



## Uzbek native returns to Central Asia as U.S. Airman

*Maj. Damien Pickart, 376th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs*

MANAS AIR BASE, KYRGYZSTAN -- As a young boy, Kelman Khersonsky recalls spending summers as a Pioneer 'scout' of the Soviet Union at Kyrgyzstan's Issyk-Kul Lake. It never crossed his mind that he might one day return to the former Soviet republic as an American Airman, deployed to Manas Air Base as a KC-135 Stratotanker boom operator.

"When I first deployed here, I was reminded of my childhood memories from Pioneer summer camp and the mountains," said Tech. Sgt. Khersonsky. "It was a little surreal the first time we flew over the mountains and I realized how close we were to where I grew up."

Sergeant Khersonsky spent his first 13 years growing up in Uzbekistan's capital city, Tashkent, located 200 miles southwest of Manas. In search of better opportunities following the Soviet Union's collapse in 1991, the Khersonsky family immigrated to the United States in 1993 and settled in Pittsburgh, Penn.

"Growing up in the Soviet Union was much different than in America," he said. "The education system there was far ahead of the U.S. I learned German in 3rd grade and physics and advanced mathematics in junior high. When I came here, I expected to advance to 10th grade, but instead was placed in the 8th grade because I spoke no English. Between fights, suspension and trying to fit in as an American teenager, it was a tough transition."

But one thing that Sergeant Khersonsky learned from his family was how to adapt and succeed. The son of a highly educated metallurgist father and chemist mother, Kelman spent a year integrating into America at Pittsburgh's Frick International Academy before graduating from Allderdice High School in 1998.

While a student at the University of Pittsburgh, he visited the 171st Air Refueling Wing base just west of the city and found a new calling.

"It's kind of ironic because my mom didn't want me to join the military while growing up and after moving to



*MANAS AIR BASE, KYRGYZSTAN -- Tech. Sgt. Kelman Khersonsky refuels an aircraft over Afghanistan during one of the last refueling missions of his deployment, Oct. 29. For Sergeant Khersonsky, the month-long deployment was extra special; his daily routine as a KC-135 boom operator took him within sight of his childhood home of Tashkent, Uzbekistan. (Air Force courtesy photo)*

America, I think she was sure it wouldn't happen," said Sergeant Khersonsky. "First time I saw the KC-135, I fell in love and knew that's what I wanted."

He was soon turning wrenches on the 50-year-old aircraft as a crew chief. After seven years, Sergeant Khersonsky cross trained and became a boom operator; a decision that would ultimately lead him back to Central Asia.

"When I heard we were going to Kyrgyzstan – so close to home – I knew I needed to be on this deployment.

Sergeant Khersonsky, along with more than 100 Guardsmen and four KC-135s from the 171st ARW, have supported daily refueling operations over Afghanistan throughout September and October. The daily missions to the embattled country provided the Uzbek native panoramic views of his childhood stomping grounds and brought up past memories.

**See KHERSONSKY, Page 5**

## Airmen deserve credit

Brig. Gen. Roy Uptegraff, Wing Commander

The letters, emails, words, and decorations our airmen recently received clearly indicate our success in Kyrgyzstan this fall. Now, the majority of our deployers are stationed in Guam providing support to our nation's presence in the far Pacific. I truly admire the continued success we see as we near the end of our Air Expeditionary Force commitment. The credit goes to our airmen. Recently I reviewed a study that caught my eye from the government's Center for Data Analysis (CDA). This study is titled, *Who Serves in the U.S. Military? Demographic Characteristics of Enlisted Troops and Officers*, dated 19 August 2008.

Permit me to highlight a few points. "Members of the all-volunteer military are significantly more likely to come from high income neighborhoods than from low income neighborhoods." I also learned, "American soldiers are more educated than their peers." The facts do not support the belief that many American soldiers volunteer because society offers them few other opportunities. The average enlisted person or officer could have had lucrative career opportunities in the private sector. Those who argue that American soldiers risk their lives because they have no other opportunities belittle the personal sacrifices of those who serve out of love for their country. The bottom line is this: "The men and women who serve in America's all-volunteer military do not come disproportionately from disadvantaged backgrounds. The opposite is true. Both active-duty enlisted troops and officers come disproportionately from high income neighborhoods – a trend that has increased since 9/11. America's troops are highly educated. Enlisted recruits have above-average intelligence and are far more likely than their civilian peers to have a high school diploma." You can learn more about who serves in our military by going to [www.heritage.org/Research/NationalSecurity/cda08-05.cfm](http://www.heritage.org/Research/NationalSecurity/cda08-05.cfm). You will also see Pennsylvania is number 37 when it comes to drawing enlisted recruits and number 12 for drawing ROTC officers. The bulk of our future military is coming from the southern states. Our 171st recruits are not much different from what CDA has found. We have highly motivated, well educated recruits who are here to serve. They value the experience, educational opportunities and association we have. Our future is in their hands and by all accounts it is going to be very bright.

# Commander's CORNER



As we close in on the holiday season, please keep our deployed airmen in your thoughts. The families and loved ones of our deployers are invaluable to the strength of our Wing. Our success is very much due to them. I hope they will come to our Family Day on December's Sunday drill and I hope all of you will take a moment to thank them for their support. We have some great activities planned!

Be safe this winter season in your cars and on your sidewalks. Last winter, we had a number of injuries due to the inclement weather both on and off base. Already my wife slipped on ice and fell on her back while walking the dog. It took a few days to get over the aches and pains but all is well. It happens to us too!

Happy holidays from our wing staff to you and yours.

*MANAS AB, KYRGYZSTAN -Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Moore was the "Diamond Sharp" Airman for the week of October 23. The 376th Expeditionary Maintenance Group Maintenance Operation Center controller is deployed from the 171st Air Refueling Wing in Pittsburgh, Pa. Sergeant Moore monitors and coordinates sorties, maintenance production and execution of flying and maintenance schedules while maintaining visibility of KC-135 fleet health indicators. In doing so, he enables senior leaders to comply with reporting requirements and to identify potential problems. According to Sergeant Moore's supervisor, "he mastered the MOC operation at Manas Air Base with very little training. His work ethic and devotion to duty are exemplary as are his dress and appearance." (U.S. Air Force photo / Senior Airman Ruth Holcomb)*

### "Editorial Staff"



Brigadier General Roy E. Uptegraff, III Commander

171st Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs Office: Lt. Col. Donald Accamando

171 ARW/PA . 300 Tanker Rd. # 4205 . Coraopolis, PA 15108- . Comm: 412-776-7350 . Fax: 412-776-7845 . [publicaffairs@papitt.ang.af.mil](mailto:publicaffairs@papitt.ang.af.mil)

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## Being Faithful

Command Chief Master Sgt. Vic Guerra

What does The Airman's Creed mean to you? This is the second part of a four part series on what The Airman's Creed means to me. Hopefully you have already seen or read the creed, or have heard it recited.

The second part of The Airman's Creed reads:

I am an American Airman.  
My mission is to Fly, Fight and Win.  
I am faithful to a Proud Heritage,  
A Tradition of Honor,  
And a Legacy of Valor.



"I am an American Airman." This is what the creed in its entirety defines; what it means to be an American Airman.

My mission is to Fly, Fight and Win. Flying is much of what the Air National Guard and the Air Force are all about. But that isn't to say that everyone flies or is directly "in the fight" for that matter. The majority of us support the flying mission and the "fight" in various ways. Whether in an administrative, services, medical, support, security, weather, air traffic control, civil engineering, supply, aerial port, communications, maintenance or operations function; we all support the mission, and "the fight," in our own important way.

"I am faithful to a Proud Heritage," a Tradition of Honor and a Legacy of Valor. Heritage, tradition and legacy, these words pay tribute to all of the Airmen that came before us. We should take pride and satisfaction in what they built and left in our charge. A heritage of freedom and perseverance, as well as time honored beliefs, customs and practices.

Pride, honor and valor describe the mettle, the courage, determination and fortitude, of these Airmen; especially those who served in times of war, some of them giving the ultimate sacrifice in doing so.

Being faithful to a Proud Heritage, a Tradition of Honor and a Legacy of Valor, we should not only pay tribute to those that came before us, but endeavor to continue "the fight" ourselves. Continue to maintain and build upon the values and the foundation that has been entrusted to us by the Airmen who have come before us. Do so wherever our duty takes us; whether serving here at home or while deployed. Be faithful.

## Briefs FYI

### Snack bar open for business

Al's Pizza (the snack bar) will be open for lunch during the UTA. Stop by and check out our menu.

### Treasures for Children

Don't forget to deliver your Treasures for Children gifts to Master Sgt. Monica Heyl in building 300, room 266 by December 7th. Remember all gifts should be unwrapped with tag attached.



### Birth month schedule for physicals is back

As of October 1, 2008, the Medical Group has returned to the birth month schedule for non-flyer physicals and medical record reviews.

Estimated pay date for the  
December UTA:  
Dec. 15, 2008

Estimated pay date for the  
December SUTA:  
Dec. 26, 2008

## Winter Family Day

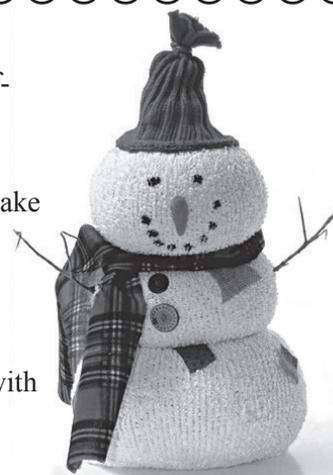
Lunch is available starting at 10:30 a.m. for \$3.85 for non-military members, AGRs and officers. Come join us for some "Holiday's" Fun from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

There will be a HALLOWEEN corn maze; an EASTER egg hunt; a FOURTH OF JULY miniature golf course; ST PATRICK'S DAY and VALENTINE'S DAY puzzles to build; make a Holiday craft, and of course Santa's Workshop.

Santa will arrive at 12:30 p.m.!  
USAA & Clearview Federal Credit Union will be available.

Please make sure you have your PARKING PASS for those family members not arriving with you at the start of the duty day. You will need one even if your second car has a sticker. Everyone is asked to donate one dozen of your favorite cookies for the snack table.

Sunday,  
December 7th!



# Sesame Street's new mission: teaching children the ABCs of dealing with stresses due to military deployments

Master Sgt. Ann Young, 171ARW/PA

CORAOPOLIS, PA., October 26, 2008 - Watching hundreds of children from southwestern Pennsylvania respond to Elmo in an aircraft hangar took me back to watching my own daughters respond to him two decades ago. Elmo and his crew of fuzzy, lovable friends bridge all gaps in time and place to accomplish a mission. Much like they were on a mission to teach my children the alphabet and numbers or to be cautious of strangers, the Muppets were on an important new mission this day; to help children of military members to deal with deployments, homecomings and changes.



U.S. Air Force photo / Tech. Sgt. Edward Reich

Pittsburgh is the 41st stop on a live tour of 43 cities which began in July 2008. Sesame Workshop, the nonprofit organization behind Sesame Street, and the USO (United Service Organizations) teamed up to provide The Sesame Street Experience for Military Families: a free traveling tour to military installations across the country. The tour, produced by VEE Corporation, is part of Sesame Workshop's Talk, Listen, Connect initiative, a military outreach program which launched in 2006. The initiative provides support and offers significant resources for military families with young children experiencing the effects of deployment, multiple deployments or when a parent returns home changed due to a combat related injury. Military families who attended the 60-minute experience saw a live 25-minute character performance and received outreach materials from Talk, Listen, Connect and other partners.

The idea was born in 2005 after Sesame Workshop CEO and President, Gary E. Knell, arrived at work angry one day because he had heard about a deployed military member who couldn't make his mortgage payment and was forced to foreclose. He asked his staff "what can we do?" This simple question launched what Mr. Knell considers the most impactful program he has been involved with.

"The Sesame Street Experience for Military Families brings the Talk, Listen, Connect DVD and materials to life, and it reaches out directly to the families who face the challenges of military life each day," said Knell. "Our partnership with the USO further extends this initiative. We're visiting installations across the nation to help these families bond through emotionally difficult times, by providing an educational and entertaining show and outreach activities they can share."

Leslie Canterbury attended the show with her son Cole who couldn't wait to see Elmo. Jacob Canterbury, a nurse with the 339th Combat Support Hospital, wasn't able to join his wife and son because he was working at his civilian job as a nurse in a Veteran's Administration Hospital.

Tech. Sgt. Robert Brindza, a metals technician with the 171st Air Refueling Wing's Maintenance Squadron took time out to enjoy the day with his wife Deena and twin sons, Dominic and Robert. Brindza said, "I'm deploying in a week, and there is never enough time to get everything done at home before leaving, but I didn't want to pass up this opportunity."

"This is a terrific, ground-breaking new program for military families," said Edward A. Powell, President and CEO of USO World Headquarters. "Our partnership with Sesame Workshop on Talk, Listen Connect has been a great success and The Sesame Street Experience is a creative new way to deliver even more morale-boosting services and programs to our troops and their families."



U.S. Air Force photo / Tech. Sgt. Edward Reich

Lynn Chwatsky, Senior Project Director for Sesame's Military Family Initiative, tells parents left behind during deployments, "If you can't take care of yourself, you can't take care of your children." This is why the initiative was designed with a dual-role in mind. Materials for both parents and

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## SESAME STREET, From Page 4

children were intended for co-viewing. When a parent serves, the entire family serves. The initiative has been very cognizant of the need to reach Guard and Reserve families who don't always receive the same support or resources that a military member stationed at an active duty base might.

"We are extremely pleased and honored to have Pittsburgh selected as the only Reserve base to host The Sesame Street Experience," said Col. Gordon H. Elwell, Jr., 911th Airlift Wing Commander.

This awareness is especially important to the state of Pennsylvania as it not only has one of the highest numbers of guardsmen, but is also one of the most deployed national guards in the United States. While the total number of Pennsylvania Guardsmen is roughly 19,000, as of January 2009, there will have been approximately 23,000 deployment orders issued for guardsmen in the Keystone State since September 2001.

Some families have additional challenges when both mom and dad choose to serve. Tech. Sgt. Jamie Albertson and her husband Staff Sgt. Jacob Albertson, both with the 171st Air Refueling Wing's Maintenance Squadron, brought son, Aiden and daughter Claire. Before the show began, Jamie shared that "Aiden didn't know what he was in store for, but when he realizes it is Sesame Street, he'll be so excited."

The Public Broadcasting Station (PBS) will host a Primetime Special on April 1 highlighting 3-4 military families. The broadcast will drive home the fact that despite all that military families have been through, their dedication and resolve have not been compromised.

By the way, season 40 of Sesame Street is just starting production. This legendary programming is a timeless investment with messages, content, themes and characters still relevant four decades later! According to the Pentagon and military historians, today's military has a greater percentage of moms and dads than it has had in any other conflict, in part because of reliance on the National Guard and Reserves, and in part because of the growing number of women in uniform. So reaching large numbers of military families makes this worthwhile Muppet mission an industrious one. Funding is presently being sought to continue the initiative next year.

## KHERSONSKY, From Page 1

"Flying over the snow covered mountains of Kyrgyzstan and Afghanistan, I often thought about summers spent at the Pioneer camp and growing up in Tashkent," said the sergeant. "Sometimes I thought about a cousin who fought with the Soviet Army in Afghanistan and came home with silver hair after narrowly escaping an ambush that killed his entire platoon."

Nicknamed "cosmonaut" by his KC-135 crew members, Sergeant Khersonsky's journey has mirrored that of his aircraft commander, Lt. Col. Jorg Kaltenegger, who left Germany when he was ten, joined the 171st ARW as a jet mechanic and then became a pilot. The commander of the tight knit crew often notices the sergeant admiring the view.

"Our route takes us within fifty miles of Uzbekistan," said Colonel Kaltenegger. "I often catch him looking out the window toward his home. Sometimes we have fun and let him make the radio calls at our route points. When he rattles off our information in fluent Russian, we always get a pregnant pause from the Russian-speaking controller on the ground before they respond. We're usually laughing because we know they weren't expecting that from an American KC-135 passing overhead."

Following Colonel Kaltenegger's lead, Sergeant Khersonsky is working to move from his backseat in the Stratotanker to a seat in the cockpit in hopes of piloting the plane he has maintained and crewed for the past nine years.

"When I get home, I plan to graduate from Duquesne University in May and compete for the pilot board in fall 2009," said the sergeant. "If the timing works out, there's a small chance I could complete pilot training before the 171st ARW returns to Kyrgyzstan in about 20 months."

When asked if life in America is any better than his Uzbek homeland or in Kyrgyzstan, the sergeant's response clearly illustrates he's learned a thing or two living on opposite sides of the world.

"Having grown up in Tashkent and Pittsburgh, and now deploying to Kyrgyzstan, people sometimes think they're different or have it better than those living in certain faraway places," said Sergeant Khersonsky. "Trying to look at which is better is like comparing apples and oranges; one isn't necessarily better, just different. It's hard to say you have it worse off if you're not aware you're missing out on something. Kyrgyz, Uzbeks, Americans; we have a lot more in common than we think."

*MANAS AIR BASE, KYRGYZSTAN - Lt. Col. Jorg Kaltenegger, Tech. Sgt. Kelman Khersonsky and Maj. Scott Rushe are all smiles after completing one of their last refueling missions in support of operations in Afghanistan the morning of Oct. 29. The three were among more than 100 Pennsylvania Air National Guardsmen deployed here from Pittsburgh's 171st Air Refueling Wing. For Sergeant Khersonsky, the month-long deployment was extra special; his daily routine as a KC-135 boom operator took him within sight of his childhood home of Tashkent, Uzbekistan. (Air Force photo / Senior Airman Ruth Holcomb)*



**Retiree Office**  
300 Tanker Road #4210  
Coraopolis, PA 15108-4210  
(412) 776-7587, (DSN) 294-7587  
FAX: (412) 776-7441  
ray.long@papitt.ang.af.mil

Seasons Greetings to all the retirees and their families from the Retiree Office staff and Happy Birthday to those of you born in December!

Brunch – The next brunch will be January 19, 2009. Once again, we will be meeting at Hoss's at 11:30 a.m. No reservations required. All are invited.

ID Cards – Oakdale has a new operator to provide you with an ID card, but we still suggest you be there early (before 11 a.m.) if you plan to use this service. We also recommend you call ahead if you plan to get an ID card at the 171st too – 412-776-7485.

We believe the wrong name, right address problem corrected itself with the November *Tanker Times*. If you still received a newsletter with an incorrect name or address, we would like to hear from you. Your feedback is important!

Volunteers – We need help! Our current staff is dwindling due to age, illness and other miscellaneous reasons. If you have some time to help, chances are we can use your service. Please call and talk to us if you can be of service.

Tricare Mail Order Service (Express Script) – If you need medication, this is a very good plan and may possibly save you money. Interested? Call our office and we can send you information.

I used to have a handle on life, but it broke.

## My Gifts to You

*Deb Krall, Wing Family Program Coordinator*

Plenty of offers to military members have begun to surface. Many groups have sent donations this year. The Crescent Township Civic Club sold t-shirts and gave over 80 phone cards. North Suburban Builders Association gave their annual \$500 in phone cards. Dominion Gas and UPS once again collected DVDs, and snacks for care packages. A local businessman offered food assistance to needy families. The C. E. Commissary allowed patrons to donate food items and vendors assisted with vouchers as well. It does my heart good to know that so many have noticed the commitment of 171st members and their families to our nation.

Several new 'perks' have been added to the Steelweb as well. The Community Manager does a good job adding new offers as they come to his attention. The Hyatt Regency, Baltimore Inner Harbor has one such offer. They are calling it Operation: Escape. The offer includes retirees. Rooms are \$75 a night, Thursday through Sunday, double occupancy. An added feature is 50% off meals in their restaurant or in-room dining. To take advantage of this offer, call 800.233.1234 or visit [www.baltimore.hyatt.com](http://www.baltimore.hyatt.com) and request offer code OPS50.

Accessing childcare supplements is easier than ever before. A new service is being provided through a National Guard Bureau Family Program Division. The National Guard Child Care Program, known as NGCCP is able to assist members on orders – activated, deployed, Active Guard and Reserve and Technicians to understand available supplements and help in the application process. There is a brief, 10 minutes or less, interview. All income levels may be eligible to receive a minimum of \$100 per child per month for fulltime childcare. Childcare must be provided through accredited childcare providers. The National Association for the Education of Young Children is able to assist in a zip code search. Go to [www.naeyc.org/academy/search](http://www.naeyc.org/academy/search) and remember to set the distance at 30 miles. To contact NGCCP go to [NGCCP@GuardFamily.org](mailto:NGCCP@GuardFamily.org) or call 888.642.2799.

The Wing Family Program Office is offering some new programs for the coming year. Equipment has been purchased for two new offers. The first is a partnership with United Through Reading. This will allow those deploying for more than 90 days to make a DVD of themselves reading a book to their child. There will be books to choose from, or you may bring your own. The recording will be approximately 30 minutes. More information will follow very soon with an exact starting date. The training has been taken, all that is needed is the start-up kit provided by United Through Reading.

The second program has taken quite some time to accomplish. By January, a chat room will be available to allow family members an additional way to communicate with each other and the Wing Family Program Coordinator. Be watching for further information on the site address.

Thanks to all of the members and families of the 171st. It has been a pleasure to work with you and offer support as needed. Please continue to share my information with those in your community looking for ways to assist the military. You are my best and dearest resource.

# HIGH

Flyer

Aircraft: 58-0045  
Hours Flown: 197.3  
Sorties Flown: 29



Crew chiefs: Mike Myers, Lonnie Olson, Bob Verdoni,  
Reed Mitchell, Dennis Berton and Benjamin Smith

You have just entered the ...

# RECRUITER ZONE

Our Recruiting Team -- (412) 776-7495

Master Sgts. Sue Smith and Skip Powell, Tech. Sgt. John Frazier, Senior Airmen Shayla Pollard and Senior Airmen Lindsey Duncan  
Contact us toll free at 1-877-249-5193 or through the web [www.papitt.ang.af.mil](http://www.papitt.ang.af.mil)



## Congratulations on your promotion!

Bonnie Kriberney



David V. Childs

Gary L. Shannon

Daniel J. Hockenberry

Christopher A. Popeck

Robert M. Bemben

Michael A. Fetterman

Jonathan R. Zwierzynski

Todd M. Rushe

Jason Weiland

Dylan R. Lehmeier



John C. Burgh

Brigitta Horton



*Happy  
Holidaying!*

## Welcome new members of the 171<sup>st</sup>

Andrew Mihalik

Robert J. Crutchman

Anna E. Boyd

Christopher Statzula

Robert C. Swartzwelder

Keith W. Clark

Kendal L. Galand

Christy M. Rogers

Andrew J. Warwick

Mindy L. Davis

Chris A. Wydra

Brian J. Blum

Chad G. McMillen

Jon Q. Hoffman

## ATTENTION: GRAP has been temporarily suspended. We have no further information at this point.

Please see suspension message at <http://guardrecruitingassistant.com/air/suspend.php>

The Air National Guard Recruiting Service is working hard to resolve the issues and will update the website when the GRAP program is restored. Please direct all questions and concerns regarding current and previous referrals to Docupak at [grap@docupak.com](mailto:grap@docupak.com) or 866-566-2472.

The 171st Recruiting Office would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone of you who participated in the GRAP program. The 171st ARW is manned at over 113% thanks in great part to our GRAP members. We hope this program is reinstated quickly and that your efforts continue to be rewarded.

## Retention Corner

By Master Sgt. Don Schauer



If you have been on active duty for at least 90 days in support of a contingency operation, such as the Manas or Guam deployments, you may be eligible for Chapter 1607 of the GI Bill, REAP. Information is available from your Unit Career Advisor or apply at [www.gibill.va.gov](http://www.gibill.va.gov). It can take up to three months for the VA to process the application and you should apply even if you currently do not plan on attending college. You may be able to convert eligibility for chapter 1607 REAP benefits to the new Post 9/11 GI bill, Chapter 33, due to come on-line in August of 2009. Details on Chapter 33 are not yet available however limited information, questions and answers are available on the GI Bill website.

## New Law Authorizes Veterans' Salutes during National Anthem

October 30, 2008

WASHINGTON -- Veterans and active-duty military not in uniform can now render the military-style hand salute during the playing of the national anthem, thanks to changes in federal law that took effect this month.

"The military salute is a unique gesture of respect that marks those who have served in our nation's armed forces," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. James B. Peake. "This provision allows the application of that honor in all events involving our nation's flag."

The new provision improves upon a little known change in federal law last year that authorized veterans to render the military-style hand salute during the raising, lowering or passing of the flag, but it did not address salutes during the national anthem. Last year's provision also applied to members of the armed forces while not in uniform.

Traditionally, members of the nation's veterans service organizations have rendered the hand-salute during the national anthem and at events involving the national flag while wearing their organization's official head-gear.

The most recent change, authorizing hand-salutes during the national anthem by veterans and out-of-uniform military personnel, was sponsored by Sen. Jim Inhofe of Oklahoma, an Army veteran. It was included in the Defense Authorization Act of 2009, which President Bush signed on Oct. 14.

The earlier provision authorizing hand-salutes for veterans and out-of-uniform military personnel during the raising, lowering or passing of the flag, was contained in the National Defense Authorization Act of 2008, which took effect Jan. 28, 2008.

## Pennsylvania shooters make their mark

Senior Master Sgt. Patrick Riley, 171st Security Forces

The 38th Annual Winston P. Wilson National and International Marksmanship Championships were recently held in Little Rock, Ark. The Alpha Team, which represented the State of Pennsylvania, consisted of Gregory Neiderhiser and Bill Foster both from the PA Army National Guard/Fort Indiantown Gap, Chris Fusco from PA Air National Guard/Willow Grove and Edward Altmeyer from PA Air National Guard/Pittsburgh. Twenty-three states, Guam, Puerto Rico, Canada, Spain, Netherlands, Norway and the United Kingdom participated in the matches. The Alpha Team from Pennsylvania placed 3rd Overall, behind Missouri (2nd) and Texas (1st). The aggregate score of all matches is factored into 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. The Pennsylvania Alpha Team placed 2nd in the Fallen Comrade Match, which consists of running through a 100-yard obstacle course, firing at targets 200 yards away and then carrying a 180-pound dummy back to the starting line for time. The team also placed 2nd in the Combined Arms Team Match, which consists of firing the rifle & pistol at various yard lines between 200 and 300 yards. Gregory Neiderhiser, Chris Fusco and Edward Altmeyer received the Chief's 50 Award, which means they rank in the top 10% of all National Guard shooters. Gregory Neiderhiser and Edward Altmeyer were chosen to the United States All Guard



Pennsylvania marksmen pictured - Back Row, Left to right: Senior Airman Shenandoah Welsh, Staff Sgt. Josh Honick, Master Sgt. Chris Fusco, Chief Warrant Officer Gregory Kupar, Sgt. Ryan Dewire, Senior Master Sgt. Patrick Riley, Captain William Younger (State Marksmanship Coordinator). Front Row: Sgt. 1st Class William Foster, Brig. Gen. John L. Gronski (Assistant Adjutant General/Pennsylvania), Lt. Col. Joseph Olszewski, Staff Sgt. Edward Altmeyer and Sgt. 1st Class Gregory Neiderhiser.

Forces, and Razorback Trophies as well as finishing in 2nd place on the Machine Gun POW match.

The Bravo Team (first time or novice shooters) consisted of Chief Warrant Officer Gregory Kupar (PA Army National Guard/Fort Indiantown Gap), Senior Master Sgt. Patrick Riley (PA Air National Guard/Pittsburgh), Staff Sgt. Josh Honick

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**To the family of:**



Team, which competed in the Armed Forces Skill-At-Arms Match, immediately following the conclusion of the Winston P. Wilson Championships. The United States All Guard Team finished in 1st Place winning the Lexington-Green Trophy. The Lexington-Green Trophy is awarded to the team with the highest aggregate score. The All Guard Team finished ahead of teams from the British Army, Royal Marines, Royal Air Force, U.S. Army Reserve, Canadian Army, United States Marine Corps, Royal Dutch Army, Royal Netherlands Army and Spanish Infantry. Along the way to winning the International Championship, Gregory Neiderhiser and Edward Altmeyer were awarded the Commander in Chief, Canadian

(PA Air National Guard/Pittsburgh), and Shenandoah Welsh (PA Air National Guard/Pittsburgh). In the Novice Category, the Bravo Team placed 1st in the Fallen Comrade Match and 2nd in the Rapid Fire Engagement Match. Staff Sgt. Josh Honick from the 171st Security Forces Squadron placed 3rd overall in Match RI304, which consists of firing from the 500, 400, 300, 200 and 100 yard line.

Sgt. Ryan Dewire (PA Army National Guard/Fort Indiantown Gap) and Lt. Col. Joseph Olszewski (PA Air National Guard/Pittsburgh) competed in the match as individuals placing 77th and 52nd respectively of 291 total shooters.