired Reserve status (as defined under Title 10 of the U.S. Code, Section 10141(b))—even those in the "gray area" under age 60.

To get more info or to enroll: go online at www.trdp.org, or call toll-free (888) 838-8737. Don't waste this great benefit!

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

MAJOR MISTAKE! We incorrectly stated in the August Tanker Times that the next brunch would be September. The next brunch is actually October 19. Please make any needed corrections to your calendar. 171st Retiree Office brunches are held in January April, July and October. Currently we have this event on the third Monday of that month. Everyone is invited! No reservations are needed. The brunch is at Hoss's Steak & Sea House on Beaver Grade Road, 11:30 a.m. Call the office if you have any problems.

GREAT TURNOUT- We had a terrific turn out for the July brunch. Thanks to all who were in attendance. More than fifty retirees and friends attended and helped make this a great event. Rumors are easy to come by regarding the commissary and the fate of Oakdale. We should have more to share with you about the commissary and exchange for the Oct. brunch. Keep the faith.

CONGRATULATIONS- to the 171st's most recent retirees: Chief Master Sgt. Thomas Lattimer and Tech. Sgt. Michael Trueblood.

OUR SYMPATHIES- We extend sympathies to the families and relatives of the following retirees who recently passed away. They are Senior Master Sgt. Kenneth E. Nestor, 74, Master Sgt. Glenn Osborne, 93, and Master Sgt. Elmer W. Volkman, 79. Each of them served long careers with the Guard.

TANKER TIMES- We are looking into the reason why some retirees aren't receiving the Tanker Times. We have checked our listings. Hopefully we can fix this problem.

Financial Assistance

by Deb Krall, WFPC

There has been a recent spike in the number of individuals seeking monetary assistance through the Family Program Office. Hopefully, this article will give some sound advice to those interested members.

As harsh it as it may seem, there really aren't many programs offering financial assistance for traditional guardsmen or technicians, and even fewer for those on Title 10 orders. Most of those programs require a direct correlation to financial need and the military duty.

Here is the good news. There are programs available to help with budgeting and financial counseling. Military One Source offers several excellent options. Access to this program is available 24/7 via their website www.militaryonesource.com or by phone at 1-800-342-9647.

Another piece of advice is to consider additional employment. Many businesses are offering evening and weekend employment for part-time employees. Seek employment close to home or your full-time job to save on transportation costs.

While benefits are extremely limited, discounts may apply. One must be careful about using the discount...it could easily eat up the weekly paycheck! Cancelling out the reason additional employment was sought.

Additionally, each of us should look around our homes for ways to cut costs. Perhaps basic cable is all that is needed. There may be a savings available by changing the telephone or cellular phone subscription. Look at the costs associated with downloading music and games. There could be a significant savings there by limiting monthly access. Shorter showers, installing a low-flow shower head, and washing clothes in cold water can produce a savings over time as well. Contact your insurance company and try to combine policies for savings.

While looking around the house for ways to lower bills, look for items to sell. Hold a yard sale, sell on EBay or craigslist, or donate to a local charity for a tax deduction. Apply the money made to a credit card bill, no matter what the amount.

Planning trips can reduce the number of gallons of gasoline consumed monthly. Think about what you pass on your regular routes and plan stops accordingly. Consider shopping at the commissary when on duty at the 171st. Significant savings can be found on milk, meats, spices, and cereals. Prices average 30% less overall when compared to national chains.

A meatless meal once a week will lower your monthly food bill as well as improve personal health. Try cutting back on the amount of meat you put into a recipe. For instance, if the recipe calls for two pounds of meat, try using 1 1/2 or 1 3/4 pounds of meat instead. This small adjustment won't affect the taste of the recipe, it will save you some money, and be a start towards a meatless meal. Consider planting a garden next year. Home-grown vegetables are a delicious way to lower food bills.

Lower entertainment costs by visiting parks, libraries and community centers. Local churches offer various free activities as well.

Pay your bills on time. Late fees are an enormous drain on any budget. Paying the minimum payment on credit bills is costly as well.

Finally, seek financial counseling to get back on track. The effort will be worth it in the long run as you enjoy a less stressful, lower debt lifestyle.

You have just entered the ...

RECRUITER ZONE

Our Recruiting Team -- (412) 776-7495

Master Sgts. Sue Smith and Skip Powell, Tech. Sgt. John Frazier, Staff Sgts. Shayla Pollard and Lindsey Duncan and Airman 1st Class Lisa Weiss
Contact us toll free at 1-877-249-5193 or through the web www.171arw.ang.af.mil



Congratulations on your promotion!

Charles Thomas
Clinton B. Gee
Monica L. King



Dennis L. Presley
Brandon N. Cousins
Kristen L. Givens
William R. Hershel
Michael Mills
Christopher L. Reynier
Christina L. Wegmann



Douglas Eggert
Bradley J. Katcher



Elizabeth M. Zemba
Scott A. Dunn
Garrett E. Herdman
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Mychal M. McAfoose
Ethan E. McCloskey
Nathan V. Price



William S. Mennor



Daniel L. Zummach

Ross R. Young



Christopher Biddle
Eric A. Blose
Andrew G. English
Tylee M. Groves
Brittany P. Hutsler
Andrew J. Meszaros
Rachel M. Muron
Rickey Snedden
Stephen A. Snyder
Jonathan M. Steffine
Lucas T. Sudar

Rickey Adams
Christopher T. Bazzoli
Keith M. Black
Sean T. Bowser
Stacy L. Gault
Christopher D. Jordan



Retention Corner

Master Sgt. Don Schauer and
Staff Sgt. Elizabeth Simoneau

Transferring GI Bill Benefits To Your Dependents

To transfer your Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits to your dependants you must first be eligible for the benefit. At least 90 days of Title 10 active duty since 9/11/01 are required to become eligible. This time does not have to be consecutive. Basic Training and Technical Training time do not count.

Please ensure that the Post 9/11 GI Bill is the best choice for you as you may be eligible for other GI Bill programs. Election to receive the Post 9/11 GI Bill is an irrevocable election. You can find answers to questions and fill out an application at www.gibill.va.gov or call the VA at 1-888-442-4551. Once you have filled out the application, log on to <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/TEB/> to apply to transfer benefits to dependants.

You must either be retirement eligible or have completed at least 6 years of service and agree to serve an additional 4 years from the date of election to transfer. If you are within 3 years of becoming retirement eligible, you must agree to serve the time required to complete 20 years of service. Failure to complete the required service will result in forfeiture of any GI Bill benefits received.

Welcome new 171st members

Damon Antonetti
Ty R. Beatty
Bryan C. Bennett
Ivyann N. Castillo
Dylan W. Dey
Jonathan M. Gudson
Patrick R. Olish
Christopher A. Weber

Free SAT/ACT prep

In alliance with the DoD, supported by a group of patriotic NFL players, eKnowledge is donating the latest version of their SAT/ACT tests prep programs FREE to servicemembers and their extended families. This represents a savings of \$200!

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300 Tanker Road #4205
Coraopolis, PA 15108-4205

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Joseph C. Cirelli
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Looking for a few good Airmen

First Sergeant Vacancy



The 171st Mission Support Group is looking for a new First Sergeant.

Anyone interested in applying for this position must be a Master Sergeant or an immediately promotable Technical Sergeant.

Applicants should address a military/civilian resume and a cover letter to Command Chief Master Sergeant

Vic Guerra.

You may deliver your package to Chief Guerra's office in Building 300 or you may mail it to: CMSgt Guerra, 300 Tanker Road, Coraopolis, PA 15108-4201.

Either way, your package must be received no later than Sunday, Sept. 20, 2009.

Applicants will be notified as to their specific interview date and time. Interviews are currently planned to be conducted over the October Unit Training Assembly (UTA).

Attention Officer "Wanna-be's"

For those individuals interested in obtaining a commission here at the 171st, you are required to meet a Pre-Commissioning Officer Board. The next Pre-commissioning board is scheduled for the October 2009 UTA. The following items, at a minimum, are required to be submitted to the Director of Personnel NLT Sept. 22, 2009. The Director of Personnel is located in Bldg. 300, room 259, or mail to: 171 FSS/CC, Bldg 300, Tanker Road #4226, Pittsburgh International Airport, Coraopolis PA 15108-4226

Minimum requirements:

*Bachelor Degree or Higher – Official Transcript with raised seal

*Air Force Officer Qualification Test (AFOQT) scores

*Letter from your unit commander stating the following:

- (1) Member has a current fit test with a score of 75 or higher
- (2) Member is not in excess/overtime training
- (3) Member is worldwide qualified
- (4) Member has no disciplinary action pending or is not on any type of control roster

*A Military and Civilian Resume

All these items are mandatory. If you are in the process of completing your degree or have not yet taken the AFOQT by the closing date, Sept. 22, 2009, you will have to wait until the following cycle to submit your package. If you have any questions regarding the process, you can review 171 ARWI 36-206; Officer Candidate Application and Interview Procedures, dated Jan. 12, 2005, or, contact Chief Master Sgt. Brian Olander, x7666 or Lt. Col. Stephen Johnston, x7314.

HIGH Flyer

Aircraft: 58-0077
Hours Flown: 58.4
Sorties Flown: 13



Crew chiefs: Karl Vickroy, Don Baker, Mike Boyd, Mark Kotch,
Tom Gilray, and Nick Metro