



AMC Commander, General Raymond Johns shares his thoughts with airmen, their spouses and other invited guests at a Social at the 171st Aircrew Dining Facility Monday evening. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Ann Young)



General Johns listens intently to 171st Fabrication Shop supervisor, Senior Master Sgt. David Janaga as he discusses ways that "experience" helps keep the 50 year old tanker flying. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Ann Young)

## AMC Commander chooses Pittsburgh as a first stop

by Lt. Col. Don Accamando, 171st Public Affairs

It didn't take long for the new Air Mobility Commander, General Raymond Johns to share his philosophy with the members of the Wing when he visited the base 30 November.

Brig. Gen. Roy Uptegraff, 171st Commander hosted a "Social" event for General Johns and his staff the evening he arrived in Pittsburgh. Air Mobility Command's (AMC) highest ranking officer graciously stated his intentions upon his arrival. "We just took over last week and there's lots of things I've got to re-learn," said General Johns. "The best way to do that is to get out among the folks who are doing the mission."

General Johns dined on a variety of hors d'oeuvres with approximately 150 guests in the Aerospace Dining Facility. A cross section of guests from the 171st Air Refueling Wing, the 911th Airlift Wing, local elected officials and members of the Honorary Commanders Association greeted the General.

While speaking to community leaders and a variety of veteran airmen the General said he, "wanted to see the mission through your eyes, to see your commitment to your Air Force." General Johns continued saying, "every time you deploy there is an expense to your family and an expense to your employer."

The evening social was the first part of General Johns visit. He returned the following morning for a personalized mission briefing presented by Brig. Gen. Uptegraff and his group commanders. In this intimate setting he intently listened to the staff discuss a number of milestone events, including our commitment to AMC, a few of our "bragging rights" and the top issues and challenges facing the wing.

Please see "AMC Commander in Pittsburgh" on page 4

## A remarkable year closes, challenges ahead

by Brig. Gen. Roy Uptegraff, Wing Commander

# Commander's CORNER

Happy New Year everyone! 2009 was a terrific success for the 171st. We brought value and support to our community and contributed much to our Air Force mission. Some elements of our Wing appear to be unstoppable such as the Recruiting Department. Like last year, our neighborhoods continued to send their finest youth to our gate. Recruiting in a time of war has been wildly successful. As I go to print we have over 40 fully qualified ready to go candidates on a waiting list because we are over our end strength. Folks that is not a bad problem to have! The enthusiasm and passion to serve was evident throughout 2009. Though last year was not fraught with deployments and inspections, our folks stepped up many times. We had aircrews volunteer and fly combat support missions over Afghanistan for other Wings. We had maintenance officers, including Colonel Mark Van Kooten, volunteer to serve in Iraq. Our Security Forces Squadron deployed over 40 personnel and did an outstanding job in Baghdad. A number of other airmen served around the world in an outstanding manner.



The G20 Summit national security event will be the placeholder in our 2009 history. Unit pride was evident everywhere. The support the city of Pittsburgh provided our soldiers and airmen will never be forgotten. I am still amazed our folks in services served 14,000 meals in the dining facility that week. In fact, I just learned that our Services Flight has been awarded the Sustainment Services Flight of the Year in the Air National Guard. Airmen seamlessly integrated right into Army Guard squads. Magnificent!

Looking ahead, we are going to be busy in 2010. Afghanistan air operations will increase with the projected troop surge through next summer. Although many troops are planned to depart Iraq in the coming year, you can count on Air Force operations to continue in that region. We will deploy to Southwest Asia in 2010 in the last half of the year. I believe the Afghan surge is going to be unprecedented because Afghanistan is land locked. With Iraq, our supply lines could take advantage of the sea, particularly through Kuwait. No such option exists with moving large volumes of cargo and personnel in Afghanistan.

We will also undergo several key inspections such as the Unit Compliance inspection and the Health Services Inspection to name a few. New challenges will become more apparent. There will be more pressure to cut costs everywhere we turn. The Air Force will take a harder stand toward energy compliance and energy management down to the Wing level. Air Force auditors are already analyzing the impact of very recent directives aimed at energy conservation.

We hope to improve our roads and facilities around the base in 2010 as part of necessary maintenance. I hope we can secure the funds we have validated to do it.

One thing you can do to help me next year is go to the Steel Web and look on the front page for "All ANG Members--Annual Certification of Civilian Employment Information." Please click on this and fill out the short questionnaire as it is a requirement from the Secretary of Defense. Bluntly – it is the law.

Thank you for a terrific 2009. Thank you to your families and to your employers. What you do, what you bring to the force and how you do that is absolutely remarkable. God speed in 2010!

### "Editorial Staff"



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# Changing of the Guard

by Command Chief Master Sgt. Vic Guerra

As I write this month's article, I recently returned from the Joint Forces - Senior Enlisted Leader (JF-SEL) Change of Responsibility Ceremony that was held at Fort Indiantown Gap between Command Sgt. Maj. Donald D. Shiner and Command Sgt. Maj. Nicholas (Chip) S. Gilliland. What is a JF-SEL you may ask?

The JF-SEL is a full time position that reports directly to The Adjutant General of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Major General Jessica L. Wright. This position is responsible for the oversight of all enlisted Pennsylvania Army and Air National Guardsmen to ensure that all Soldiers and Airmen of the Pennsylvania National Guard are informed of the standards and policies of the Pennsylvania National Guard. The JF-SEL also ensures that State Headquarters is responsive to Soldier and Airmen needs and concerns, and that of their families and employers; serving as their advocate. I'd also like to point out that the JF-SEL position can be held by either a Soldier or an Airman. So one of you aspiring young Airmen may want to keep that in mind.

Command Sgt. Maj. Shiner was the Pennsylvania National Guard's first JF-SEL and served in that position since October 2005. Prior to that, he served as the State Command Sgt. Maj. of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard, a position akin to Chief Master Sgt. Ralph Braden's position as State Command Chief Master Sgt. of the Pennsylvania Air National Guard.

We welcome Command Sgt. Maj. Gilliland as the newly selected JF-SEL. He is a native of Western Pennsylvania, having grown up in the New Bethlehem area, and is an avid Steelers fan. He also comes from the aviation side of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard having held several instructor positions flying the CH-47 helicopter.

I mentioned earlier that I attended the Change of Responsibility Ceremony. With me representing the 171st were 12 other Airmen from our unit. I know that both Command Sgt. Majors Shiner and Gilliland were very appreciative of the representation and support they received from the Air side of the house. And I was very proud to have such fine Airmen with me who conducted themselves as great representatives of the Wing. These Airmen were Chief Master Sgt. Todd Atwell; Tech. Sgts. Mary Murray and Rickey Perza; Staff Sgts. Christopher Broker, Michael Broker, Dominique Clerkley, Westley Cowfer, Andrew Johnson and Albert Spohn; Senior Airman Brandon Onofer, and Airman 1st Class Richard Broge and Anna Boyd. In addition, Senior Airman Onofer served as our Wing color bearer, and Airman 1st Class Boyd was selected to be a VIP escort and to present flowers to Command Sgt. Maj. Shiner's wife during the ceremony.

I look forward to working with Command Sgt. Maj. Gilliland in the future as the new JF-SEL, and also wish CSM Shiner the best as he retires from service with the Pennsylvania National Guard.



## Briefs FYI

### Air Force History buffs opportunity

We would like to see if we can get 56 people interested in a day trip to the Air Force Museum at Wright Patterson AFB. It would be a charter bus from Lenzner Tours leaving the base at 6 a.m. Saturday, June 19, 2010 and traveling to museum. The bus would depart the museum at 4:30 p.m. and return to the 171st between 9:30 and 10 p.m. Bus stops once en-route and once return midway. Cost would be \$37 per person. Family members, retirees, etc. are welcome. Admission is free. The website for the museum is [www.nationalmuseum.af.mil](http://www.nationalmuseum.af.mil)

The Air Force Museum Foundation runs a cafeteria on the second floor of the museum. A menu with prices is included on the Foundation's website. Note: Food and drink, including bottled water, are not permitted in the museum galleries.

Anyone interested should contact Senior Master Sgt. Pat Riley at [rmadanthony@aol.com](mailto:rmadanthony@aol.com).

Estimated pay date for the January UTA:  
January 19

Estimated pay date for the January SUTA:  
February 1

## Happy New Year!

*Cheers to a new year and another chance for us to get it right. ~Oprah Winfrey*

*Be always at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let each new year find you a better man. ~Benjamin Franklin*

*Good resolutions are simply checks that men draw on a bank where they have no account. ~Oscar Wilde*

**First Sergeant Position** – The 258th Air Traffic Control Squadron in Johnstown 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 Chief Guerra at 300 Tanker Road, Coraopolis, PA 15108-4201. Either way, your package must be received no later than Tuesday, 19 January 2010. Applicants will be notified as to their specific interview date and time. Interviews are currently planned to be conducted over the February Unit

## “AMC Commander in Pittsburgh”

Continued from page 1

The General asked a number of questions throughout the 40 minute brief. He was impressed by the fact that we have survived ten aircraft conversions in our sixty year history saying, “You have managed the culture of your organization graciously to change, my hat is off to you.”

After some private time with Brig. Gen. Uptegraff, General Johns was led on a “windshield tour” of the base that included stops in Maintenance, Security and Operations. Whether finding the hidden Strategic Air Command (SAC) fist in our nose art, discussing our Phase inspection process or chatting with young and old airmen alike, the General was impressed. “The family atmosphere that exists here at Pittsburgh is unique in the Air Force”, he said.

As I watched the newest commander of Air Mobility Command climb aboard the 911th Airlift Wing C-130 Hercules that would take him to his next Reserve Component stop in Niagara Falls, New York, I thought to myself what an approachable man the General was, and that we’d be hearing much more from him very soon.

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*Bottom left: Col. Dave MacMillan, 171 Operations Group Commander, puts dog tags around the neck of Luke Sandala, son of Lt. Col. David Sandala, 171 Operations Group, while Congressman Tim Murphy observes.*

*Bottom right: The Student Flight and First Shirts help to distribute Hometown Hero awards to unit members. (U.S. Air Force photos by Senior Airman Sara Kaufman)*

## First Hometown Heroes Ceremony recognizes deployers and their families

By Staff Sgt. Ivyann Castillo

Over 300 unit members from the 171st Air Refueling Wing were recognized at the first Hometown Heroes Ceremony in the fuel hanger on the morning of December 6.

This ceremony focused on those airmen who were deployed 30 to 179 consecutive days since September 11, 2001. In addition the deployed airmen’s families were also recognized for their support.

Brig. Gen. Roy Uptegraff, 171st ARW commander, hosted the event and stated how this ceremony is the “largest recognition in the Air National Guard honoring our airmen and their families who have sacrificed.”

One of the guest speakers, Maj. Gen. Stephen Sischo, Pennsylvania’s deputy adjutant general for Air, continued on about the sacrifice our airmen made while serving in the Guard as he quoted the famous Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., “Everyone has the opportunity to be great because anyone can serve.”

Sischo also thanked and gave his appreciation to the veterans, the families and the unit members, “the volunteer force who serves while others have the day off, fighting for our nation’s freedom.”

Congressman Tim Murphy addressed the audience first by saying “on behalf of our nation, I wanted to say thank you, and we are greatly aware of your sacrifice.”

Acknowledging the holidays, Murphy continued by stating that the nation can enjoy blessings such as freedom during the holidays because of our airmen who put on the uniform to serve our country.

The deployers received a letter of appreciation encased in a frame with the Hometown Heroes coin matted in the frame. The letter was signed by Gen. Craig R. McKinley, chief National Guard Bureau and Chief Master Sgt. Richard A. Smith, command chief of the Air National Guard.

In addition, family members were given appreciation items such as a pen and pencil set for the spouses, dog tags for each member’s child, both engraved with the Hometown Heroes Salute logo, as well as a center of influence medallion dedicated to an individual who impacted the unit member to serve in the Guard.

After the presentations, the holiday party kicked off for airmen and their families to enjoy their time together, and the guest speakers took a tour of the installation.

“This event is about community recognition regarding your service and saluting families and loved ones for their sacrifice,” said Uptegraff.



## Make better eating choices

By Deb Krall, Wing Family Program Coordinator

I recently attended programs at the VA Primary Care Facilities in Monaca and Greensburg. These are Community Based Outpatient Clinics and are state-of-the-art facilities. I found myself wishing I was eligible to receive treatment through them.

It was my pleasure to meet Dietician, Jennifer Weyandt RD, LDN. I was waiting to sample her lower in carbohydrates pasta salad (by the way, excellent) and only half listening as she spoke to an older couple about weight loss. My ears perked up as she directed them to the area with refreshments. She told them they would find coffee and donuts.

“Donuts?” he quickly questioned. “That’s just great!”

Much to my surprise and his, Ms. Weyandt responded, “Have one, but only one. Choose a glazed. It has fewer calories than a bagel. You see, many will choose the bagel and think they are doing themselves a service when really it is quite the opposite for weight loss.” She then invited him to an ongoing class she teaches weekly at each VA location.

I managed an invitation to one of the classes, with this article in mind. Below is the best of what I learned:

1. *The hardest thing to do is exercise!*
2. *The second is journaling. Those who keep a food journal do 50% better with weight loss than those who do not!*
3. *Eat what you like---watch the portion size. You will do far better if you don't feel like you must constantly deprive yourself.*
4. *As I mention before, bagel vs donut, choose donut BUT only one.*
5. *Eliminate juice. It is full of sugar and you will normally drink more than one serving. You will get more satisfaction from eating the piece of fruit and will normally only eat one serving.*
6. *Have your ice cream! Go ahead, but eat it in a cone. One scoop looks so lonely in a dish, you'll add friends. Limit yourself to one scoop on the cone.*
7. *Read the label! Pay attention to the portion size. Be careful of the lower fat options, many just aren't worth the extra cost as the calorie reduction isn't significant and the taste is substandard.*
8. *Eliminate cheese on sandwiches. The extra calories just aren't worth it. The calories in one ounce of cheese are almost equal to a regular chocolate covered pretzel...you decide!*
9. *Limit your sodium to 2000 milligrams/day.*
10. *Eat breakfast. No getting around this. The body needs food to start to the day.*
11. *Have dessert. You do not have to clean your plate to be 'allowed' dessert. Just limit your portions. A good idea is to share it with someone. This works especially well when dining out.*
12. *Slow down. It takes 20 minutes for the message to get to the brain that you are full. Pace yourself throughout your meal.*

Hope this helps. After all, wouldn't we all like to make better choices?

## Colonel makes presentation to Pittsburgh Penguins

By Lt. Christopher Preffer

As the Pittsburgh Penguins prepared to faceoff against the Carolina Hurricanes at Mellon Arena December 7, 2009; members of the 171st Air Refueling Wing joined players on the ice in a pre-game presentation.

Col. Mark Van Kooten, 171st Maintenance Group Commander presented Penguin General Manager, Ray Shero with a plaque and an American Flag that was flown over Iraq in honor of the 2009 National Hockey League Stanley Cup Champions.

As the Penguins were battling the Redwings in Game 7 of the 2009 Stanley Cup Finals, Van Kooten, a Pittsburgher, took the initiative to have the flag flown in his team's honor. “I had a funny feeling about this one, I knew we were going to win,” said Van Kooten. The flag was flown during a Special Operations Combat Mission in direct support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

This symbolic gesture is one of the highest honors deployed service men and women can give civilians upon their return. The flag was accompanied by a certificate that includes a solemn statement; “This flag is presented to The Pittsburgh Penguins as a symbol of the sovereign power of the United States of America and the unshakeable resolve to keep our country safe.”

“There are few reasons for today's service men and women to relax, and celebrate while deployed,” said Van Kooten. “The Stanley Cup run the Penguins took gave us a taste of Pittsburgh, and for that we were all thankful!”

Col. Van Kooten was joined by the 171st Air Refueling Wing's Color Guard as well as Maj. Gen. Jessica L. Wright, The Adjutant General of Pennsylvania, Brig. Gen Roy Uptegraff and members of the 171st Recruiting staff.

“As the announcers read over the citation and mentioned flown in Iraq during Stanley Cup final game, the arena erupted,” said Master Sgt. Sue Smith, 171st Recruiting Office Supervisor. She continued, “Those fans and the presentation gave me chills of excitement and admiration.”

Tech Sgt. John Fraizer, 171st Recruiter, added, “As common for most Pittsburghers, we love our sports teams, beer and the military. When you combine all of these, as had happened Monday night in Mellon Arena, the result is Pittsburgh magic.”

Though the Penguins lost to the Hurricanes 3-2, the presentation, national anthem and fans merged to create nothing short of true Pittsburgh magic.

(U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Shawn Monk)



## Guard Second Family valued by unit member

*By Master Sgt. Randall H. Proffitt, ANG*

Family is one of the most important aspects in a person's life. Families give unconditional love and support even when we make mistakes in our own lives, especially when a crisis comes unexpectedly. I have been blessed with such a family of my own, but there are people who are not so fortunate. However, for those who feel they don't have a family they need to look no further than the 171st.

Many of you know by now that a crisis in my life has taken me and my family by surprise. For those of you that don't, let me elaborate. In February of 2009 I was diagnosed with Stage 3 Colon Cancer. I had surgery in the beginning of March when the surgeon removed twelve inches of my colon and reattached it. The surgeon also removed some lymph nodes and found that eight of the 24 lymph nodes were infected as well. After further tests, the Oncologist also found that my cancer had spread into my liver which changed my cancer to stage 4. I started my chemo therapy in May and finished in October. I won't get into specifics, but no one deserves to be subjected to chemo therapy. The only way I got through chemo therapy was by being in shape, having a good mental attitude and support from my family.

Family, friends and especially the 171st helped me get through this tragic ordeal of surgery and chemo therapy. My family and friends have been through it all: physically and mentally, but the 171st did things for me that my family and friends couldn't do. Not only did the 171st personnel visit me in the hospital and send me get-well cards and care packages, but you donated your own money and annual leave so that my family and I could function during everyday life. Without your love and support, my family and I wouldn't have been able to get through this. The 171st did things for me that only family members would do for each other, and then it dawned on me, the 171st is my family. I cannot show or express the gratitude I feel toward you all. I do however want to say THANK YOU for the selflessness that all of you have shown me and my immediate family.

I'm not sure what the future holds for me, but I can tell you that as of now, I am cancer free. The surgery, chemo therapy and all of your prayers have made the difference. The oncologist told me that if the cancer doesn't return within five years I will be considered cancer-free. In the meantime I will be getting frequent follow up tests and hopefully all of these future tests come back clean. I thank you all - you will always be part of my family. I owe my life to you and I will be forever indebted to you for your generosity. My future here at the 171st is questionable, however, no matter what happens; it's been a fantastic journey. I hope to see all of you very soon, so I can personally thank you. God bless you all and God bless America.

## Work safe - get the job done

*By Lt. Col. Jeff Jones, Wing Chief of Safety*

Shortly after I was appointed as the Chief of Safety the Wing closed the books on its 51st consecutive year of Class A mishap-free flying. Quite a feat considering that you can count the number of Air Force units on one hand that can make that claim. As I reflected on our safety record I began to think about where safety really fits into our organization and culture.

I'll bet if I polled commanders about where safety fits into their organizations the majority would probably throw out the standard slogan "Safety First" and I'll bet most even believe that because, of course, no one wants to injure their personnel or damage equipment or aircraft. The slogan "Safety First" has been around a long time and is probably only slightly behind the first safety program itself. It sounds good, but, unfortunately, it isn't true and never has been.

All military organizations were formed to achieve some goal or objective and it wasn't safety. Whatever our mission is, our primary objective is not to just be safe. If it were, the easy way to achieve that objective would be to park the airplanes on the ramp and then just watch them.

In the business of military aviation that approach just won't work. The first thing we need to do is to put safety in perspective and decide exactly where it fits in our organization and what level of safety we need. Safety clearly belongs somewhere above the lip service level but below the number one objective level where we let safety dictate the mission.

Safety certainly fits into our objectives somewhere, but its role is that of supporting the primary mission and helping to get the mission done - safely, but done! Safety is actually a way of controlling risks and ultimately costs. It allows us to perform our mission repetitively with minimum damage to our equipment or injury to our people. Safety assists commanders by developing the most efficient method of accomplishing the mission with the least amount of acceptable risk and the Safety staff is in place to help commanders achieve those objectives.

So how do we reconcile safety versus mission? Isn't there an inherent contradiction between safety and combat? It would certainly seem so and we have certainly treated it that way in the past. In fact, until Desert Storm commenced accident losses outnumbered combat losses in every conflict since Orville and Wilbur crashed the Wright Flyer. One lesson that we learned along the way is that whatever safety standards we impose in peacetime must work equally well in combat. If they don't, no one will follow them. That is an important lesson that has served us well and contributed significantly to the outcomes of conflicts since Desert Storm. Today it is clear that safety is taken very seriously in operations both at home and abroad, and it should be. Otherwise, there is some doubt that the American public would continue to support operations where people are needlessly killed or injured and expensive airplanes are destroyed due to careless or reckless acts.

The bottom line is that many of our operations and maintenance standards of performance are really safety standards. They were developed as a result of some safety problem or resulted from the recommendations of some Safety Investigation Board. Regardless of what we call them, they have to be practical and they have to work equally well in peacetime and in combat otherwise they'll be ignored in favor of getting the job done.

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](http://www.171arw.ang.af.mil)

## Retention Corner

Master Sgt. Don Schauer  
and Staff Sgt. Elizabeth Simoneau



As we begin 2010, here are some interesting 171 ARW statistics:

We currently have 1445 members including the 146 WEA and the 258 ATCS

- 1274 are enlisted members and 171 are officers
- 395 or 27% have more than 20 years of service
- 70 of those with more than 20 years are officers (that's 40% of our officers)
- 365 or 25% are first-term airmen
- 586 or 40% are 30 years of age or younger
- 354 or 24% are between 31 and 40
- 515 or 35% are more than 40 years old
- 110 of our enlisted members, 9%, will hit their ETS before June
- 13 of us, or 1% will hit the mandatory retirement age of 60 within two years
- 241 or 17% of our members are female
- 90% of us live in Pennsylvania. The rest of us are spread among 22 states, including such far away places Arizona and Nevada.

With numerous schools in the area, there are plenty of educational opportunities. If your New Year's resolution includes continuing your education, there is no time like the present. Here are some current education statistics:

- Approximately 25% of 171 ARW members are enrolled in CCAF
- (That means 75% of you are not enrolled...)
- 422 of our members have between 30 and 59 credits
- 700 of us, or 48%, have an Associate's Degree or at least 60 college credits
- 224, or 16% have completed at least a Bachelors Degree
- 63, or 4%, have at least a Masters Degree
- At least 17 of our members have a Doctorate or Advanced Professional Degree.

Isn't it time to get started....

## Congratulations on your promotion!

Jason A Everetts



William J Mayberry  
Edward H Altmeyer Jr

Robert D Duncan  
Albert L Sphon  
Jeremiah E Miesel  
Joseph A Mechan  
Daniel R Yakich  
Samuel J Hoffman  
Jeffrey Zines



Andrew J Bedekovich



John C Wyant  
Scott D Broge



## Welcome new members Sung Hee Lee & Ikaika T. Akiona!

### National Guard celebrates 373rd birthday

By Renee Hylton, National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Va. (12/8/09) - The United States is a relatively young country, but four of the oldest military organizations in the world are in our country's National Guard.

The National Guard is celebrating its 373rd birthday this year. On Dec. 13, 1636, the Massachusetts Bay Colony divided its citizen-soldiers, or militia, into the North, South and East Regiments.

The Massachusetts Bay Colony was seven years old in 1636. About 5,000 men, women, and children had made the two-month voyage to the New World, leaving the relative comfort and safety of England behind.

In Massachusetts, they confronted a wilderness of dense forests, wild animals and suspicious Indians.

The colonists needed a military force for protection, but they had no money to hire a mercenary army, which was common practice in Europe at the time.

So, they turned to the English tradition of the militia - citizen-soldiers who gathered for military training and who could fight when needed.

In Massachusetts, all able-bodied men between the ages of 16 and 60, except ministers and judges, were required to join the militia.

By 1636, the militia of the Massachusetts Bay Colony was large enough to be divided into three separate regiments.

Today, the military lineage of these 1636 regiments is carried by the 101st Engineer Battalion, the 101st Field Artillery, the 181st Infantry, and the 182nd Cavalry, which are all still part of the Massachusetts Army National Guard.

These four units, in one form or another, have been in continuous service since 1636, and are the oldest units in the U.S. Army.

Not many military organizations can claim 373 years of unbroken history.

The Swiss Guards, who protect the Vatican, are older (1512), and so is London's Honorable Artillery Company (1537), a unit of citizen-soldiers that is the oldest in the British Army. Amazingly, considering how much older Britain is than the United States, only one other regiment of the British Army, the Royal Scots (1633), predates our National Guard's oldest units.

Much has changed in this country since 1636, but one thing has not: citizen-soldiers still gather to train and deploy as they have for 373 years.

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## 171st welcomes new chaplain

*By Staff Sgt. Ivyann Castillo, 171st Public Affairs*



*New 171st chaplain, Capt. Sung Hee Lee, delivers the invocation during the 171st Hometown Heroes Salute Ceremony on December 6, 2009. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Sara Kaufman)*

If you haven't seen this friendly captain already you will soon see him walking around your section smiling and introducing himself throughout the 171st Air Refueling Wing. Capt. Sung Hee Lee was officially sworn into the unit as our newest chaplain Saturday, November 7.

Chaplain Lee transferred from the 109th Airlift Wing, New York Air National Guard located in Schenectady, where he also served as a chaplain.

One thing very interesting about our new chaplain is that he will be the first Korean chaplain at the 171st. According to Lee, "being in the presence of the holy, no one really paid attention to the color of my skin, they just looked at me for guidance as any other military chaplain."

In fact in his civilian job, the chaplain is a pastor who ministered at a multicultural church in New York for five years before relocating for the first time to a Korean church near his home.

In addition, the chaplain already has plans to help our airmen who are deploying by creating a program for both the military member and their spouses to make their relationships stronger. "When a military member deploys for a long time and they're away from their spouse and family, they have different expectations from each other," said Lee. "It is important for them to learn how to communicate and take care of one another through those difficult times."

Chaplain Lee really enjoys being in the Air National Guard and didn't have any desire to enlist as an active duty member. "I joined the Air National Guard because I have my primary duty as a civilian pastor," said Lee. "But the Guard is such a precious ministry, and I feel like it is a duty that I need to fulfill to help our airmen."

So pretty soon you will meet our new chaplain who has a caring nature and wants to make himself visible to our members. "Visibility and availability is very important in military ministry," said Lee.

**HIGH** Flyer 

Aircraft: 59-1468  
 Hours Flown: 55.6  
 Sorties Flown: 21

Crew chiefs: Joe Ferrara, Justin Blinkey,  
 Erik Larson & Ed Stengel.

### *Tentative Orientation Flight schedule for 2010 planned*

April 15	Employer Flight
July 15	Educator Flight
August 5	Educator Flight
August 19	Employer Flight
September 23	Spouse Flight
October 14	Clergy Flight
November 12	Veterans Flight

**Watch for  
 submittal  
 information!**