



PENNSYLVANIA AIR NATIONAL GUARD Vol. 10, No.2 August 2010 Pittsburgh, PA

171st ARW members help at Army memorial dedication

by Master Sgt. Ann Young, 171st Public Affairs

The 171st was asked to help support the 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team headquartered in Washington, PA with the dedication of the Fallen Warrior Memorial Wall in the lobby of the Goodridge Armory July 11.

The memorial is dedicated to the 82 Soldiers and Marines killed in action during the 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team's deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom from June 2005 through June 2006.

Working long hours in a very humid environment, three individuals from the 171st Communications Squadron, Staff Sgts. Albert Sphon and Brandon Cousins and Senior Airman Adam Falcsik, enabled numerous people to view and appreciate the event by hooking up a live feed from a video camera operated by Tech. Sgt. Shawn Monk, 171st Public Affairs. Because the memorial is located in a very small lobby of the headquarters building, fewer than 50 people would fit in the primary viewing area for the unveiling. The live video feed and accompanying audio allowed the adjacent multipurpose room to be utilized for the additional crowd.

The somber event was attended by families of the Fallen Warriors, Col. Michael R. Evans, current 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team's Commander, Maj. Gen. Randall Marchi, 28th Infantry Division Commanding General and Brig. Gen. John Gronski, previous 2nd IBCT Commander, along with a handful of 171st ARW members who showed their support during the dedication.



Staff Sgt. Cousins and Senior Airman Falcsik, 171st Communications Squadron, set up audio visual equipment to allow a live feed viewing of the 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team Fallen Warrior Memorial Wall Ceremony July 11. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Ann Young)



Brig. Gen. Gronski (left), former 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team commander and Maj. Gen. Marchi (right), commanding general, 28th Infantry Division attend the Fallen Warrior Memorial Wall dedication ceremony. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Ann Young)

“We have worked jointly with the 2nd IBCT on several occasions like the past snowstorm and the G-20 Summit, and we became very integrated with the unit,” said Lt. Col. Chuck Perrott, deputy commander, 171st Mission Support Group. “We not only came here to help our fellow Army brothers at the event, but also pay our respects to the fallen troops.”

Being prepared

by Brig. Gen. Roy Uptegraff, 171st Air Refueling Wing Commander

One could not pick a finer day to welcome home our last jet from the deployment to Southwest Asia than the 4th of July. It was sunny, hot and full of cheer from the airmen, their families, the leadership and the press who scurried about trying to catch the story and film the reunion of loved ones. How honored I am to have these terrific men and women so willing to go forward and serve! However, we are continuing our air expeditionary force commitment with our air operations in the Pacific (PACOM) for the rest of the summer. The operational load in the Pacific is not even close to the fierce requirements in Southwest Asia, but it is nevertheless a vital mission to our interests in the Far East.

When I was in Washington D.C. last month, I started hearing more about the Air/Sea battle concept. Today's conflicts are highly focused on the Air/Land battle, but what about Air/Sea? Here is where the nation is challenged. Do we really have the kind of assets to successfully deter or destroy aggression over vast distances of water and with limited basing? Recently, the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments did a study that emphasized the full effort of the Air Force and Navy would be required and the two components would have to work together in ways that have never been done. Clearly, tankers would be fully engaged in meeting such a mission. Our operations in PACOM garner experience and lessons learned in the way we deploy and support Pacific forces. The Pacific is a challenge that will become more militarized and more competitive as we go forward. There is no shortage of requirements in today's planning but there is a shortage of funds as I discussed in last month's column.

As we go into the final months of the fiscal year, we will begin to take action to close out our books. By Aug. 20, all of you must get your missed drills accomplished. Hopefully, all of you have put your orders request in for training from now until Oct. 1. Col. McDonald, the Air National Guard Readiness Center (ANGRC) Commander, has warned us that next year's funding level will be more reduced. Already he has directed the termination of temporary technicians funded through ANGRC. BRAC and new missions have an impact on all Wings. As Col. McDonald stated recently, "Currently we have identified approximately 800 technicians that we need to source in FY11, primarily for units needing bridges to their next missions. Depending on how this is accomplished, this could possibly further reduce the civilian pay funding." We'll get through it, but we are going to have to think more about our costs.

As we look toward September and the close-out of our overseas deployments, be prepared to come to the base this fall ready to meet our Air Force compliance inspections. Air Operations, the Mission Support Group and the Wing are meeting more frequently and doing more in-house examinations to prepare for our inspectors. I need all of you to get your ancillary training accomplished and please take a hard look at your shops as if you were an inspector. Tell us what you think! Stay safe, thank you for your service and see you at drill.

Commander's CORNER



Performance Sep. 10

7:30 p.m. @ Moon Park

Featuring our very own

Airman 1st Class Lisa Weiss

Admission is FREE for everyone!

Come and support Lisa and

have a great time with the family!

Maj. Gen. Frank H. Smoker, Jr., (USAF, Retired) passed away on July 16, 2010

Maj. Gen. Smoker is long known as one of the pioneers of the Pennsylvania National Guard. Maj. Gen. Smoker began his military career in February 1943 by enlisting in the Army Air Corps. He served as Commander of the Pennsylvania Air National Guard with headquarters at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania, from November 1, 1978 to June 6, 1985, the date of his retirement. He gave 42 years of service to his state and nation and will be sadly missed by all. Our sympathies are extended to General Smoker's friends and loved ones.

"Editorial Staff"



Brigadier General Roy E. Uptegraff, III Commander

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Fallen Soldiers

by Chief Master Sgt. Vic Guerra, 171st Air Refueling Wing Command Chief

The Pennsylvania National Guard lost two Soldiers in Afghanistan on Friday, June 11, 2010. Sgt. 1st Class Robert Fike from Conneautville, 38 and Staff Sgt. Bryan Hoover from West Elizabeth, 29. Both were killed while on foot patrol in the Bullard Bazaar in Zabul province in southern Afghanistan by a suicide bomber. They served with the Company C, 1st Battalion, 110th Infantry. Fike was a 1989 graduate of Penn-Trafford High School and Hoover graduated from Elizabeth-Forward High School in 2000.

I bring this up because they were fellow Pennsylvania Guardsmen, brothers if you will – family. In addition, Team Pittsburgh played a role in helping our Army brethren getting these fallen Soldiers home.

It started with a phone call I received late afternoon on Thursday, June 17 from Command Sgt. Maj. Paul Walker who is my counterpart at the 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT) in Washington, PA. I met Walker during the Pennsylvania National Guard Association Conference this past April. Walker called to see if we could help find any information regarding the return of his fallen Soldiers.

On a side note, the Air Force Mortuary Affairs Operations Center (AFMAOC) is in charge of Air Force wide mortuary responsibility and operation of the Department of Defense's sole Port Mortuary at Dover Air Force Base. All fallen servicemen and women are cared for by the AFMAOC.

Walker was initially told that Hoover was being returned to Pittsburgh the very next day, Friday and possibly Fike over the weekend. Without hesitation, Team Pittsburgh came together to track down the needed information and help our brothers on the Army side prepare for the return of both of their fallen Soldiers.

Several individuals from our unit assisted in helping our Army brothers. Lt. Col. Mike Schmidt helped with initial contact information. Command Post personnel, Master Sgt. Debbie Vadas, Staff Sgt. Hilary Drogus and Senior Airmen Josh Smith and Jessica Gonzalez helped with coordination and some great sleuthing (especially Gonzalez!). Senior Master Sgt. Brian Schaub, Tech. Sgts. Gordon Cooper, Dave Skrtich, Benjamin Smith and Staff Sgt. Joshua Vargo, worked on the flightline handling the aircraft transporting Fike home. Our Security Forces personnel, Master Sgt. Michael Peterson, Staff Sgt. Moe Olivo, Senior Airman Daniel Kaltenegger, Rich Mountain and Jim Thompson, coordinated and escorted the Army Honor Guard as well as the hearse and police cars on base. And lastly to all you at our unit who came out to pay your respects – my sincere thanks to you all.

Not only do you have my thanks but the thanks of all of our Army brethren that I had the opportunity to talk with that included Maj. Gen. Jessica Wright, adjutant general, Pa. National Guard, Joint Forces Headquarters and Command Sgt. Maj. Chip Gilliland, state senior enlisted Leader, Pa. ANG JFHQ. They both personally extended their sincere thanks to the men and women of the 171st Air Refueling Wing for all of our help and assistance in bringing their fallen Soldiers home. I couldn't have been more proud of our unit. It was a true team effort!

Please keep Fike, Hoover and their families in your thoughts and prayers. Two fellow Pennsylvania Guardsmen, fallen Soldiers, brothers, family, who gave the ultimate sacrifice in faithfully defending our country and the freedoms we continue to enjoy. These Soldiers and their families have our deepest gratitude.



Briefs FYI

Makeup Drills

Just as a reminder, last day to makeup any UTA days for the 2010 Fiscal Year is Aug. 19!

September UTA change

The Sep. 2010 UTA has been changed from Sep. 11-12 to Sept. 18-19. Again, the UTA in Sep will be 18-19.

This is due to the Wings Over Pittsburgh Air Show that will be held during the Sep. 11 weekend at the 911th Airlift Wing, Air Force Reserves.

ATTENTION GOLF ENTHUSIASTS:

Moon Golf Scramble

Moon Golf Scramble will be held on Aug. 10. Sign up is at the 911th Airlift Wing Fitness Center. A registration form needs to be turned in by Aug. 13 to lock in Tee Times. For more information call the ITT office at 412-474-7194. All fees will be paid at the Moon Golf course. First Tee is at 11:00 a.m.

Stan/Eval Golf Tournament

The Welcome Back Warriors/Stan/Eval golf Tournament will be held Sep. 20 at the Blackhawk Golf Course. Event is a four-man scramble, \$60/person with a 9:00 a.m. shotgun start. Deadline for payment is Sep. 8. If you are interested contact Rich Johnson at 412-653-4083 or johnsonra1@comcast.net.

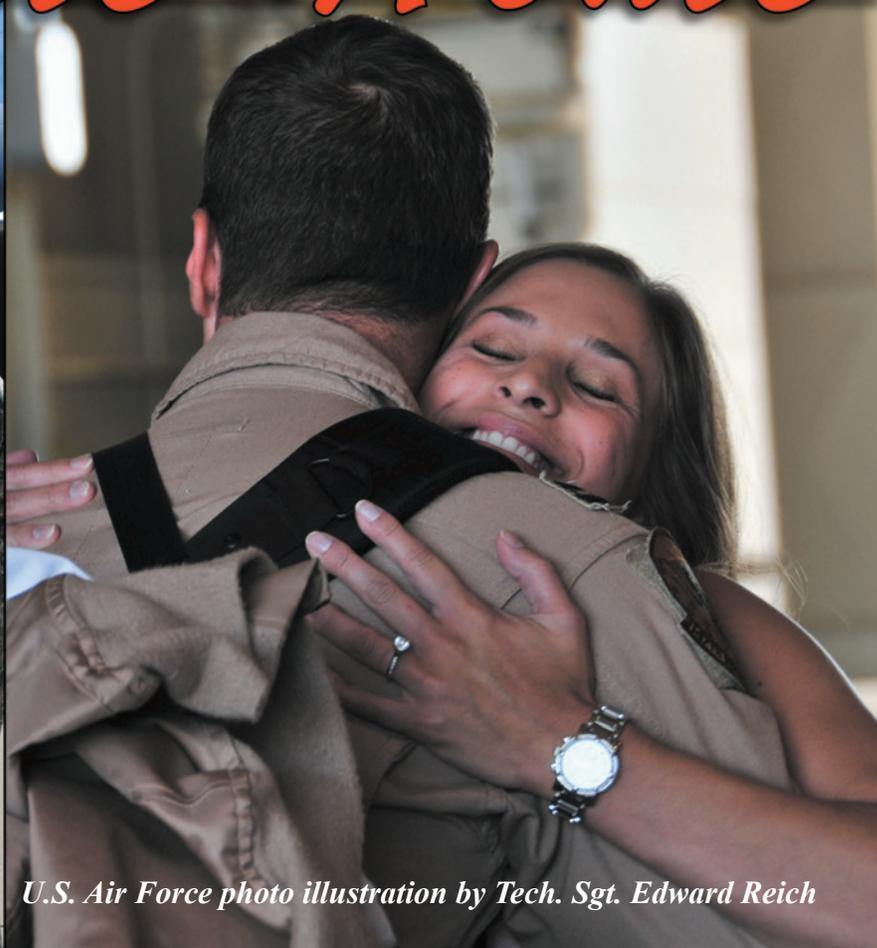
Estimated pay date for the
August UTA:
August 18

Estimated pay date for the
August SUTA:
August 25





Welcome Home



U.S. Air Force photo illustration by Tech. Sgt. Edward Reich

Distinguished Flying Cross recipient visits the 171st

By Tech. Sgt. Shawn Monk, 171st Public Affairs

October 2, 2009 Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan strapped in their F-15E Strike Eagle, Capt. Mike "Ox" Polidor, pilot and Capt. Aaron "Finch" Dove, F-15E weapon system operator, both from the 335th Fighter Squadron were preparing for a routine mission at the base. Unexpectedly over the radio "Coalition Out Post (COP) Keating is being overrun. We need you to go there right now."

In seconds Polidor and Dove were on their way. They tuned their radio to the frequency given to them by Bagram's Air Traffic Control and were connected to the Ground Controller near COP Keating.

From the air, they saw smoke rising in the distance from the Kamdesh Valley. On the ground the outpost manned by 80 allied soldiers was under attack, from all angles, by 250 Taliban militants. The U.S. soldiers on the ground were surrounded and had taken their final defensive position.

Polidor and Dove arrived eight minutes after take-off and found two other F-15s on scene low on fuel and ammo. They relieved these F-15s and received ground targets from the ground controller.

Munitions from Polidor's F-15 ripped through the Taliban attack. More friendly aircraft arrived and Polidor relayed ground targets to them, coordinating a counter attack that lasted eight hours and included 19 aircraft.

"It was intense the whole time," Dove said. "Anyone in our squadron would have done the same exact thing and could have done it as well or better than we did. We just happen to be there. That was the difference."

"We have a sign in our squadron that kind of puts it into perspective that says the mission is an 18 year old with a rifle, everything else is support," said Polidor.

Polidor and Dove were awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross on April 19 for their role in saving 72 lives.

Polidor grew up in the Pittsburgh area. He visited the 171st Air Refueling Wing during the 4th of July weekend and performed a flyover at the Pittsburgh Pirates' game. This will be his final flight in the F-15E. "I can't think of a better way to go out than a flyover in your home town," Polidor said smiling.

Polidor's next assignment will be to pilot the B-2 Stealth Bomber. His wife, Capt. Nikola "Mandrake" Polidor, currently a B-52 pilot, will be reassigned to fly the B-2. Separated for the last four years by their tours of duty, they will be reunited to serve together at the same unit.



Capt. Mike "Ox" Polidor with his wife Capt. Nikola "Mandrake" Polidor visits the 171st Air Refueling Wing and speaks with public affairs personnel, Tech. Sgt. Shawn Monk and Staff Sgt. Ivyann Castillo about the event at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan as well as being married pilots in the U.S. Air Force, July 2. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Ann Young)

Having faith at the work place

by Master Sgt. Rosalind Ramos-Alvarez, 171st Chaplain's Office
Amidst all the recent deployments and upcoming inspection that has everyone basically running on empty, let us not forget what is important and take time out for a little faith.

"FOR THE WORK PLACE"

*The Lord is my real boss, and I shall not want
He gives me peace, when chaos is all around me
He gently reminds me to pray and do all things without
murmuring and complaining*

*He reminds me that he is my source and not my job
He restores my sanity everyday and guides my decisions
that I might honor him in all that I do.*

*Even though I face absurd amounts of e-mails, system
crashes, unrealistic deadlines, budget cutbacks, gossiping,
co-workers, discriminating supervisors and an aging
body that doesn't cooperate every morning, I still will not
stop for He is with me! His presence, His peace, and His
power will see me through.*

*He raises me up, even when they fail to promote me
He claims me as His own, even when the company
threatens to let me go. His Faithfulness and love is better
than any bonus check*

*His retirement plan beats every 401K there is!
When it's all said and done, I'll be working for Him a
whole lot longer and for that,
I BLESS HIS NAME!!!*

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

Attention Officer "Wanna-be's"

For those individuals interested in obtaining a commission here at the 171st Air Refueling Wing, you are required to meet a Pre-Commissioning Officer Board. The next Pre-commissioning board is scheduled for October 2010 UTA. The following are mandatory minimum requirements that need to be submitted to the Director of Personnel NLT September 22.

*Bachelor's Degree or higher, official transcript with raised seal

*Air Force Officer Qualification Test (AFOQT) scores

*A military and civilian resume

*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

If you are in the process of completing your degree or have not yet taken the AFOQT by Sep. 22, you will have to wait until the following cycle to submit your package. Send your packet to the Director of Personnel, located in Bldg 300, room 259, or mail to; 171 FSS/CC, Bldg 300 Tanker Road #4226, Pittsburgh International Airport, Coraopolis PA 15108-4226

If you have any questions regarding the process, you can review 171 ARWI 36-206; Officer Candidate Application and Interview Procedures or contact Chief Master Sgt. Brian Olander 412-776-7666 or Lt. Col. Stephen Johnston 412-776-7314.

Online personnel services

Do you want to avoid waiting in line at your Military Personnel office? Did you know that you can perform many personnel actions from your home using a variety of online services?

For Air National Guard members, the virtual Personnel Center-Guard and Reserve (vPC-GR), the virtual Military Personnel Flight (vMPF), and the Personnel Record Display Application (PRDA) are all online services and available for your use 24/7.

Some of the applications available in vPC-GR include; initiate and process decoration nominations; request corrections or changes to your federal awards and decorations; view your duty history and request a correction or change to your duty history; submit a voluntary separation discharge/resignation or retirement application; write, sign, and submit evaluation's including LOEs and request a copy of your EPR/OPR forms.

There are several personnel resources in vMPF that include, view/print a visual display of your federal awards and decorations; view your data verification brief, access your record review and update some of the data; as well as update your emergency data information.

The Personnel Record Display Application (PRDA) allows you to view and print forms from your official military personnel record.

You can access vPC-GR, vMPF and PRDA from the AF Portal, www.my.af.mil, under the Top Portal Links section. For an all inclusive view of what services are available, please refer to the Online Personnel Services Brochure.

A copy can be obtained from your Military Personnel office or you can view/print a copy from the Air Force Portal, Life and Career Tab, ANG Page

Contact the Total Force Service Center (TFSC) at 1-800-525-0102 if assistance is needed.

Congratulations!



Timothy R. Heath
Alphonsus P. Maiure Jr.
Jennifer L. Salafranca
Elizabeth L. Simoneau
Christofer J. Broker



Thomas D. Herak
Jared J. Oneill
Justin A. Sansonetti
Rachel E. Veres
Ty R. Beatty
Steven M. Cristini
Anthony R. Mason



Dylan O. Kessler



Dylan W. Dey
Daniel Novak

Welcome to the 171st

Richard Costolo	Kennan Pichirilo
William Dodds	John O'Brien
Anthony Stavish	Jeremiah Miesel
Justin Passa	Steven McCandless

New PT Patches



One-time
Excellent



One-time
Perfect 100



Sustained
Excellent



Sustained
Perfect 100

Airmen achieving and maintaining excellent fitness assessment scores will be allowed to wear a patch on their PT uniform recognizing their accomplishments, effective July 1.

In order to be authorized to wear the patches, the following is required:

**Excellent*: PT score greater than 90 and meeting all component minimum requirements.

**Sustained Excellent*: PT score of 90 or above, four consecutive times over a two-year period

**One-time Perfect 100*: PT score of 100.

**Sustained Perfect 100*: PT score of 100 on their four most recent fitness assessments over a continuous two-year period.

Physical fitness patch is optional and would be worn on the right sleeve of an Air Force PT uniform shirt.

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Coraopolis, PA 15108-4205

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To the family of:

Do I need a will?

by Capt. Shawn Boyle, 171st Legal Office

This is a common question we receive in the legal office and is almost always answered with a dramatic “of course you do.” Think of the will as the last statement you will ever make to your family or loved ones. Among many other things, a will directs the disposition of our assets, it lets the executor know your burial or cremation preferences and more importantly, for those of us with families, it lets the court know our wishes for the care and custody of our children.

Think of it this way, tomorrow you and your spouse are going out to eat with the neighbors. You hire a babysitter to watch your three children. Unknown to you or your spouse, you will never return home as a drunk driver will crash into your car and your children will be left without a mother or a father. Who will raise them with values similar to your own? Who will decide how any money or property you left behind will be spent? Do you have a will that will let the court know your preference or will you let someone you do not know make that decision? It is a sobering thought, but a thought that should not be avoided.

If you die without a will, the state will not get your money. Every state has what is known as intestate statutes that provide for the disposition of an estate if a person should die intestate (without a will). However, these statutes are simple in nature and usually only state that the next of kin will inherit. For instance, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania will research to see if a person is married or has surviving children, if not the statute will look to see if there are any surviving parents or siblings.

It is important to note that the disposition of bodily remains, specific requests and guardianship of minor children are generally not covered in the state intestate statutes.

A will is your last chance to express your desires, to say goodbye to loved ones and to provide for your surviving family. Some of the more common uses of a will are:

- Ensure that property is distributed in accordance with your desires

- Provide gifts to friends and family or to charities
- Pay your final debts
- Save on taxes and probate costs
- Designate who will take care of your children
- Appoint a trustee to take care of the funds for minor children
- Direct the disposition of your remains ie burial, cremation, organ donation, military honors

If you have never had the opportunity to be around when property is distributed after a death in the family, then you are lucky. This is not the time you want loved ones left behind to argue over who will receive money or family heirlooms. Also, if not decided in a will, these items are often sold and the proceeds divided.

HIGH Flyer

Aircraft: 59-1467
Hours Flown: 231.1
Sorties Flown: 32



Crew chiefs: Pat Gallagher, Dave Skrtich, Michelle Campbell,
Dustin Mara, Allen Augustine and Nathaniel Lieberum

2010 Orientation Flight schedule

August 19 (evening)	Employer Flight
September 23	Spouse Flight
October 28	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. Priority nominations are given first to current 171st ARW members. Thank you.

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