



PENNSYLVANIA AIR NATIONAL GUARD Vol. 10, No.4 October 2010 Pittsburgh, PA

Tops in Blue features 171 ARW member, performs in Moon Township

by Staff Sgt. Ivyann Castillo, 171st Public Affairs

The 2010 “We Believe” Tops in Blue world tour, gave an eye-catching, dazzling show Sept. 10 at Moon Park Amphitheater in Moon Township.

The show had a personal touch since the 171st Air Refueling Wing’s very own, Airman 1st Class Lisa Weiss was part of this year’s elite group of performers.

With opening remarks from the 171 ARW Commander Brig. Gen. Roy Uptegraff who gave his appreciation to Weiss, the show began with the instrumentalists and vocalists in their red, black and white shimmering outfits singing the Tops in Blue theme song, which gave the audience members chills.

“I wasn’t sure what to expect because the performance was done by military members, but once it began the show was full of energy and the talent was phenomenal,” said Aarika Novelli, an audience member.

Singing songs of different genres and wearing glittery outfits, performing on a stage with light-up effects that also complimented their wardrobe, had audience members singing along. In addition the Tops in Blue performers would surprise audience members by approaching individuals to interact and dance with them, causing everyone else to cheer.

“I couldn’t believe they came up and danced with us,” exclaimed Tyler who is Chief Master Sgt. Charlie Thomas’ grandson, when Tyler and his friend, Liam were approached by two of the female vocalists.

“They were pretty and danced with us because they liked us better,” he said blushing.

The show had a spectacular finale with the vocal artists in their mess dress singing “Believe” and “Proud to be an American.” Audience members showed their gratitude by giving a standing ovation.

“After listening to the finale, it really made me proud to be an American,” said Novelli.

After the show some 171 ARW members had a chance to greet and talk to Weiss who was very happy to perform at home. She talked about her experience with Tops in Blue and described it as “challenging, exciting yet rewarding.”

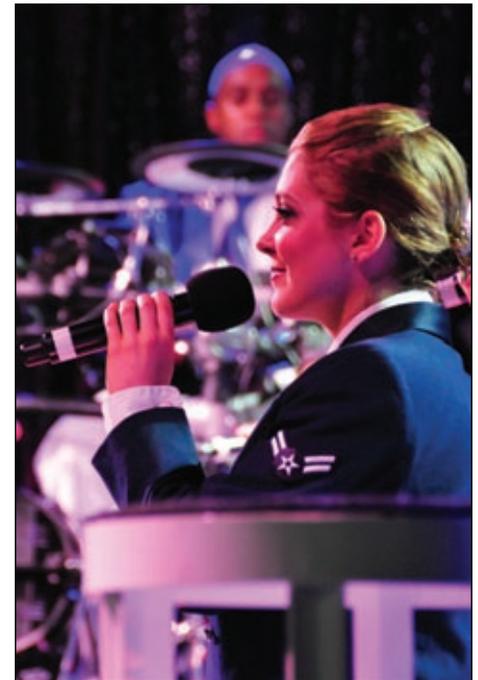
“We work long hours being on the road traveling from one venue to the next,” said Weiss. “We literally set up the stage ourselves, get ready for the show, do the performance then tear down the entire set and do it all over again.”

Though working long hours to make an amazing performance such as the one at Moon Park is challenging, it is still worth the hard work to the performers who touch people’s lives.

“When we went to Iraq to perform for an Army unit, they were so thankful because after being deployed for a long time, we were the closest thing to home,” said Weiss.

This expeditionary group of elite Airmen performers underwent a vigorous competition amongst hundreds of Airmen until the final 37 individuals consisting of vocalists and instrumentalists landed the opportunity to be in this year’s Tops in Blue, an unforgettable experience.

And for Weiss after the year tour is over, she will be welcomed back home to Pittsburgh once again to be united with family, friends and her fellow 171 ARW members.



The 171st Air Refueling Wing hosts the U. S. Air Force’s premiere performance team “Tops in Blue” September 10 at the Moon Park Amphitheater located in Moon Township, Pa. One of our very own and Pittsburgh native Airman 1st Class Lisa Weiss, was selected to be part of the Tops in Blue team. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Ann Young)

Reach for our citizens

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

Last month I got an invitation to visit McGhee Tyson Air National Guard Base to address the students of the Intermediate Development Course (IDC). These students are mostly Majors and Lieutenant Colonels who have been selected by their leadership to learn about the tools they need to become future or better leaders. It is a comprehensive course that covers many National Guard programs and topics a leader needs to understand. It was a real pleasure to get an opportunity to spend 90 minutes with these terrific men and women and talk leadership. I got a dialogue going after I gave them some of my amusing examples of leadership.

One characterization of leadership I like to use is that of a circus lion tamer. Now there is a leader! He has some very big cats he has to command and control and I love the tools he employs – a chair, a whip and a sidearm just in case. You see leadership is about your own control of the whip. Use it sparingly. It is about your own control of that chair in your hand. Keep a safe distance. It is about only using that sidearm because there is absolutely no other option. Shoot the lions and you are out of work! No one is going to pay for an act featuring Siamese kittens. There is a reason why good lion tamers wear red pants. They look good and they hide wounds. Sometimes leadership hurts. So there it is. You are in the ring, you have a show to accomplish and it is not going to be easy and completely predictable. Finally – you made the choices that put you in the ring and we admire you for it. Of course, I shared with them some of the significant issues of our time and their possible impact to the Air National Guard.

I discussed recent policy and decisions from the Secretary of Defense, the National Guard and the Air National Guard. The question and answer session was spirited and enjoyable. The same questions you ask at the 171 ARW are the questions heard across the Air National Guard spectrum. Why do we have inspections when we continuously prove ourselves on deployments? Why is there so much ancillary training when we have only 12 drill weekends a year? Why don't we have more manpower? These are the kinds of issues I truly enjoy discussing and as these Majors and Lieutenant Colonels go further forward; the day will come when they too will be on the receiving end of the problems of the day.

Recently I reviewed the P4 roster. This is the roster of our airmen who are not fit for duty due to injuries, illnesses, or other causes such as pregnancy. We are about to have a Health Services Inspection this November. Please take care of yourselves. Dental exams continue to be an area of attention. Too many of you – full-time and part-time - are not getting them accomplished and I fail to understand why. Our health inspection is not only about the records and attention our medical group provides. It is also about the efficiency of maintaining the force. It does not look good and it is not a credit to the nation when we have airmen who are not taking care of themselves or not providing necessary documentation for us to keep them prepared for duty. Commanders, chiefs, first sergeants, supervisors and friends can help me with that one.

Finally, hunting season is upon us and as always, I encourage you to be safe and sensible as we finish the year. I continue to be troubled by off-duty serious injuries we see every month. We need all of you to be continuously prepared to meet the mission. Flu shots will be available at your next drill! Be safe.

Commander's CORNER



*The 171st Air Refueling Wing
would like to give a special
Thank You to Keith and
Denise Conrad of Cooper's RV
Center for providing trailers to
our Tops in Blue performers.*

Deployment > 90 Days = Getaway

All military members mobilized, deployed and separated from their families for 90 days or more per calendar year are now mandated to participate in the Department of Defense Yellow Ribbon Program events. The 171st Air Refueling Wing will have its first event the weekend of Nov. 19-21, and will take place at the Nemaocolin Woodlands Resort in Farmington, Pa. For additional questions and information contact deborah.krall.civ@ang.af.mil or 412-776-7365.

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“Top” Performance enjoyed and appreciated

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

Tops in Blue was here on Sept. 10, and put on a fantastic show at the Moon Park Amphitheater. For those who weren't able to attend, Tops in Blue is the Air Force's premier entertainment showcase. They provide quality entertainment from within the Air Force and for Air Force families, while promoting community relations, supporting recruiting efforts and serving as ambassadors for the United States of America and the United States Air Force.

The Tops in Blue performers and technicians are Airmen from various Air Force backgrounds and specialties. They are on a one year permissive temporary duty tour, which this year includes one of our own, Airman 1st Class Lisa Weiss from our 171st Force Support Squadron.

The ultimate effort and sacrifice these Airmen go through is remarkable. There aren't any grips to unpack, set up, teardown and to repack the equipment. They bring their own full size stage, lighting, sound system, props, instruments, wardrobe, etc., with them. With that amount of gear and equipment, it takes almost two full size tractor trailers to haul it all!

We had unit Airmen helping with the planning and preparation to get Tops in Blue here to Pittsburgh and bring this event to realization. The committee was headed by 1st Lt. Chris Preffer and Chief Master Sgt. Charlie Thomas and included representatives from finance, services, security forces, recruiting, mission support, public affairs, logistics readiness, civil engineering, medical, transportation, Base Honor Guard and family support.

We also had unit Airmen working hard the day of the event.

Civil engineering provided assistance in moving heavy equipment as well as provided electrical power and hook-ups, vehicle maintenance made repairs to the Tops in Blue tractor and trailer, recruiting, mission support, student flight and some security forces personnel assisted in getting things organized and provided labor. Maintenance and other security forces members provided traffic control and event security. Medical personnel provided medical support (including special support from Major [Doc] Adams' civilian office.) The Base Honor Guard presented the colors and public affairs covered it all. Thanks to all for your help and support in making this event a great success.

And we had a few that went above and beyond (as usual.) These Airmen were there from start to finish on Friday. And by finish, I'm talking past 2:00 a.m. Saturday morning!

Those individuals were Chief Master Sgt. Ray Colella 171 CES, Chief Master Sgt. Charlie Thomas 171 ARW, Senior Master Sgt. John McCoy 171 LRS, Master Sgt. Missie Dubiel 171 FSS, Master Sgt. Rick Sangricco 171 CES, Master Sgt. Al Kutschbaugh 171 CES, Master Sgt. Mark Nicolina 171 CES, Tech. Sgt. Lou Ramsey 171 LRS, Tech. Sgt. Craig Trimble 171 LRS and Staff Sgt. Jeff Cochran 171 CES. A special thanks for your hard work and dedication!

I know that the Airmen of Tops in Blue were very appreciative of all the help and support provided by the 171 ARW. From all of the little things to the big things we helped with, it made a great impression on them. Once again, I couldn't be prouder of our unit and our Airmen showing them what Pittsburgh hospitality is all about, and it gave us a chance to show off some of our own top performers.



Briefs FYI

Traditional Employment Opportunity!

The 171st Maintenance Operations Flight has a vacant traditional position.

The position is for a maintenance management analysis craftsman and it is a technical sergeant slot.

ASVAB General score of 55 is required.

The school is 12 weeks long at Sheppard Air Force Base, TX.

Anyone interested please contact Senior Master Sgt. Rick McKee at 412-776-7201. A brief interview will be scheduled with the Master Sgt. Al Ryan.

Free Tutoring for Military Families

Tutor.com is providing free online tutoring services to military families by the Department of Defense.

This program allows students, K-12 to receive help from certified tutors in the areas of science, math, english and social studies.

Tutors can assist with homework and study prep.

For information go to www.tutor.com

Estimated pay date for the October UTA:
October 13

Estimated pay date for the October SUTA:
October 18





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

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Since this is a quick turnaround of the newsletter, I first want to mention that my partner, Jim Fuchs, has been under the weather for a couple of weeks. We would like to wish Jim a quick recovery.

As a reminder, our next luncheon is scheduled for Oct. 18 at 11:00 a.m. at Hoss' Steak House in Moon Township.

Speaking of our monthly luncheons the first one for 2011 will be Jan. 17 at 11:00 a.m. at Hoss'. We plan these luncheons for our retirees to bring their spouses and see former 171st Air Refueling Wing members.

We would like to give our congratulations and welcome our recent retirees: Lt. Col. Stephen D. Johnston; Master Sgt. Leslie A. Clingan; and Master Sgt. Mark A. Schaas. If our office can be any assistance to you, please give us a call.

We have an update on TRICARE Retired Reserve (TRR), "Gray Area" Airmen. The program began enrollment on Sep. 1 with coverage effective Oct. 1. Costs have been set at \$388.31/month for single coverage and \$976.41/month for family for the rest of the 2010 year.

However there will be an increase starting 2011 to \$408.01/month for single coverage and \$1,020.05/month for family coverage. To get more information about TRICARE Retired Reserve (TRR), visit www.tricare.mil/subscriptions and sign up for "Benefit Changes" for "Retired National Guard and Reserve Member." Or call TRICARE North at 1-877-874-2273 for enrollment details.

Please note that when you turn age 60, you are covered by TRICARE Standard/Extra automatically at no cost to you.

In either case, you must make sure your Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) is current. DEERS and ID cards can be accomplished at Base Personnel, Bldg 300. Appointments can be set up by calling (412) 776-7485.

And on a final note, we extend our sympathies to the friends and family of Master Sgt. Carl Stynchula, who passed away Aug. 22. Stynchula served faithfully in the Big Red One, during WWII; the active duty Air Force in Korea; and the 112th Fighter Group with the Pa. Air National Guard.

Flu Shot Q & A

by 171st Medical Group

With the flu season approaching soon, below are some questions and answers that will give you some information about the flu shot.

1. When should the United States receive their batches of vaccination? The delivery of the vaccine is dependent on the priorities of the manufacturers and availability of approved lots, but several states are currently beginning to receive their FluMist, Intranasal Influenza Vaccination. The Air National Guard units should begin immunizing their personnel as soon as the vaccine is available.

2. With the vaccinations combined this year, does that lower the effectiveness of them? No, every year scientists select the three influenza virus strains that research feels will pose the most common threat. This year scientists used an influenza H3N2 virus, an influenza B virus, and the 2009 H1N1 virus that caused illness last season to form a Trivalent Inactivated Vaccine, which they feel will offer personnel the greatest amount of protection from the influenza types that scientific evidence shows will be the greatest threat during the 2010-2011 influenza season.

3. What is the importance of Airmen receiving their vaccination in a timely manner? Personnel who receive the influenza vaccination begin to develop antibodies sufficient to protect them from influenza infection within two weeks of vaccination. This protection will generally last six to nine months and sometimes longer. Therefore, it is highly encouraged for ANG members to receive their vaccination in a timely manner to protect them from influenza during the peak months of influenza activity, which is generally December through March in the United States.

For have further questions or need more information, contact Maj. Joseph Sullivan at 412-776-7473.

171st CFC 2010 Campaign Season begins!

Just a reminder, the 171st Air Refueling Wing has the opportunity to make a difference by contributing to its local Combined Federal Campaign. Our goal this year is to raise \$16,000 for 50 plus donors.

Donations through CFC can be designated to charitable agencies such as meals for hungry children, further research on cures for diseases, environmental protection, and better lives and renewed hope for millions of people in our global community.

Remember, no contribution is too small. You are encouraged to participate generously in the CFC this year and to donate using payroll deduction. Spreading your gift out over the year by making a small donation per month or pay period, we can build up to a larger total sum.

Please contact 1st Lt. Chris Preffer 412-776-7514 or christopher.preffer@ang.af.mil for more information.

You have just entered the ...

RECRUITER ZONE

Our Recruiting Team -- (412) 776-7495



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

Congratulations on your promotion!



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Jeremy Rohanna
John Lukachyk
Zachary Crawford
Christopher Lape

Leave behind all that you can

Col. Dave MacMillan, 171st Operations Group commander and 36th Wing Public Affairs

Leaving places better than we found them - this is the calling card of the 171st Air Refueling Wing from Pittsburgh. As Airmen, wing members recognize their "high calling" and try to connect with people in everyday walks of life as they travel the globe. Some of these connections are on a personal level and some are in the form of giving donated items.

The KC-135s from Pittsburgh arrived on Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, in late June to execute the mission of the 506th Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron (EARS), which is to support the Theater Security Package (TSP) and the Continuing Bomber Presence (CBP) missions - both important to ensuring regional security in the Pacific.

Lt. Col. Sean Boyle was the detachment commander for July, and he coordinated the 506th EARS Apaca Point clean up with the Guam Park Service and paved the way for "Operation Backpack." The project was planned by Master Sgt. John Buckwalter, a 171st Boom Operator, "Operation Backpack" was a wing-wide effort to reach out to kids and families within the local Andersen AFB community. Airmen of the 171 ARW collected a large supply of children's backpacks full of school supplies, clothing, and toys and hand-carried them on the long flight from Pittsburgh - destination Guam.

Buckwalter contacted the 36th Wing's community relations chief and the base chaplain's office to get ideas to help the local community--the Machananao Elementary School was offered as a place to support. The word spread throughout the wing, and many backpacks came forward and were carried on the jets by deploying Airmen. Squadron members visited the school and met the principal and then made several deliveries to the teachers and children. Airmen were able to personally connect with some of the students in the classroom and on the playground.

The Machananao School project is just one of several deployed community relations projects the 171 ARW has had the privilege to participate in. Wing members are always looking for ways of impacting our deployed communities and in the past have done such things as sponsor wing runners in a race in Incirlik, Turkey, raising \$2,700 to buy furniture for the Sehan School for deaf children.

Airmen also donated two thousand pounds of clothing and school supplies for a neighboring school near Manas Air Base, Kyrgyzstan. In addition, members helped raise money to install air conditioning in the Bishkek Children's Heart Hospital surgical ward.

When deploying to Manta, Ecuador, 171 ARW volunteers collected, repaired, and delivered 120 bicycles and 60 school backpacks to the children of a local orphanage. Medical supplies were also donated and delivered to the local community, to include a heart/lung bypass machine. On flights to Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan, dozens of filled backpacks have been left for the chaplains to deliver to local children.

And finally, in the Pittsburgh area, Project Bundle Up is a charity that provides warm jackets, boots, gloves, and scarves to needy local children. Wing members man the phones during the annual telethon, shop with the children to pick out properly fitting clothing, and even jump into the freezing river on New Year's Day as members of the "Polar Bear Club" to raise money for the cause.

As the wing tours the world and fills Air and Space Expeditionary Force rotations, members feel a need to serve the nation and to serve our deployed communities. Pittsburgh Airmen find great personal and professional fulfillment taking opportunities to reach out and give back to communities that support Air Force operations. As Guardsmen, community involvement is a natural part of military service and leaving places better makes for a satisfying mission on the ground as well as in the air.

A Guam clean up helper



Lt. Col. Sean Boyle, 171st Operations Group, while deployed to Guam, assisted in a clean up mission at the War in the Pacific National Historic Park, Agat Unit, Apaca Point. (U.S. Air Force photo taken by Tech. Sgt. Scott Connelly)

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Human Trafficking... is a growing criminal act

by Col. Steven Painter and Staff Sgt. Ivyann Castillo, 171st Wing Headquarters

Human Trafficking is becoming a growing criminal activity world-wide and it keeps increasing yearly.

According to a news article by the Tribune Star on April 20, the International Labor Organization states that human trafficking generates an estimated \$32 billion annually in profits for traffickers.

Human Trafficking is a crime against humanity. It involves an act of recruiting, transporting, transferring, harboring or receiving a person through a use of force, coercion or other means, for the purpose of exploiting them.

Victims, mostly women and children, of this crime do not consent to acts that include being forced into servitude, sweatshop labor, prostitution or pornography.

Bottom line, human trafficking is a crime punishable by a long jail sentence.

There are several organizations and campaigns to end this humiliating and hurtful crime.

Some of the main organizations are EndHumanTrafficking.org or the Blue Heart Campaign launched by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

If you suspect any activity concerning human trafficking, contact Col. Steven Painter, Wing CTIP Program Manager at 412-776-7373 or steven.painter@ang.af.mil.

Tanker Times "printed edition" ending soon!

Just a reminder, beginning with the January 2011 issue, the Tanker Times newsletter will no longer be a printed publication mailing. The Tanker Times will still be produced, but will now be accessed electronically through the public website, at www.171arw.ang.af.mil. You will be able to print out the newsletter from the website.

The public website has information on 171st Air Refueling Wing's current events with articles, photos, videos and past issues of the Tanker Times.

ACT	MEANS	PURPOSE	
Recruitment	Threat or use of force	Exploitation, including	
Transport	Coercion	Prostitution of others	
Transfer	Abduction	Sexual exploitation	
Harbouring	Fraud	Forced labour	
Receipt of persons	Deception	Slavery or similar practices	
	Abuse of power or vulnerability	Removal of organs	
	Giving payments or benefits	Other types of exploitation	
			= TRAFFICKING

The above chart shows the elements of human trafficking. (Chart courtesy of United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime)

HIGH

Flyer

Aircraft: 59-0099
 Hours Flown: 94.7
 Sorties Flown: 20

Crew chiefs: Phil Good, Joseph Steimer, Andrew Little, and Daniel Jablonski

Orientation Flight schedule for 2010

October 28*

Clergy Flight

November 5*

Veterans Flight

**Date change*

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.