



Non-commissioned officers honored by the state of Pennsylvania

by Tech. Sgt. Stacy Gault

As for most crucial battles, Gettysburg was an opportunity for military leaders and war heroes to emerge and accomplish great feats. Almost 150 years later, a group of Pennsylvania Soldiers and Airmen gathered on the same fields to study the history of those who fought before them.

Non-commissioned officer (NCO) corps played a significant role in Gettysburg. To honor past and present NCOs, approximately 100 current members were chosen by their commanders based on leadership and performance to tour the infamous battlefield. A traditional Army guardsman and high school history teacher, Maj. Joseph Pfadt served as one of the several tour guides providing detail at each battle site. He also incorporated information on the NCOs role during the Civil War. "We must reflect on what was done here and how it affects who we are and what we do today," said Pfadt. He continued to explain; if the commanding officer was killed, the NCOs ran the Army and took charge of the soldiers. The event was part of the Army's 2009 Year of the NCO program. Shortly after it's kickoff in February, Governor Ed Rendell also declared 2009 the year of the NCO. It is the second celebration in 20 years.

In addition to the tour, each NCO was presented a certificate and coin from the Adjutant General, Major General Jessica L. Wright and Sergeant Major Don Shiner. During the ceremony, Wright recounted her experience and said there was an NCO every step of her military career that made her a better officer. "The NCO is the backbone of the military." She continued to explain how important it was to include the Air Force in this traditionally Army celebration because we are a joint force that "works hand in glove."

Maj. Rich Howett also served as a tour guide, who finished the visit by reading Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address to the group of Pennsylvania guardsmen. To conclude, he emphasized how important NCOs are to each officer, including him. He offered these words, "It is you the NCOs that I think, give us the best training."



Top: Maj. Joseph Pfadt points out key locations and events of Gettysburg to the guardsmen from the high vantage point of Little Round Top. **Middle:** Present and past members of the 171st ARW gather in front of the Pennsylvania monument. **Bottom:** Soldiers and Airmen explore the Pennsylvania State Memorial, which is the largest monument on the battlefield. (U.S. Air Force photos by Tech. Sgt. Stacy Gault)

Bring on the challenges

by Brig. Gen. Roy Uptegraff, Wing Commander

One of the most interesting challenges we never saw in our sights was the G20 Summit hosted by the city of Pittsburgh last month. Thirty-four delegations from around the world to include the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund came to our city to confront numerous economic and financial issues. One of the reasons for this event coming to Pittsburgh was because our city is a terrific example of economic transformation and development. If you look around your community, you will probably notice it is not the same as what it was just 10 years ago. President Obama said this about Pittsburgh: "I've been struck by how many beautiful places there are in the country that you don't necessarily think of as beautiful. Pittsburgh, for example, is a really handsome town with the rivers and the hills." We are blessed to be from this area.



CORNER

It was a real broadening experience to plan for the Summit. We came together with the Secret Service, FBI, Pittsburgh Police, Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA), and Northern Command (Northcom). I found myself and key Wing leadership personnel sitting down with Chief Harper from the Pittsburgh Police. The Joint Task Force Commander for the event was Maj. Gen. Randall Marchi who is also the Pennsylvania 28th Infantry Division Commander. As his Deputy Commander for the Title 32 soldiers and airmen, I can tell you it was a pleasure to work for this first rate leader. You can read his bio on the web by just googling his name.

Incidentally, happy fiscal new year! October 1, 2009 starts our 2010 funding program and we certainly hope it will be as successful as last year. The Air Guard continues to face a variety of challenges with limited funds. Some programs are being cancelled while others are being put on hold. You can expect to see small changes in the way we do business with more reliance on computer networking for training, personnel management, and communications. Personally, I do not like seeing computer technology gaining a greater presence in our operations. More and more of our computer maintenance for upgrades, updates, and program management are going to be accomplished off the base. This is being driven by a need for increased security and to save money. As a Wing Commander, it makes feel more dependent and reliant on unseen management of the systems which are vital to our success.

Lastly, let me take a moment to salute all of you for a successful summer. From the deployments to the base operations, everyone was highly successful in accomplishing the mission. I can not thank you enough for all the safety practices you have employed to keep our record of safety in the top 1% of the U.S. Air Force. We did not lose anyone to a serious accident. 2010 will challenge us with risk, particularly if our Civil Engineering Squadron deploys and those of us remaining will be left to do CE duties such as snow plowing and ramp maintenance. The year 2010 is a big deployment year as well. Let's be careful and move out smart!

If you are nearing retirement, don't miss this briefing

Mr Hugh B. Kays, Casualty Assistance Representative from the 911th Airlift Wing will be conducting Reserve Component Survivor Benefit Plan (RCSBP) briefings on December 5, and March 6 at 2 p.m.

If you're closing in on 20 satisfactory years of service or

already a gray-area retiree (less than 60 years of age) and seek guidance on RCSBP, this briefing is for you. Please contact Mr Kays if you would like to attend at DSN: 277-8559 or Commercial: 412-474-8559.

Your spouse is also welcome to attend.

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Volunteer is synonymous with guardsman

by Command Chief Master Sgt. Vic Guerra

Everyone in the National Guard today is a volunteer. Long past is the time of the draft. And although there still may be some members of our unit who were originally drafted into military service, they're volunteers today. This volunteerism, a desire to help others, seems to be something inherent in many of us guardsmen. It's also a key element in one of our Air Force core values, Service Before Self, and it's that quality that I'd like to address.

For many, the awareness of a need, dilemma or hardship is enough to become actively involved. Many of our unit members are already actively involved in their local communities and charities. But there may be those out there who would like to give, but aren't sure how or when or for how long. Here are some opportunities where unit members are already involved and they could always use additional volunteers.



Project Bundle-Up Shopping Trip - This program pairs you with a child to escort at a local store to shop for winter clothing. Prearrangements are made as a group and the clothing paid for. If you can shop, you're qualified to participate. This is usually held on a couple of Saturday mornings in October. The point of contact (POC) is Master Sgt. Andrea Henry, andrea.henry@ang.af.mil.

Project Bundle-Up Telethon - Be on WTAE-TV and take pledges. We usually cover the 5 a.m. to 8 a.m. time slot to answer phones. If you can talk on the telephone and write legibly, you're welcome to join this important cause. This is usually in December. The POC is Maj. Jason Luhn, jason.luhn@ang.af.mil.

Polar Bears for Project Bundle-Up - Visit the Monongahela Wharf in Pittsburgh and buy a T-shirt. If that's not exciting enough, you can jump in the river to show your support! Over the past two years we've raised \$2500. This coming year, we're exploring the possibility of bidding on your favorite Guardsman (possibly a Commander, Command Chief, 1st Sergeant) to take the plunge. All proceeds help pay for warm clothing for children in need from the local area. If you can obey the laws of gravity and know how to swim - we'll count you in. This event takes place New Year's Day at 9:30 a.m. The POC is Master Sgt. John Buckwalter, john.buckwalter@ang.af.mil.

The Choices Program - Teams of two or three travel to a local middle school and spend two hours talking with students about how the choices they make will impact their future. A half day of training is required with the Moon Township Chamber of Commerce. All lessons and materials are provided. The POC is 1st Lt. Chris Preffer, christopher.preffer@ang.af.mil.

Habitat for Humanity - Work at a local home site to help local folks in need. This is not a hand out but a hand up. Unit members need no special skills. Members can work one to three days. The POC is Tech. Sgt. Dan Brennan, daniel.brennan@ang.af.mil.

MS 150 Bike Ride - Ride 150 miles in two days to raise money for the Multiple Sclerosis Society. The inaugural team this year collected about \$2300. You only need to know how to ride a bicycle. The course is very easy and well supported, so don't be fearful of the distance. One participant, was able to do it on a unicycle. How hard could it be? This event is usually one weekend in mid June. The POC is Master Sgt. John Buckwalter, john.buckwalter@ang.af.mil.

Magicians on a Mission - This project involves anyone willing to learn a few magic tricks from local magicians and perform them for patients at Children's Hospital. Volunteer as much as you want. The POC is Master Sgt. John Buckwalter, john.buckwalter@ang.af.mil.

There are so many ways that unit members give. It's not always easy, and it does take a little of your time, talent or treasure, but in the end, volunteer. It's worth it.

(Master Sgt. John Buckwalter contributed greatly to my article this month and deserves most of the credit - Thanks John!)

Briefs FYI



The base is 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 information contact Maj. Michael Koma at Michael.Koma@ang.af.mil

Never park your car over a pile of leaves!

The muffler and catalytic converter on cars get extremely hot and can ignite the leaves you park your car over - causing your car to catch fire!

Estimated pay date for the October UTA:
October 13

Estimated pay date for the October SUTA:
October 21



U.S. Air Force photos by Tech. Sgt. Stacy Gault

Continue the tradion. Join the 171st Honor Guard.

by Lt. Chris Preffer

United States Air Force Base Honor Guard is a ceremonial unit of the United States Air Force. The primary mission of the U.S. Air Force Base Honor Guard program is to equip and train Air Force members to provide professional military funeral honors for active duty, retired members, and veterans of the United States Air Force. Members are usually volunteers from the installation host and tenant units, with selections generally coming from the installation's Airman Basic to Technical Sergeant pool. The base honor guard emphasizes the importance of military customs and courtesies, dress and appearance, and drill and ceremonies.

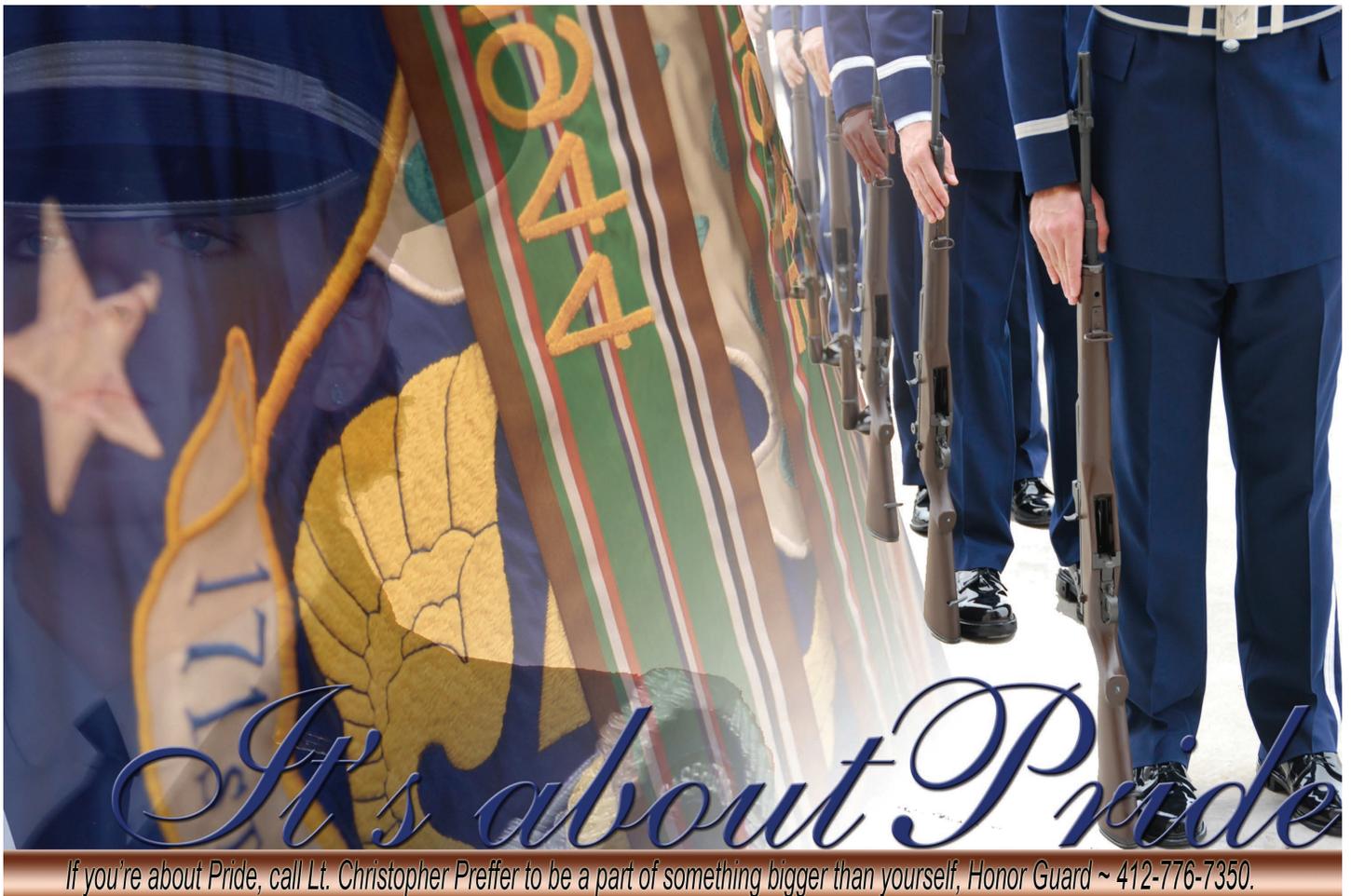
Origins of the base honor guard can be traced to May 1948 when Headquarters Command, United States Air Force, directed the creation of an elite ceremonial unit comparable to the other Services. The first base honor guard was activated within the 1100th Air Police Squadron, Bolling Field, Washington DC, and was responsible for maintaining an Air Force ceremonial capability in the National Capital Region.

Our 171st Air Refueling Wing Base Honor Guard has the unique opportunity to perform these military honors.

Honors consist of presenting the colors at Steelers/Pirates games, the Wing Dining Out and multiple military balls and parades. Throughout the year we also have the privilege of honoring our fallen comrades-in-arms through POW/MIA presentations and funerals. These events are viewed by your peers, supervisors and community members as well as the commonwealth's command staff. Honor Guard details require a unique guardsman, a ceremonial guardsman.

The ceremonial guardsmen are individuals of good reputation, having integrity, ethical conduct and exhibiting standards which merit respect. It is truly an honor which requires outstanding devotion and commitment to duty. By maintaining our history and exceptionally high standards, the 171st Base Honor Guard will continue to remain an icon of excellence.

Our Honor Guard is looking for members to continue in our tradition of excellence. If you are interested in being an Honor Guard member email Lt. Chris Preffer at christopher.preffer@ang.af.mil to receive an application. Interviews of applicants will take place Saturday of December's UTA.



News from the Capital

by Lt. Col. Jim Brown

During the last week of August, I had the opportunity to attend a strategic review of the Nuclear Operational Readiness Inspection (NORI) process with members from several IG teams to include ACC, AMC and the Department of Energy to name a few. One major highlight was the in-depth review of AFI 90-201 (Inspector General Activities) dated June 17, 2009. This instruction describes several inspection activities including Operational Readiness Inspections and Nuclear Operational Readiness Inspection which encompasses nuclear surety inspections and Unit Compliance Inspections. Everyone that deals with any one of these inspections should pay attention to the numerous changes that came about. In this short amount of space, I want to highlight several changes that came about through the NORI process.

The first change in AFI 90-201 is the relocation of the NORI chapter. It is now listed as Chapter 6 instead of 4. The next change is a big one. There are now three Major Graded Areas (MGA) instead of four. Defensive Counter Initiative or DCI has been dropped from the major graded area, however, safety and OPSEC will still be assessed and blended in with the three new MGA.

The new MGA listed are: Force Generation, Employment and Reconstitution. The first MGA (Force Generation) encompasses a unit's ability to generate all aircraft and personnel to full capability. The second MGA (Employment) assesses a unit's ability to employ those forces on a day to day basis and how the supporting sections (i.e. security forces,

services, maintenance) achieve the unit's mission. The last MGA (Reconstitution) deals with the unit's ability to pick up and move to another location and recover returning assets from the fight.

The inspection interval for the NORI cycle has not changed and still remains at 60 months for the ARC or guard and reserve forces. However, the IG has adopted a no notice inspection process which has not been clarified by the AMC Inspector General. For all of the guard and reserve units involved, a no notice will only occur during a scheduled major exercise planned by US Strategic Command and the newly established Global Strike Command. The AMC supplement to AFI 90-201 (AMCI 90-201) is currently in the process of coordination. Here are some of the processes the AMC IG briefed will be coming down, but again their instruction has not been approved yet. First, the IG will be looking at a 5-day inspection not a 3-day (Fri-Sun) for the larger units like us. Second, the IG is looking at testing all aircrew/controllers on the first day of the inspection. During the generation, the unit will be required to generate all available aircraft not just 2 or 3 which was coordinated in advance during previous inspections. And last, there are several changes in the reconstitution phase to include the deletion of aircraft servicing. Again, the new instruction has not been released and these changes are not official. Once the instruction is released, the Plans and Exercise office will summarize those changes which will impact the way we do business.



Two generations and three families made up more than half of the Womens Softball Team at the 44th Annual Air National Guard Softball Tournament which was held in Sioux Falls, SD August 12-16. Pictured left to right are the mother daughter combinations: Ashley Sicher and Marcia Gantz, Victoria and Michele Moran, and Deborah and Monica Heyl

HIGH Flyer

Aircraft: 58-0084
Hours Flown: 62.3
Sorties Flown: 18

Crew chiefs: Keith Acre, Fran Startare, John Kopas, Kevin Clancy, Matt Leisie, Rod Salka and Brian Thomsen

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month

by Mary Connor, 171st NIBNISH manager

For most federal employees, October heralds the beginning of a new fiscal year, but for us at NIBNISH, it also represents a time to break down attitudinal barriers and false assumptions about people who are blind or have other severe disabilities. Your efforts to develop awareness and educate the federal workforce about this important issue will help ensure 171st and 911th, makes an important contribution to this cause. "For the 2009 fiscal year, 171st and 911th did their part by purchasing \$59,893.11 of AbilityOne branded products allowing for the continued success of this program."

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



Base Full-Time Retirement Party

Friday, 9 October 2009

Retirees

Robert Stanionis
Janet Zeglen
Boonsom Glass
Rebecca Steidle
Gary Cirillo
Andrew Janov

More retirees to be added as they confirm attendance

6:00pm - Cash Bar / Appetizers

7:00pm - Plated Dinner

Location

Holiday Inn Pittsburgh Airport
8256 University Blvd
Coraopolis, PA 15108-2591

\$27.00 per person
For tickets - please contact

MSgt Kim Rose - Bldg 301 x 7400
MSgt Monica King - Bldg 302a x7566
Julie McBane, Bldg 300 x 7402

Sponsored by the Base Social Committee

Welcome new 171st members

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

Congratulations on your promotion!

Michael H. Farrell
Richard T. Costolo
Deric P. Main
Amanda L. Galvan



Benjamin Smith
Shawn D. Monk
Brian T. Ball
Anthony Hill



Airfield Driving!

When driving on the airfield, you MUST have ALL of the following on your person:

- AF Form 483, endorsed for Airfield Driving and issued only by Airfield Mgmt
- State issued driver's license
- AF Form 2293, U.S. Air Force Motor Vehicle Operator Identification Card
- AF Form 1199D, USAF Restricted Area Badge, if accessing the restricted area

Please remember at any time you could be stopped and asked to provide these credentials!

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October is Energy Awareness Month

by 2nd Lt. Jeremy Ketter

Air Force Energy Report Card

Energy Goal: 30% reduction in consumption 3% per year until 2015

171st current status: -18.91%

Water Conservation Goal: 16% reduction in consumption. 2% per year until 2015

171st current status: -7.8%

Energy Initiatives that 171st Civil Engineers hopes to employ:

- Motion sensors in minimally occupied spaces
- Following standards for AF building temperature settings

Heating Season (max settings)

- + Admin Spaces - Occupied = 69 deg./Unoccupied= 55 deg.
- + Shop Spaces - Occupied = 65 deg./Unoccupied = 55 deg.
- + Warehouse spaces - 60 deg.

Cooling Season (min settings)

- + Admin Spaces - Occupied = 76 deg./Unoccupied = 84 deg.
- + Shop Spaces - Occupied = 76 deg./Unoccupied = 84 deg.
- + Warehouse spaces - Not cooled unless req'd for perishables

- Install automatic urinal flushers
- Install building meters
- Track building energy usages
- Reduce lighting levels

Make Energy a Consideration in All We Do

End of Day *Energy Saver* Checklist **Shared Work Areas**

1. Printers - off or on standby as required
2. FAX machines - off
3. Plotters - off

Note: Unplugging peripherals saves more energy!



Make Energy a Consideration in All We Do

End of Day *Energy Saver* Checklist **Kitchen/Break areas**

1. Lights - off
2. Coffee Pots - off
3. Dishes - cleaned
4. General area - clean, garbage in appropriate receptable
5. Refrigerators - clean, old food discarded

Make Energy a Consideration in All We Do

End of Day *Energy Saver* Checklist **Cubicle/Office**

1. Overhead lights, task lighting- turn off
 2. Desk lights - off
 3. Computer speakers - off
 4. Computer monitor - off
 5. Personal audio systems - off
 6. Personal fans or environmental systems
 7. Printers - off or on standby as required
 8. FAX machines - off
 9. Other peripherals - off
- Note: Unplugging peripherals saves more energy!**