



PENNSYLVANIA AIR NATIONAL GUARD Vol. 10, No.5 November 2010 Pittsburgh, PA

Unit's pride demonstrated by plane refurbishing

by Tech. Sgt. Stacy Gault, 171st Public Affairs

The F-102 Delta Dagger is one of the first aircraft guests see as they pull up to the 171st gate. A much different aircraft than the KC-135 Tankers parked on the flight line, tail number 4015 was considered the unit's "ace" during its prime years between 1961-1975.

In August 2008 the aircraft was removed from its stand and carefully towed to hangar 302 to be refurbished.

The plane was stripped of its wings, panels and paint exposing the wear from years of braving the elements.

"Seventy-five percent of the airframe was gone," said Senior Master Sgt. Dave Janiga, aircraft structural maintenance supervisor. Reskinning the aircraft took approximately two years and was by far the most difficult part of the process Janiga said.

The original skin was comprised of magnesium, according to Janiga, which caused the corrosion and golf-ball sized holes in the aircraft. The new panels are made of copper and are more durable.

In the last seven years, the aircraft structural maintenance shop has refurbished all of the static displays on base excluding the P-51 and P-40, which are Plexiglas models.

Not only is it a chance to improve the look of the base, it also is a training opportunity for the unit members on the crash recovery team. A sling to lift and move the aircraft was tested on this F-102 that can also be used for the F-22 and other small aircraft throughout the country according to Chief Master Sgt. Russ Kobaly.

"Everyone knew their job and it was safely planned out, we had safety briefs and fortunately the aircraft was level when we picked it up."

"Moving a static display allows a crash recovery team to use equipment they don't use on a regular basis," Kobaly said.

"This is our opportunity when it comes to moving static displays to get hands-on training; get the aircraft in the air."

Improving the facade of the base and cementing the unit's history and heritage made the more than two-year refurbish project worthwhile for unit members and guests.

Retired Brig. Gen. Pete Phillipy, former 171st Air Refueling Wing commander, flew that exact aircraft and was impressed when he saw the improvements.

"It's beautiful. They did a real good job; I'm amazed," Phillipy said. "The workmanship is just fantastic. Maintenance did a tremendous job."

Phillippy has many fond memories in the F-102, but the one that stands out most to him is when he "shot down a drone with that bird," just one of the four drones in 4015's career.

In addition to ace status and great marksmanship, 4015 also won the 1963 William Tell competition.

Transitioning from the F-86, Phillipy said the F-102 was a definite upgrade with supersonic capabilities. It flew straight and level.

Janiga said preserving the history of the unit is important to him and the happiness it brought to retirees that piloted the aircraft was gratifying.

"We'll all be gone in 50 years, but that plane will still be there."



Chief Master Sgt. Russ Kobaly oversees the placement of the F-102 Delta Dagger on its pedestal outside the main gate of the 171st Air Refueling Wing. The unit's Maintenance Group spent countless hours refurbishing the historic aircraft to its pristine condition. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Ann Young)

Fiscal Changes Loom

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

Our new fiscal year has had a rough take off. First, we are in a continuing resolution because the federal budget has not been passed. This basically means we are operating at last year's level of funding, although this is not last year. Second, our man days have been reduced across the spectrum of the USAF out of economic necessity. Man days are Military Personnel Appropriations or better known as MPA days. All of our MPA days come from Air Mobility Command (AMC). This is the instrument used to augment overseas contingency operations with traditional guardsmen. For example, our Northeast Tanker Task Force operation is funded through MPA days because we are not full-time manned for this continuous activity. In fact, we cannot do any of our home station higher headquarter missions without traditional guardsmen and the MPA days to support them. Recently, AMC invited the Air Guard Weapons System Council chairs from Strategic Airlift, Tactical Airlift and Tankers to participate in the MPA reduction decision making process. It was a challenging budget drill and to me it validated all of the requirements we have. We still have these requirements! It also reflected the continuing and very successful partnership we enjoy with our gaining command. Gen. Raymond Johns, AMC commander, has a great deal of faith and trust in all of us. Now, we should see some reductions over time as the mission changes. How much and when is unknown. We are here to meet the needs of the nation and we are fortunate to have the level of volunteerism go up when the mission requires it.

The Health Services Inspection is the first inspection to hit us in November. By now, we have done just about everything we can do to be ready. What's left? Here is what you can do: show pride, have an inspection ready appearance, show competence, show your inspector a responsive and supportive attitude that reflects your professionalism. Validate just how good your unit really is! I have never lost anybody due to an inspection, and I don't intend to lose anyone on this one. Your Wing's mission success speaks volumes about you. Every one of you is a leader. Leadership comes from understanding followership and doing the right thing. Let your leadership, pride and sense of service rule the day! Believe me; the IG wants us to succeed.

Commander's CORNER



Thank civilian employers with a letter to the boss

From Deb Krall, Airmen and Family Readiness Program Manager

"I understand that the call to duty can often be difficult for our Airmen, their families, and their employers. As Chief Spector and I have traveled to bases inside and outside of the AOR, we've made it a point to thank the Guard/Reserve Airmen and their families. Now, I would like to thank the third part of the Guard/Reserve triad - the civilian employer - for their support and sacrifice," said Gen. Raymond E. Johns Jr., Commander, Air Mobility Command, Scott Air Force Base, Ill.

Following through on his idea, Gen. Johns has launched a program affording every Airman the opportunity to have a thank-you letter sent to their employers from him.

The website is <https://cs.eis.af.mil/amc/letters/default.aspx>. When prompted, please be sure to select your DOD email certificate. Select request letter. Complete the form carefully, following the instructions below each box.

Under "Commander," this is where you will type in the name of your Commander (Squadron Commander or above). The information for your letter request will be sent to your commander for verification and approval. You may click on the 'book' and you will immediately be taken to a directory service to type in and select your commander's name.

Review/edit your information, once you are satisfied the information is correct, select "OK." From here, your request will be routed to your commander for his/her approval.

It is that easy! Just a few lines of information from you gains a wealth of support from your employer.

The 171st fully supports this initiative and encourages your participation.

"Editorial Staff"



Brigadier General Roy E. Uptegraff, III Commander

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Future leaders walk among us

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

If you look around at the younger Airmen on base, you'll see some of our Wing's future leaders. That wasn't meant to frighten anyone, but a reminder of our responsibility in developing these Airmen.

Some of our Airmen may already be exhibiting qualities and traits of good leadership, but may lack the experience and training necessary to further develop their leadership abilities. They look to those individuals more senior to them for guidance and help. We all have the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of these Airmen. This is a great responsibility that should not be taken lightly.

An Airman who recently met the Wing's Outstanding Airman of the Year Board expressed to the board members that younger Airmen notice 10% of what you say, but 80% of what you do. (I'm not sure what happens to the other 10%, though a couple of thoughts come to mind.) The board members thought this a very interesting statement for a young Airman to make, and I do as well. Basically, it affirms the old adage "actions speak louder than words." We may not always realize it, but they're watching (and learning from) what we do (or don't do), in issues both big and small.

How we handle ourselves speaks volumes to those watching about what they perceive to be acceptable and unacceptable. Do we immediately correct unacceptable actions or behavior? If not, we're condoning that action or behavior in the eyes of others. Do we actively support and participate in professional organizations as well as unit, base and military events and encourage our younger Airmen to do the same? Are we good Wingmen; are we looking out for and taking care of our fellow Airmen? We need to set a good example for our younger Airmen to follow.

We need to encourage our younger Airmen to take on greater responsibility and give them greater responsibility as well. Just because an Airman is not a senior non-commissioned officer, doesn't mean that the Airman isn't ready to take on greater responsibility or leadership roles. I think because of the rank structure we have, where the minimum rank for any position is Staff Sgt., we tend not to consider the Airmen in the ranks of Staff Sgt. or Tech. Sgt. ready for greater responsibility and leadership roles. This couldn't be farther from the truth. In fact, we should begin developing supervisory and leadership skills through progressive responsibility in our Airmen when they're Senior Airman. We need to continually encourage our younger Airmen to strive to establish themselves as effective first-line supervisors and leaders.

We need to recognize our responsibility and take an active role in developing our future leaders. Take an active leadership and supervisory role by staying involved with them on a continual basis. Use your experience and knowledge to mentor them. Guide and instruct them to ensure they're prepared to accept increased levels of authority and responsibility. Assist them in reaching their full potential, for they are our future leaders.



Briefs FYI

New TRICARE Plan for Retirees

If you are a retiree who served 20 years and retired before age 60, you may qualify for a new TRICARE plan.

TRICARE Retired Reserve (TRR) is a premium-based, worldwide health plan that qualified retired reserve members and qualified survivors may purchase. TRR offers qualified members and survivors comprehensive health coverage similar to TRICARE Standard. Options include member-only and member and family plans. For more information visit www.tricare.mil.



The sage green fleece, when worn as an outer garment must have: name tape, U.S. Air Force tape and rank on and may only be worn over the ABU coat/top. It is not authorized to be worn solely over a T-shirt or thermal underwear. The sage green fleece is not authorized for wear with the flight duty uniform.

The Intelligence Shop is accepting applications for a traditional officer slot. The qualified candidate will meet the following requirements:

- Already commissioned or has successfully met the Wing Officer Pre-Screening Board
- Possess or qualify for a Top Secret security clearance
- Be comfortable with public speaking
- Well versed in current affairs and geography
- Computer savvy
- More training to follow
- Willing to attend the following training in short order:
- Commissioning if necessary (8 weeks)
- Intel Officer School at Goodfellow AFB (7 months)
- Mission Qualification training (2 months)
- Intel Formal Training Unit at Fort Dix (3 weeks)
- Survival Training at Fairchild AFB (2 weeks)

Interviews will be held during November drill. To apply for this position, forward a resume to Lt. Col. Dave Stoebe and Lt. Col. Joel Stedford no later than November 12. For questions call 412-776-6315 or e-mail: David.stoebe@ang.af.mil or Joel.stedford@ang.af.mil

Estimated pay date for the November UTA:
November 24

Estimated pay date for the November SUTA:
November 15

Surviving on the water...

By Tech Sgt. Stacy Gault, 171st Public Affairs

Training requirements constantly change. Every military member experiences it and aircrew are no exception. The 171st Aircrew Flight Equipment office conducts a water survival refresher course every three years, but this year was the first time parachutes were not included in the course.

Despite any changes they experience, Master Sgt. Wray White II and his staff are flexible and adapt to any new requirements. White, the noncommissioned officer in-charge, explained not only is the training valuable to the aircrew, but also to his staff.

“We have to keep our enlisted members trained to be able to train aircrew members. So with new people coming in, people gaining rank, gaining instructor positions, this allows them to gain that knowledge they need to become master instructors,” White said.

The training was conducted at the West Allegheny High School pool during two days. To simulate the rough seas a downed KC-135 may find, the staff creates rain and waves using hoses to keep the aircrew on alert.

All 120 aircrew members who participated were expected to jump in the water simultaneously deploying their flotation device, chain-up as a group and swim to the 20-man raft located at the deep end of the pool. Once the team is in the raft, they must work together to set up a canopy. One side of the canopy is black, to camouflage themselves in a combat zone. The reverse side is pink to alert others for a rescue.

“The hardest part of the training was being in the raft and having to organize people to perform specific jobs and dealing with potential weather while trying to put the canopy on top of the raft,” said Maj. Janet Van Dyke.

A former navigator and currently a pilot, Van Dyke experienced water survival training here for the first time.

The 171st prides itself on safe flying and 52 years without a mishap, yet in an emergency, the aircrew will be ready and confident.



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

Maj. Gen. Jessica Wright says thank you and goodbye

In a message written from our TAG, Maj. Gen. Jessica Wright upon her retirement, wishes you well and thanks you for your service.

In seven short years as a team we have served together during two wars and deployed over 17,000 Soldiers and Airmen to multiple countries around the world. Over 600 Warriors are presently deployed to more than 15 countries. We have successfully procured the newest equipment for our National Guard - Army and Air: new Strykers, Bradleys and Paladins, to name a few. And this past Friday we were in Johnstown to welcome the new AH-64D/Apache Longbow to the Pennsylvania Army National Guard; these magnificent flying machines represent a \$325 million investment in equipment alone. In addition, together, we've built millions of dollars of federal military and state construction. We've seen multiple ranges and new buildings at Fort Indiantown Gap. And we've seen enormous improvements in the Readiness Centers and Field Maintenance Shops across this Commonwealth.

However, for me it was never about the money or buildings or equipment...it's about YOU. You are the finest Soldiers and Airmen in the world. YOU have taken the oath to protect our

Commonwealth and Nation against all enemies foreign and domestic. YOU carry out that oath with dignity, honor and professionalism. YOU devote your lives to making our commonwealth and country a better place in which to live and raise our families. YOU safeguard that intangible thing we call "Freedom." THANK YOU for being Soldiers and Airmen in the best National Guard in the United States of America.

Governor Rendell named Maj. Gen. Sischo as the Acting TAG. I ask that you give him the same support and dedication that you afforded me. He's a tremendous leader and will take our National Guard to new heights.

So I say to you now: "So Long," but not "Goodbye." Please take care of yourselves - and each other.



Prevent sexual harassment: Think before you speak

Capt. Michael Hajjar, 171st Equal Opportunity Office

Sometimes it's a fine line between what's funny and what's offensive.

Often times when we talk about equal opportunity or sexual harassment people will ask us, "What's the harm in a little sexual innuendo in the office as long as no one is offended?"

That's a good question, to which we have several good answers. My first and foremost answer is "How do you know no one is offended?" Some people won't speak up and say they are offended for many reasons. Some feel uncomfortable about being perceived as a "wet blanket" or "no fun," or maybe the jokester is higher ranking than they are. Always remember that your intent is not the issue when it comes to sexual harassment. How your

comments or behaviors are perceived is what is important.

Courts use the "reasonable person standard" to determine whether or not a victim has indeed been sexually harassed. Would a reasonable person perceive the comments or behavior to be out of line? Always filter your comments through sensitivity screening before making them. Your own personal tolerance for such a thing might be much higher than another person's. Think before you speak. And most importantly -this should go without saying-keep your hands to yourself. Some cultures are much touchier than others. Some people were raised to be "huggers" and "touchers," and that's a great, warm way to be, but not in the workplace. Don't invade people's personal space; it may be misconstrued.

But anyway, back to the original question of what's the harm in joking. If supervisors and workers allow sexual innuendo in the workplace, and a less than professional culture develops, when it comes time for a deployment, it may become a slippery slope and pave the way to sexual assault.

Continue to be professional in all of your interactions and have the courage to speak up when someone else makes unprofessional remarks.

If you have any questions about equal opportunity or sexual harassment, please call the 171st Equal Opportunity office at 412-776-7393 or 171ARW.ME@ang.af.mil.

You Are Not Alone
Sexual Assault Prevention & Response

Sexual Assault Response Coordinators
24/7 hotline 412-580-2632

Victim Advocates

MSgt. Kim Rose X 7400
MSgt. John Thompson X 7733
MSgt. Julie McBane X 7402

RETIREE OFFICE

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FAX: 412-776-7441
george.manown@ang.af.mil/
gmanown@gmail.com

The first 171st /112th luncheon for 2011 will be Jan. 17, 2011, at 11:00 a.m., at Hoss's in Moon Township. Our luncheons are a great time to come out and see your old friends. Spouses and friends are welcome!

On that note, the following are the luncheon dates for 2011:

Monday - April 18
Monday - July 18
Monday - Oct. 17

Since the newsletter will not be sent out hard-copy after December 2010, keep this page of the newsletter as a personal reminder, or at least put the dates in your social calendar.

A note on TRICARE, I have received a couple of calls regarding child coverage under TRICARE. Under the new national health coverage plan, children are covered until age 26.

As of right now, TRICARE only covers children up to age 21 (or age 23 if enrolled in college full-time and the sponsor provides at least 50% of the financial support), and updated in DEERS.

The latest news on this matter is that Congress is considering this issue when they return to Washington in November of this year.

If the retiree office receives any more news, it will be published in the December Tanker Times.

On a final note, we extend our sympathies to the friends and family of Brig. Gen. John Brosky, who passed away Oct. 10. Judge Brosky served as a judge advocate general and 46 years in the Pennsylvania courts, retiring as a Superior Court Judge in 2002.

Brig. Gen. John Aranyos passed away Oct. 9 and we also extend our sympathies to his family. Aranyos was a WWII pilot who retired from the Air National Guard at 60 years old. Before hanging up his wings, he flew the P-51 Mustang, F-86D Sabrejet, the F84F and the F-102 Delta Dagger.

That's it for right now. The Retirees Office hopes you have a great Thanksgiving.

Updating your personal information

Have you recently had a change in your status? Did you get promoted, reenlist, married, divorced, move into a new home/apartment, have an addition or reduction to your household or send a child off to college?

If any of the circumstances mentioned above or any others have occurred in your life; this is a reminder to review your personnel military records and to submit the required supporting documentation to correct or update your personnel data.

You can review and update some of your personal data online using virtual Military Personnel Flight (vMPF) or contact your servicing commander's support staff or military personnel section. Access this system from the AF Portal, www.my.af.mil, under the top portal links section.

Treasures for Children

Support the Salvation Army

Donate a \$15 - \$25
Unwrapped gift
Nothing related to violence
Include batteries if needed

Return by Sunday, Dec 5
(UTA)

Return to Master Sgt. Heyl
Bldg 300, room 266

<http://netalrady.com>

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 from at least 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!

James Byron
Aaron Steffine



Stephanie L. Tarbert
Sarah L. Gault

Timothy P. Dauk



Richard J. Creese

Terrence K. Creegan



Retention Corner

Post 9/11 on-line briefing available

The Veterans Administration is offering an on-line information session for the Post 9/11 GI Bill November 30, 2010 from 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. Details on eligibility and transfer of benefits will be discussed. A presenter from the VA will be on-line and there will be an opportunity to ask questions during the briefing.

This is an excellent opportunity to get the latest information on applying for and transferring Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits. This briefing is available to be viewed from home or on any computer with web access. Log in to the briefing at the following site: <https://connect.dco.dod.mil/r51509784>.



by Tech. Sgt. Stacy Gault, 171st Public Affairs

171st Comptroller Flight

In the 2009 fiscal year, the 171st Comptroller Flight managed a budget more than \$57 million, processed 7,800 travel vouchers and created nearly 15,000 military orders.

The flight, formerly known as the finance office, ranks 14 out of 91 guard units nationally for efficiency.

The ranking is determined by military pay timeliness, interest and payment penalties on base contracts, indebtedness or overpaying a unit member, overdue travel orders and unit members' government credit card balances past due.

In addition to making sure 171st members receive their paycheck for their hard work, the comptroller flight also works closely with the contracting office and oversees the resource advisor program, which provides unit members with supplies and the means to do their job.

Fifteen full-time and traditional guardsmen comprise the flight which is divided into the budget and accounting department and customer service.

"The most challenging part of the job is keeping up with all of the information because it's constantly changing," said Capt. Scott Colussy, the comptroller flight budget officer.

Colussy said the flight is able to handle challenges and adversity because of the team members' knowledge and leadership throughout the finance community.

"National Guard Bureau is actively recruiting Pittsburgh members for training teams," Colussy said, adding that the "staff take calls and e-mails from all over the country requesting information about their area of expertise. But as long as the 171st is flying tankers, people are working which means people are earning a paycheck."

The high daily ops tempo keeps the comptroller flight busy, but deployments and Air Expeditionary Force rotations increase its workload leaving little downtime. Despite a big workload, the flight doesn't let their busy schedule get in the way of helping people.

"Their dedication, willingness and ability to provide good customer service makes them so successful," Colussy said.

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**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 the 171st Air Refueling Wing’s current events with articles, photos, videos and past issues of the Tanker Times.

HIGH Flyer

Aircraft: 59-1504
 Hours Flown: 69.6
 Sorties Flown: 15

Crew chiefs: Don Wagner, Justin Solobay, Jeremy Egger and Richard Creek

‘Burghers Beat... “Halloween, Thanksgiving or Christmas?”



**Airman 1st Class
 Jenna Heinen**

Finance

“My favorite holiday is Thanksgiving because it is the one time of year that my whole family sits down to truly realize how blessed we are to have each other and to enjoy a delicious meal that we all worked together to prepare.”

(U.S. Air Force photos by Tech. Sgt. Todd McFeeley)



Tech. Sgt. Rick Perza

*Maintenance Squadron
 “Halloween, I like it when my four kids have a good time.”*



Staff Sgt. John Ray
Communications Squadron

“Christmas, I like playing Santa Claus for the kids.”



Master Sgt. Cheryl Shirley

*Medical Group
 “Christmas, that was the one time of the year I could always go home and see my parents and my brothers and it was always great to see them and hear the stories of what was going on in their lives. My brothers both lived out of town and we came together at my mom’s and that was the one time of year that we could all be together since we all lived in different directions.”*

