



CSAF pays a visit to the 171st ARW

by Staff Sgt. Ivyann Castillo, 171st Public Affairs

Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James A. Roy made a guest appearance at the 171st Air Refueling Wing here March 7.

Roy made a special acknowledgement to the 171st ARW deployed members all over the world after thanking and congratulating Airmen recognized at a monthly recognition ceremony.

In addition, he gave credit to the Airmen who continue to maintain and operate the wing's aging refueling aircraft.

Also recognizing the uniqueness of the Guard with balancing a family, military career and civilian employment, Roy thanked the family members who support Airmen.

"I don't know how you do it," Roy said. "I only serve in two capacities: my family and being in the active duty Air Force. All of you have an extra component, and that's with your civilian employment."

Roy's first order of business being in his position as the Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force is to ensure Airmen are ready for the mission.

"We need to be prepared, whether it's, training, having the right equipment or being in good physical condition, we always have to be ready."



Top right, Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Roy, congratulates Master Sgt. James Ellis, 171st Civil Engineering, on his promotion during the enlisted recognition ceremony at the Steel City Cafe, Mar. 7. Bottom left, Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Roy takes the time to greet 1st Sgt Andrea Henry during his visit to the 171st Air Refueling Wing, Mar. 7. (U.S. Air Force photos by Master Sgt. Stacey Barkey)

Aside from the individual and the squadrons being "mission ready" he addressed the importance in working in a joint military environment.

"We need to know how to train and to work jointly with our allied and coalition forces, working as a team," Roy said.

Roy's vision for the future with the enlisted core is broken into three tiers: experience, education and training.

"Experience comes from the missions we do everyday, the types of experience derived from those missions and what we accomplish," he said. "For education we have to make sure airmen are getting their Professional Military Education accomplished as well as accommodate our airmen to attend any formal schools they are eligible for. Lastly we again need to add joint coalition training not only with our sister units but our allied units too; we are all in this together."

Being Inspection-Ready

by Brig. Gen. Roy Uptegraff, Wing Commander

Commander's CORNER



In February we got a lot of snow! Would anyone have believed it would all miraculously melt without any significant flooding in our region a few weeks later? There is just no telling the future and that rings true in our business of providing combat support. War is never a stable and predictable event. In the past month we have been gearing ourselves for the deployment of our aircraft this month.

Already there has been and continues to be a drawdown of forces in Iraq. Last month saw much success along the Afghanistan border of Pakistan as key Taliban strongholds were raided and emptied. We often get mobilization orders for a particular job specialty only to have it cancelled near the deployment date because the task is no longer required. Predicting the requirements for combat support in advance is never easy. Still, the Air Expeditionary Force structure has provided a level of predictability for us with its "bucket" structure.

We are again partnered with Tennessee and Illinois for the duration of our bucket later this year. I originally thought the bucket structure would afford us a year to do inspections separate from the year of deployment, but unfortunately it has not. We are doing it all in 2010.

Inspections are a way of life in this business. I accept them as part of our corporate enterprise which is why I encourage anyone to volunteer and assist Air Mobility Command's teams of inspectors at any time. By doing so, we are able to maintain visibility of where the strengths and weaknesses are out in the system so we can check ourselves. Our recent Environmental Safety and Occupational Health assessment went as well as we can expect. Our big ticket items – Flight, Ground and Weapons safety had minor write-ups with the bulk of our write-ups centered on environmental issues such as storm water drainage.

Unfortunately, we are not well-funded or manned in this area, so I will look for other ways to become more compliant. A big part of this inspection is about you. Your training, workcenters and actions were noted by the records we keep and the appearance we have. The Vehicle Maintenance facility and the team we have in it were particularly highlighted by the inspection team as one of the best in the Air National Guard.

Congratulations!

Also, my hat is off to our maintenance group who successfully completed their inspection last month. Aircraft maintenance has a well organized, professional and meticulous approach to its business. The team was impressed within the first few hours of their arrival.

Last month was another great month for all members of the 171st. Enjoy the springtime weather and thank you for support as true professional citizen Airmen. Every time the Air Force takes a look at any of the areas on our base, it leaves with a handshake, a salute and a recognition that the 171st is one of its key partners.

Col. Keith Schell, Air National Guard, Logistics Compliance Assessment Program Team Chief, presents the LCAP award to Technical Sgt. Shawn Snyder, 171st Logistics Readiness Squadron of the 171st at the Steel City Cafe Mar. 23 for being a "phenominal player" during the inspection. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Sara Kaufman) Story on page 4



"Editorial Staff"



Brigadier General Roy E. Uptegraff, III Commander

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With honor

by Command Chief Master Sgt. Vic Guerra, 171st ARW Command Chief

The rendering of military funeral honors is a way to show the nation's deep gratitude to those who, in times of war and peace, have faithfully defended our country. This ceremonial paying of respect is the final demonstration that our grateful nation can provide to a veterans' family. This honor is bestowed by various military units across our nation, like our base honor guard.

Many of you may be familiar with our base honor guard. You have probably seen them at various ceremonies, like our Wing Dining Out, performing color guard duties and the POW/MIA ceremony. You may not be aware that they also provide military funeral honors for local veterans, including many of our own unit members who have past away. The base honor guard's motto, "To Honor, With Dignity" is surely fitting of our own team of Airmen who volunteer their time to properly honor fallen comrades, a tradition filled with respect.

I was reminded of this not long ago when Brig. Gen. Uptegraff received a thank you note from Ms. Lisa Ervin. Ervin's father who was a Korean War veteran, had just passed away. He was very proud of his service and wished to be buried with military honors. His funeral happened to be at the end of the snowstorm that blanketed the entire east coast and immobilized communities in February. The funeral director was told that, due to the weather, there were no units that could provide military honors for his funeral. One of our unit members, who works with Ms. Ervin, put her in touch with me to see if there was anything we could do. I made one call to our base honor guard and put them in touch with the funeral director. Our honor guard, on very short notice and facing challenging conditions, stepped up to the challenge.

Ms. Ervin's Thank You note read:

"Please send my sincere gratitude to your base honor guard that presided over my Dad's funeral. I know how hard it was to find the time with the weather situation we were having. From the bottom of my heart, I want them to know how thankful I am that my Dad had such a beautiful day because of them. I will forever owe them the world. They were awesome and amazing!"

Reading that note, I could not have been more proud of our unit. I want to thank each and every one of our honor guard members from the bottom of my heart for their dedication and volunteerism. It is impressive how they represent our unit! I also want to thank their commanders and supervisors for their support to these dedicated unit members as they support our unit and community.



If you are highly motivated, maintain high standards of appearance and conduct, and show aptitude for ceremonial duty, you may want to consider joining our base honor guard. Contact 1Lt. Chris Preffer at 412-776-7514 or christopher.preffer@ang.af.mil and keep the tradition going, with honor.

Briefs FYI

Congrats on the ESOHCAMP inspection!

The Environmental, Safety and Occupational Health Compliance and Management Program Inspection from Mar. 15 - 18 that covered environmental, flight, ground & weapons safety as well as occupational health had an outstanding outcome in which the Assessors were impressed with our programs. Hat's off to everyone who was involved with the ESOHCAMP.

Operation: Military Kids, Pennsylvania

Operation Military Kids, Pennsylvania is sponsoring a sleepover at the Carnegie Science Center. The evening begins at 6 p.m. on Saturday, April 24. Advanced Registration is required along with a \$10 family registration fee. Space is limited. Please contact your First Sergeants or contact Deb Krall, 412-776-7365 or Deborah.krall.ctr@ang.af.mil for more information. They are also located at the dining facility.

Estimated pay date for the April UTA:
April 28

Estimated pay date for the April SUTA:
April 21

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

The brunch at Hoss' Steak House is still on for April 19, feel free to bring a friend, being a retiree is not a requirement. In addition, the new brochures on the National Cemetery of the Alleghenies as well as the 2010 AFR/ANG Personnel Fact Sheets are available if anyone is interested. Both documents will be available at the luncheon for distribution. Hope to see you there!

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW RETIREES: Lt. Col. Donald M. Accamando; Chief Master Sgts. Terrence L. Malley and Edward J. Bressler; Master Sgts. Donald M. Ramsey, Timothy G. Halloran, Edward H. Altmeyer and Jeffery S. Wilt; and Technical Sgt. Kenneth R. Engles. If this office may be of any help, please contact us.

We would also like to welcome and recognize retired Chief Master Sgt. George A. Manown, Sr. to our office as the latest volunteer member. He has been involved, learning various new subjects and will surely prove to be an asset to this office. We are still in need of new personnel and gladly welcome any assistance. If you are interested, please contact us. Thank you for your support.

We would like to extend our condolences to Master Sgt. Elmer Volkman who passed away on April 24, 2009. We sincerely apologize for not acknowledging his passing sooner. We would like to recognize and honor his service in the unit.

In addition, our sincere sympathies to the families and friends of Doc Panza, Col. Samuel Byers and Lt. Col. Frank A. Johnson, who both had long fulfilling military careers. May they rest in peace.

Again, if this office can be of service to you, please don't hesitate to contact us. Thank you!

171st LRS and MXG set the bar for LCAP

by Staff Sgt. Ivyann Castillo, 171st Public Affairs

After undergoing a very thorough and detailed Logistics Compliance Assessment Program inspection that ended Mar. 22, the 171st LRS and the 171st MXG scored an outstanding with an overall grade of approximately 97% during the inspection here.

During the outbrief, Col. Keith Schell, Air National Guard LCAP Team Chief first stated, "the inspections makes us all better – the teams go on the road to help other units; this makes the Guard units stronger."

With the LRS scoring approximately 96%, Maj. Richard Citrino, ANG LCAP LRS Team Lead pointed out it was due to the "outstanding leadership, and this score is evident that you accomplished the mission."

"A very motivated group," added Citrino.

The 171st MXG also had an outstanding score of approximately 98%, again because of the leadership and motivation of unit members.

"The group displayed a great leadership, execution and an enthusiastic workforce," said Col. John Thomas, ANG LCAP MXG Team Lead. "You also showed your unit pride and professionalism which gave a successful mission group accomplishment."

Recognition awards were given to individuals who stood out during the inspection, and special acknowledgements to Senior Master Sgt. David Janiga from 171st MXG and Technical Sgt. Shawn Snyder from 171st LRS, for being "phenominal players in the tracking system that needs to be passed onto the entire Wing," according to Schell.

Brig. Gen. Roy Uptegraff, commander, 171st ARW gave his congratulations and thanks. "We have an uncommon leadership across the chain of command right down to our airmen," said Uptegraff. "The leadership from the top, thank you for being confident in giving the airmen the reigns to do their job," said Uptegraff.

Uptegraff also thanked the inspectors by saying how important their service was and they are "America's finest."

"The final score speak for itself; it proves what we knew already that our unit is one of the best in the Air Force," said Capt. James Weber, operations officer, 171st MXG. "The credit goes out to the supervisors and NCO's for training our folks to be experts and the airman for taking pride in the work they do, and being confident in their skills."

"Being new to the section, it was a real eye-opener to see our folks working together to get the job done," said Capt. Eric Munshower. "We didn't put our game face on, it's our personnel's attitude everyday."

"All of you did a tremendous job, except phone calls," said Schell

Col. Keith Schell, Air National Guard, Logistics Compliance Assessment Program Team Chief presented a recognition award to Technical Sgt. Mary Murray, 171st Logistics Readiness Squadron during the LCAP Outbrief Mar. 23. at the Steel City Cafe.



African American Luncheon nearing its third decade of festivities

by Staff Sgt. Ivyann Castillo, 171st Public Affairs

Though the temperatures were blistering cold and another Western Pennsylvania snow storm was brewing, it didn't stop the annual 171st Air Refueling Wing's African American Heritage Luncheon event that occurred Feb. 26, at the Pittsburgh Airport Marriott Hotel.

In its 27th year, the event was to recognize the history of African American heritage focusing on this year's Economic Empowerment theme. The event started with a combined honor guard consisting of the 171st ARW members, West Mifflin and Beaver High School JROTC posting the colors.

Brig. Gen. Roy E. Uptegraff, commander, 171st ARW welcomed the audience for attending the luncheon and showing their support even during a snowstorm. He also thanked the committee members who organized the event.

Uptegraff discussed the Wing's missions highlighting our overseas, national and domestic operations. He mentioned this luncheon became a "wing tradition every year just shy of going into its third decade."

Uptegraff went on to specify, "how diversity is a key component of our unit's success, the more we understand and utilize diversity, the more we will succeed in our missions."

Acknowledging the younger audience members, Uptegraff quoted an African American female astronaut, Maj. Merryl (David) Tengesdal who is the first and only black woman to fly the Air Force's elite U-2 Spy Plane. ["I hope this will show young girls this is an option they can choose."] "We have not had a first black female pilot

in the unit, but maybe one of you who plan to be a pilot in the future will keep us in mind," Uptegraff added.

The guest speaker, reporter Vince Sims, anchor for "Channel 11 News," first began by stating how nervous he was describing the difference between talking in front of a camera than talking in front of people. "Looking at most of the audience in uniform, I asked myself, what do I have in my experience to tell them, but since I was told there was going to be younger audience members, I could give them some insights on life," said Sims.



"Recognize your strengths, follow your path." He described how he didn't have a desire to be a broadcaster. From planning to be in law school to possibly studying speech therapy, a professor told him to get into broadcasting and he realized having strong reading, speaking and communication skills, lead him to be a successful anchor and reporter for channel 11.

Sheila Beasley from the University of Pittsburgh explained the history of quartets and its progressive style of music from World War II to the present. Men of Vision



sang throughout the luncheon performing in the genre Beasley described.

Though some of the entertainers weren't able to perform at the event due to weather conditions, members of the 171 ARW stepped up to help keep the show going such as our "Tops in Blue" participant Airman 1st Class Lisa Weiss, who sang when the female vocalists couldn't attend. The 171st Medical Group's very own 1st Lt. Darren Rogers jumped in with the Men of Vision and sang a solo.

Appreciation awards were given to the performers, guest speakers and hotel staff for supporting this event.

The event overall was a success.

"It was a challenge with the weather, but we were able to put on the event with our yearly average attendance," said Rogers.

"During Black History Month we remember all those who accomplished things to get us where we are today, but we live for today, let it be about today," said Sims.



The 171st Air Refueling Wing hosted its 27th annual African-American Heritage Luncheon, Friday, Feb. 26, at the Pittsburgh Airport Marriott. Top right, Brig. Gen. Uptegraff, commander, 171st ARW shows his fun side by dancing with the youngest member of the Men of Vision vocal group during the luncheon. Middle, Uptegraff presented an appreciation award to the guest speaker, WPXI news anchor, Vince Sims. Bottom left, 1st Lt. Darren Rogers, medical administrative officer, 171st Medical Group, joined the Men of Vision for a solo performance. (U.S. Air Force photos by Master Sgt. Ann Young)

When to report a breach

by Chief Master Sgt. Monica King, 171st Communications Squadron

There is no discretion afforded on whether to report a breach. The 171st Communications Squadron Knowledge Operations Office (x7321) should be immediately notified. As indicated in DoD 5400.11-R, all breaches, suspected or confirmed, (also paper or computer) must be reported to US-CERT within 1 hour of discovery and also reported through leadership channels and the Privacy Office channels. The KOM office will provide guidance on proper procedures.

In addition, when there is a PII breach, there may be other types of reporting necessary. Your Base KOM will provide guidance on who to notify and reporting procedures depending on the type of breach.

It is up to the supervisors to determine when to take actions whether it's additional training, counseling, remedial actions or even removal from employment.

Aside from internal actions, it is important for everyone to be aware that some breaches may also be a violation of the Privacy Act (PA). A violation of the PA occurs when the PII involved in the breach comes from a Privacy Act System of Records (SOR).

If there is suspected malicious or willful intent to cause harm to an individual by obtaining access to, using, or disclosing PII, or falsely impersonating an individual, those instances need to be reported to my office to appropriately report to the Defense Privacy Office. While this is rare, 5 USC 552a does allow for an individual committing these offenses to be charged with a misdemeanor and receive a fine of up to \$5,000 and the Defense Privacy Office will alert the proper channels if the agency feels this is warranted.

This article is to re-emphasize the importance of not only reporting PII Breaches, but also taking precautionary measures to prevent PII breaches from occurring. Following the appropriate Records Disposition Schedules and properly destroying information when no longer needed is also very important -- as they say "You can't lose what you don't have."

Extracted from email: ANG Privacy Office, dated 22 Feb 10

Neuro-Psych Testing? What is it?

By Maj. Katherine Boyle, 171st Medical Group

Starting in January 2010 the 171 ARW implemented a DoD program which is a pre-deployment health requirement for all members known as "Automated Neuropsychological Assessment Metrics (ANAM)." This is a short computer-based test that evaluates a person's cognitive functions such as memory and thinking. Some of you may have already experienced this test and many may have questions as to what this requirement is for. It is nothing to fear. I hope to clear up any misconceptions about the test and explain in simple terms how this testing helps you stay world-wide qualified.

You may be surprised to know the military is not the first to use this type of program. Cognitive testing has been in use since the mid-1990s athletes from high school on up to the pros, especially in high-impact sports like football or hockey. Its primary purpose is to evaluate the seriousness of a concussion injury. The idea to scientifically evaluate an athlete's ability to play after suffering a concussion actually originated in Pittsburgh.

According to the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, a team doctor for the Pittsburgh Steelers recommended to former coach Chuck Noll that one of his players should rest rather than play against the Dallas Cowboys following a concussion in a previous game. Noll wanted actual proof the athlete was not ready to play and from that request the first scientific testing program was developed. Prior to this, there had never been a standardized method for evaluating the effects of concussion injuries. Presently, several computer-based testing programs are in regular use throughout the country by many professional sports teams and school athletic

programs. Cognitive testing has now evolved to meet the special needs of the military, particularly measuring the effects of combat concussion injuries.

A combat concussion is a form of Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) that has affected many of our military members serving in both OIF and OEF and is recognized as a "high-profile injury" by the DoD. Concussion injuries can range from mild to severe and the effects may impact a person's sense of well-being and normal patterns of thinking. It is typically a condition you can't simply "shake off."

Using standardized, simple, computer-based tasks to measure cognitive performance is a helpful and low-tech way to determine how serious a concussion may be. The US Army was the first branch to use ANAM testing which is now mandatory DoD wide. The Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center (DVBIC) explains testing in this way: "The purpose of this test is to collect baseline information on performance that can be used if you have an injury affecting attention, memory, or thinking ability. It is not an IQ test; there is no pass/fail score; it does not diagnose any medical condition."

ANAM testing must be done within 12 months of a deployment. It will take about 20 minutes to complete the test and will be administered in the medical group by public health. All the information obtained during testing is treated as protected medical information under federal privacy laws and is kept secure. For more information contact Master Sgt. Chuck Browder 412-776-7682 or visit the website for DVBIC: www.DVBIC.org,

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Contact us toll free at 1-877-249-5193 or through the web www.171arw.ang.af.mil



Retention News: College Info

by Master Sgt. Donald Schauer, 171st Retention Office Manager

If you have been thinking about taking some college classes, here's some food for thought. Most members of the 171st are eligible for school some type of benefit.

The Education Assistance Program, EAP is a state grant for members of the National Guard. This benefit can help with tuition costs up to the amount of state tuition. Applications for the 2010-2011 school year will be available sometime in April on the Steel Web with assistance through your unit training manager.

In addition, many of you are also eligible for one of the various GI Bill programs that are available. The GI Bill is a federal benefit that can help cover the costs associated with attending classes. Deployments and active duty time can increase your eligibility for the GI Bill.

EAP and the GI Bill may also be used in conjunction to cover education costs. In addition, if you are eligible for the Post 9/11 GI Bill, it can be transferred to your dependents if they are interested in attending classes. There are colleges and universities eager to work with military members. If you need help getting started call or stop in the Retention Office.

What is your safety culture?

by Lt. Col. Jeff Jones, Chief of Safety

If folks around the Wing were asked the following question, "How did we establish and maintain such an impressive safety record?" Most people (besides the ones that just shrugged their shoulders) would say, "It's our safety culture."

A simple definition of culture can be defined as the values and practices that we share with each other that help define us as an organization. You work in an organization and organizations mean people. Organizations, from your first tech school to the one you're in now, powerfully influence the way their people operate. The people in these organizations have norms and values and use specific symbols and language: culture

Culture influences nearly everything we do. As much as people in our business think that they are independent thinkers, those around us profoundly influence us. So how do we tell what type of influences we might be operating under? How do we tell whether they are positive or negative? The answer is simpler than you might think.

I'm going to pretend I'm new here. Pretend that this is my first day on base. How am I going to get a flavor for the culture in this new place? Tell me a story about the place you work. Tell me about the best employee here and what makes that person the best. Tell me what makes your organization better than the one down the road. Tell me about the leaders of your organization. What do they do?

I don't want to hear about the vision or mission statements that are framed in the hallway. I want to hear the truth from the people that make up this organization and its culture. If I were to hang out in the hallways, what would I hear? What would all of this tell me about your organization and your safety culture? What would it tell me about you?

How would you answer these questions if I asked you? Imagine the answers that I might hear from your friends and co-workers. Does the message and perception that I just got match the safety culture that your organization holds out in public to be true? That is the key. You will find that inside units that have had aircraft mishaps the perception of outsiders is quite different from what people inside the organization think about their safety culture.

Congratulations on your promotion!



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To the family of:



Space-available travel explained

by Master Sgt. AnnYoung, 171st Public Affairs

You may have wondered how to navigate the world of space-available travel at some point in your military career. I will attempt to answer some of your questions and offer some valuable resources in the following paragraphs.

Some considerations you should have are; your eligibility (category), locations to fly from and to, the documents that you'll need to have and how to sign up for space-available travel.

Most readers of this publication will be considered either category III or VI. Category III includes anyone on active duty or on orders in excess of 30 days. These individuals may fly anywhere and their dependents may accompany them. Category VI includes reserve and guard members as well as retired military. Traditional guardsmen and retirees (under age 60) may fly within CONUS and directly within/between the CONUS and Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam and American Samoa. Dependents are not authorized to travel space-a with these members. Once a retiree turns 60, he or she may have their dependents accompany them on space-a travel and may travel anywhere in the world.

There is a fairly comprehensive list of passenger terminals on www.amc.af.mil/amctravel/index.asp, where you'll find answers to many space-a questions.

Documents that you may need for your space-a travel include, but are not limited to, your military ID card (dependent ID card), DD form 1853, AMC IMT 140, passport, visa and a copy of your orders.

Registering for space-a is as easy as emailing, faxing, mailing or showing up in person at the passenger terminal. Addresses can also be found at AMC's website listed above.

For flights departing from the 171st you should call 412-776-7531 for a recording of upcoming flights and specific requirements. If you have additional questions, the 171st Small Air Terminal can be reached at 412-776-7808.

Space-available travel can be a great adventure, but it does require flexibility, adequate research and proper planning. Happy trails!

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Mexico Travel Threat

The recent violent attacks in Mexico have driven the U.S. Embassy there to urge U.S. citizens to delay unnecessary travel to parts of Durango, Coahuila and Chihuahua states, and to advise U.S. citizens residing or traveling in those areas to exercise extreme caution.

Our concern is for your safety and that of your dependents. Please contact your military supervisor if you or your dependents have travel plans to Mexico to include civilian employment requirements.

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Sorties Flown: 13



Crew chiefs: Joe Ferrara, Edward Stengel, Erik Larson, and Justin Blinky.

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

To submit an individual for one of the flights above, please email the following information to Public Affairs, 171.arw.pa@ang.af.mil :

First and Last name, Title, SSN, Phone number, Email address, Sponsor name, Emergency contact and phone number.