



The 171st welcomes the world to Pittsburgh

by Tech. Sgt. Stacy Gault and Staff Sgt. Ivyann Castillo, 171st Public Affairs

Planning for the G-20 Summit here required weeks of preparation and training resulting in a successful event. The Pennsylvania National Guard was ready for any civil disturbances or for a potential terrorist attack. Fortunately those services weren't needed, but our Guardsmen were ready.

"We had three days of extensive riot control training with the Army to prepare us for any type of riot situation during the G-20, luckily we didn't have any protesters or any issues while we were there," said Master Sgt. David Dean, 171st engine shop mechanic. The G-20 gave Soldiers and Airmen the opportunity to work jointly.

"It was great working with the Army, they were impressed with our people and how the 171st took care of us, especially when our mission was finished, and we had to go home. Being away, you really appreciate our people," he said.

"As an engine mechanic, you are used to working in a certain type of job but having the opportunity to work in a joint environment with the Army is an experience that I won't forget," said Staff Sgt. Jason Moore, calling the joint operation, "rewarding."

"They have to be prepared for any circumstance and train for the worst," said Capt. Jeffrey O'Dette, Company Commander, 1-110 Infantry, who trained and lived at the 171st.

"We throw the kitchen sink at them to test them and make sure they're ready." In addition to crowd control, the National Guard's primary mission was manning traffic control posts, which included closed streets and bridges.

The military presence relieved 120 police officers of traffic control posts to tend to civil disturbances according to Pittsburgh Police Lt. Joseph Tersak, coordinator of all traffic control posts and former 112th Security Forces member.

Despite long shifts and working in potential riot conditions, Master Sgt. David Prasko said the local businesses of Pittsburgh were very supportive. Some businesses provided refreshments and allowed guardsmen to use their facilities. In return, the guardsmen offered their services as well.

"The local citizens and businesses were very polite and hospitable during our time there," Prasko said. "We were providing riot control support in front of PNC Park when a local restaurant requested that we look after one of their employees while she waited for a ride home one evening. Because we helped her, she gave us discounted vouchers at the establishment."

The G-20 operation was a display of Pittsburghers coming together to accomplish one goal, overcoming obstacles and helping one another along the way.

G-20 photo spread on pages 4 and 5

Ready for disaster

by Tech. Sgt. Stacy Gault, 171st PA

The G-20 Summit in Pittsburgh marked the first time Pennsylvania's Chemical Enhanced Response Force Package (CERF-P) team deployed in support of a national event. The CERF-P team is comprised of almost 200 medical and emergency personnel to respond to any disaster.

The U.S. Secret Service requested the CERF-P team support the G-20 for the event that may have needed our mass medical, decontamination and search and rescue mission, said Maj. Mark Thomas, commander, CERF-P team.

One of 17 teams across the country and comprised entirely of Pa. residents, it was one of the first five CERF-P teams developed in the nation.

"As a result of the September 11, 2001 attacks, the agencies that responded saw there was a gap in state and federal response," Thomas said.

see CERF-P, page 3



U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Ann Young
Maj. Mark Thomas briefs Maj. Gen. Marchi about the CERF-P team's preparation.

Bring on the challenges

by Brig. Gen. Roy Uptegraff, Wing Commander

Commander's CORNER



Now that the G20 Summit is past, we can now turn our sites toward 2010. As I have already mentioned, 2010 will be rich with deployments and inspections. Our first test occurs this month with an Air Mobility Command communications security inspection. This is a relatively small inspection with just a few inspectors visiting the base, but it is just as important to me as a full Operational Readiness Inspection.

We should do well due to the efforts our Communications Squadron has gone to ensure success. I will look at this inspection somewhat as a barometer to forecast the outlook for our Unit Compliance Inspection later this year. Are we doing the right things, looking at the right products, and most importantly, being inspection ready every day? More guidance will come from me at the Commanders Call during the January drill.

I cannot tell you how pleased I am with the success we had equipping our base for 2010. At the end of the fiscal year, the National Guard Bureau had \$41M to offer the field. Our financial management office in conjunction with our base contractors and supply was ready for this rare opportunity. By the time these two offices turned out the lights after midnight on Oct. 1, we snagged close to \$2.8M, 7% of the available funds for equipment and clothing we need.

That is thinking ahead, by thinking of you! Many of you are going to be wearing new uniforms and protective outer garments that will put you on an even standing with the active duty. Others will notice improvements in their sections and units. This enormous expenditure will vastly improve our preparedness for the deployment coming this summer.

Recently Lt. Gen. Wyatt addressed the members of the Minuteman Institute for National Defense Studies about our future. High on his priority list is to further thrust the ANG into associate missions for the long run. This is the essence of the concept of Total Force Initiative (TFI).

I can see his point by just looking at what our wing does today. When I was a lieutenant, our base ran an eight-hour day with one sortie flown in the evening. Well, we only had eight aircraft in those good old days.

Today, we operate around the clock. Gen Wyatt said, "If we don't go to TFI constructs, and if we don't get the Guard concurrently and proportionally bedded down in this new capability, we will find ourselves limited, not by the platform, but limited by the manpower available to fly the mission." He is right.

Every year we do far more than what we are manned and equipped to do. Every year we worry about having the manpower to meet the mission. We are very fortunate to have a base filled with extraordinary volunteers who make our 21st century operations possible.

Our Wing has its hand up for new missions as well. We know there is a mission the National Security Agency (NSA) operates in the cyber world at Carnegie Mellon University. We hope to partner with the NSA and perhaps form a Squadron of cyber specialists to associate with this unique and vital operation right here.

In Johnstown, our 258th Air Traffic Control Squadron will soon have its own airspace due to new manpower and radar equipment. This new capability is an opportunity to provide air traffic control training across the spectrum of the Department of Defense right here.

Technology is getting out beyond some of your imaginations. Air Mobility Command's (AMC) future concepts branch issued a notice that it will host industry on Nov. 17 at AMC headquarters at Scott AFB, Ill., to discuss unmanned cargo aircraft concepts. In theory, the unmanned platform should be able to deliver 500 to 3,000 pounds of cargo to a combat radius of 500 nautical miles, at airspeeds of 250 knots or greater, with a vertical takeoff and landing/short takeoff and landing capability of 300 feet. The future begins today!

Happy Thanksgiving from my family to yours.

"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 15108-4205

Comm: 412-776-7350, Fax: 412-776-7845

171.ARW.PA@ANG.AF.MIL

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Great job!

by Command Chief Master Sgt. Vic Guerra

The Group of Twenty, or G-20 Summit was a great success for the City of Pittsburgh, the region and the State of Pennsylvania. The Pennsylvania National Guard, and our wing, played a big part in that success.

The 171st hosted a joint contingent of both Air and Army National Guardsmen, along with representatives from other agencies, like NORTHCOM and the Secret Service. Our Base served as the command center for the Pennsylvania National Guard's efforts and close to 2,500 Airmen and Soldiers were called up to support the summit, in what was called "Operation Steel Kickoff."

Many of our unit members deployed to various armories and Army facilities around the area, serving as a regional response force, augmenting law enforcement personnel, performing crowd control, providing traffic control and assisting with security if needed. Unit members also played a support role in the processing and feeding of personnel, while providing communication, medical and a host of other support roles for those stationed here at the base. Our support also extended to Army facilities around the local area when needed.

This was also a chance for Pa. Soldiers to learn about what the Air Force side brings to the fight. As I traveled around the base early in the build-up phase, Soldiers told me they had no idea that the Air Force side had such ability. They were amazed at the capabilities, know-how, technology and enthusiasm that went beyond just flying.

They were also impressed with our hospitality. Everywhere I went the Soldiers I talked to were grateful for the efforts we made in making their stay as comfortable as possible. Morale areas were set up with movies, games and entertainment. 171st Family Readiness provided basic necessities such as soap, toothpaste and snacks. Our dining facility provided hot meals twice a day here.

Also, many of our Airmen got to appreciate what life is like for our Army brothers and sisters. Quite a few of our Airmen told stories of how life was for those that deployed to the various Army facilities around the area. They roughed it, sleeping in rain soaked tents on cots in sleeping bags. They trained side-by-side with our Army counterparts in mini-training camps (without Coach Tomlin), in the event riot or crowd control would have been needed.

I'd like to take this opportunity to say thanks to all of the Airmen and Soldiers from across the state and the various units for the great success of "Operation Steel Kickoff." I would especially like to thank and extend my sincere gratitude to Team Pittsburgh, the men and women of the 171st Air Refueling Wing and their families, for once again showing just what we are made of. You all should be proud. Great Job!



Briefs FYI

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Treasures for Children
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Estimated pay date for the November UTA:
November 18

Estimated pay date for the November SUTA:
December 1

CERF-P continued from page 1

Before the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, the Civil Support Team was the emergency response force to react to nuclear or biological attacks. A need for a mass casualty response team to handle a variety of situations and fill the gap between state and federal agencies was identified, Thomas said.

Each Federal Emergency Management Agency region has at least one CERF-P team. Region III, Pennsylvania's region, has three teams that serve Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Virginia, Maryland, Delaware and the District of Columbia, according to Medical Plans and Operations Officer Maj. Julie Carpenter.

In contrast to any civilian agencies, the CERF-P team has more equipment and is able to treat more victims.

"The amount and variety of conditions are much larger and as a result volunteer fire departments are not designed to handle different gases for example," Thomas said.

Staff Sgt. James Morton, 111th Fighter Wing Medical Group, is a cardio and pulmonary lab technician and said the group is trained and ready.

"Hopefully nothing will happen, but if it does, we will be ready to help wherever needed," he said. The team recently participated in a week-long training exercise at Fort Indian-town Gap in July, including chemical weapon preparation.

"It's an honor to be part of this mission lending my assistance to Pennsylvanians and the country as a whole," Morton said.

Pittsburgh welcomes the world

G20 Summit 2009





Deployment roadmap

By Capt. Dicie Hritz, 171st Public Affairs Officer

Next spring the 171st Air Refueling Wing will again deploy Airmen to participate in the Air Expeditionary Force (AEF) rotation. This seventeen month deployment schedule employed by Air Mobility Command (AMC) has quickly come around to the 171st ARW and, though we won't start deploying until April, preparations are already being made. In 2010, our unit is scheduled to deploy to two locations, CENTCOM and PACOM.

The AEF is nothing new to the 171st ARW. We've participated in this structure for 11 years now and it has become our way of life.

"The AEF is here to stay", said Capt. Sean Lockerman, 171st installation deployment officer, "this is nothing new, but we seem to reinvent the wheel. My goal is to eliminate the repetition, streamline the mobilization process."

"The key ingredients to a successful AEF deployment will be timely and effective communication to all of our airmen with focus on the mission, theater requirements, and the essential role that our Wing will play within the 'Total Force' construct supporting global contingency operations", says Lt. Col. Gregg Perez, 146 ARS operations officer.

Commanders and their Unit Deployment Managers (UDM's) should have a good idea who will be deploying, the real challenge will be to ensure that all members are ready to deploy, before we lock them in. "Lock-in" is a planning term that refers to an individual that is fully mission capable and is "locked into" the manning document for the deployment.

The logistics plans office has teamed with operations to draft up a rough schedule for the deployment as illus-

trated in the timelines.

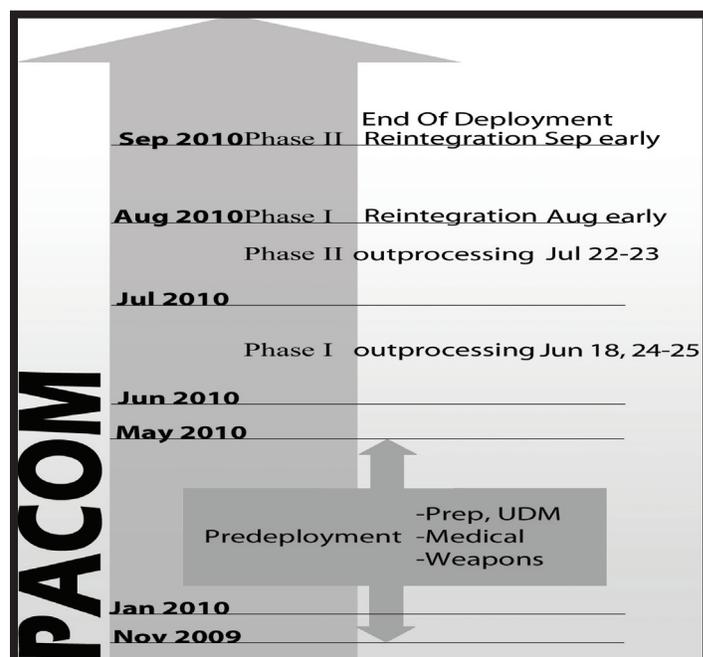
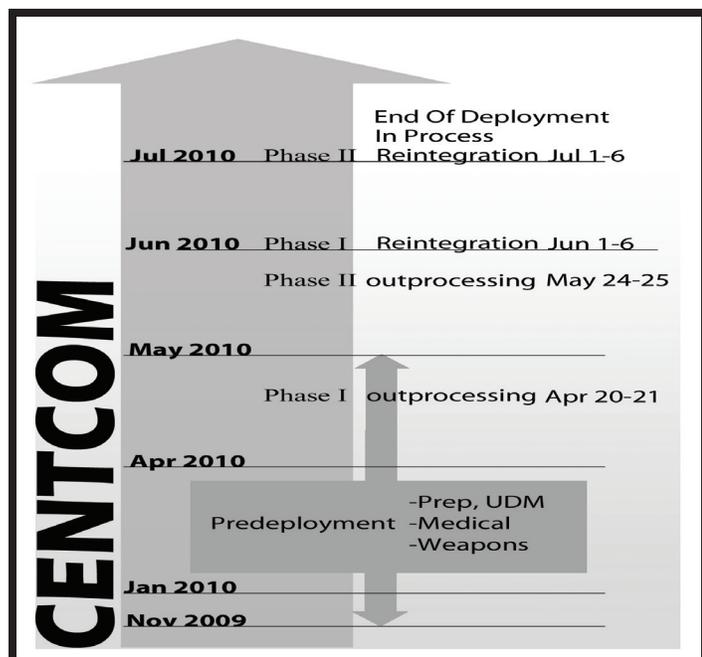
The mobilization process will begin 10 days prior to the scheduled departure date. Mobilization is the act of preparing for deployment by ensuring all requirements are complete. UDM's will notify the member's of their deployment departure date as early as the November drill.

The process is broken down into three phases for the mobility process. Phase I consists of predeployment requirements to include making sure all required training is complete and all personnel, medical, financial, and legal requirements are taken care of.

Phase II consists of outprocessing from the 171st. Outprocessing takes place after mobilization, which indicates all deployment requirements should be taken care of. This should only be a last look or review of your records to ensure you are qualified for deployment.

Phase III of the mobility process is the reintegration process which occurs after the deployment to ensure a safe and complete inprocessing to the 171st as well getting us back to our families. Inprocessing includes a review from finance, public health, legal and supply for mobility gear turn-in. Often members accrue post-deployment downtime while deployed. This downtime ensures members have an adequate amount of time to spend with their families and friends before returning to their civilian jobs.

There are many requirements that must be accomplished prior to a deployment. Whether its a 15 or 60 day deployment, it is important to complete all required tasks now. Any questions regarding specific deployments should be directed to your section UDM.



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Retention Corner

Master Sgt. Don Schauer and
Staff Sgt. Elizabeth Simoneau

ATTENTION RETIREES:

Under current rules for transferring Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits, once a retiring member has left the unit they are no longer eligible to transfer their Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits to their dependants. If you hope to share these benefits with dependents the deci-

sion done prior to their retirement date. There are a large number of retirees with Active Duty service that are eligible for benefits under the Post 9/11 GI Bill, that retired prior to Aug. 1, 2009 and did not have the opportunity to make the election to transfer their benefits. An "Air Force Times" article from Oct. 19, 2009 outlines a House of Representatives Bill, HR 3577, sponsored by Texas Representative Ciro Rodriguez that would allow anyone eligible for Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits, that served more than 20 years, to transfer their benefits to their dependants. Let your representative know that you support this change.

Mishap survivors

In honor of the new TV show, "Surviving Disaster," here is a chance for Airmen to tell their stories.

The Air Force Safety Center is looking for people who have been involved in mishaps and have testimonials on a peer-to-peer level.

Ten Airmen will be selected to assist, advise and make public service announcements. They don't want safety pros, but line folks. Any Guardsman (full or part-time) interested can contact Chief Master Sgt. Monte Page, chief, ANG occupational safety, Andrew AFB. DSN: 278-8365

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Crew chiefs: Keith Acre, Fran Startare, John Kopas,
Kevin Clancy, Matt Leisie, Rod Salka and Brian Thomsen



Welcome new 171st member
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Congratulations on your promotion!

Brian A. Marcyjanik



Clifford W. Carilli
Jessica Mayberry



James J. Norman
Raymond D. Owade
Andrew K. Johnson
Steven P. Hodge
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Adrienne M. Muto
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Alisa M. Goss
Christopher M. Egger



Adam R. Falcsik



Joshua L.
Domitrovich



The newly formed Force Support Squadron has one officer vacancy. If you're interested in becoming a member of this newly formed Squadron and have met, or will have met, the 171st Air Refueling Wing's Officer Pre-screening board or you're currently an officer and may be looking for a change, please forward a resume and letter of intent to Lt Col Johnston, 171 FSS/CC, Bldg 300, Tanker Road, #4226, Pittsburgh IAP, Coraopolis, PA 15108-4226 NLT 1 December 2009.

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Commonwealth celebrates honorees at Flight of Freedom

By Staff Sgt. Ivyann Castillo, 171st Public Affairs

The 171st Air Refueling Wing hosted the 21st annual Flight of Freedom Honors Ceremony that kicked off Sunday morning at the Holiday Inn, honoring exceptional members of the Pennsylvania Air National Guard.

Retired Lt. Col. Constance Aungst and retired Chief Master Sgt. John Lucarini were given the highest honor of being inducted into the Hall of Fame this year for their outstanding military service.

Aungst was an aeromedical nurse who began her career in air transport in 1960. From there she had exceptionally successful military endeavors in the Nurse Corps. She volunteered for every humanitarian mission without hesitation. She was also a Flight Nurse Chief, supervising and planning aero-med duties at the highest organizational level.

Lucarini progressed in his military career in the life support section working as a technician who learned to transition through five different airframes. Aside from learning different weapon systems, he was consistently dedicated to aircrew safety and fought for the latest Air Force life support component when Air National Guard aircrews received second-hand equipment. In addition, he pushed for upgraded devices offering a stronger signal for search and rescue teams.

Maj. Gen. Jessica Wright, state adjutant general thanked the airmen by stating they are “noble professionals who also are equipped warriors” aiding in protecting the freedom of the people. Wright also recognized the members’ families, calling them “unsung heroes” and the veterans who understand our duty since they “walked in our shoes.”

The guest speaker for the event was Jack Wagner, Pa. auditor general, who gave his appreciation and recognition to the PAANG members for, “never having an off day in aiding in the nation’s freedom and democracy.”

Other awards that were presented were the Bronze Star, Pennsylvania Cross for Valor, Outstanding Airmen of the Year and other unit and individual awards and scholarships.

Derrick H. Sites of the 271st Communication Squadron, a fallen member, was given a Memorial Roll, a final farewell recognizing his service in the military.

The Flight of Freedom Honors Ceremony is hosted each year by one of the Pennsylvania Air National Guard units and is an induction ceremony for the Pennsylvania Air National Guard Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame recognizes individuals who displayed courage and meritorious contributions while serving in the PAANG.



U.S. Air Force photos by Master Sgt. Stacey Barkey and Senior Airman Sara Bressler

(left to right) Maj. Gen. Sischo presents certificate to Hall of Fame inductee, retired Chief Master Sgt. John Lucarini; The Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Jessica Wright and State Auditor General Jack Wagner applaud the award recipients; Maj. Gen. Sischo pins the Bronze Star on Col. Dave MacMillan in honor of his dedication to duty as Vice Commander at Manas AB, Kyrgyzstan.