



Scouting for Skills event at 171st helps youths

by Staff Sgt. Ivyann Castillo

Approximately 1,000 Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts along with some of their parents, attended the 171st Air Refueling Wing's annual Scouting for Skills weekend here April 10 and 11. Over the weekend the Scouts were given the opportunity to earn certain badges to progress in the scout organization.

"This allows the Boy and Girl Scouts to earn numerous badges that would be difficult to earn outside of a facility like ours," said Capt. James Weber, operations officer, 171st Maintenance Group.

Classes are taught by a 171st ARW member who works in the field such as a security forces troop teaching a law enforcement class or a representative of the public affairs section teaching public relations.

Some of the classes can include: survival, communications, emergency readiness, first aid and home improvement, to name a few.

Throughout the planning process, a major concern was parking. With a lot of internal support on base the parking situation ran smoothly, helping to pave the way for a successful event.

"We are real fortunate to have a lot of people on base helping us with the event, from the social committee providing food, and the 171st Logistics Readiness Squadron providing transportation to the 171st Security Forces Squadron providing additional personnel support, and the list goes on, we were very thankful" said Weber.

Aside from acquiring life long skills, these scouts also had the chance to meet military members.

"They also had an opportunity to work with our people at the 171st ARW, and were exposed to great individuals who have a positively profound impact on their young lives," said Weber.

Though there was a lot of hard work and dedication to

those who participated in the Scouting for Skills weekend, Master Sgt. Jeff Pritchard, knowledge operations manager, 171st MXS and Pamela Hess, Lt. Col. Tom Hess' wife, played a vital role in the planning and coordination.

"I would have to say all the credit should go to Pritchard and Hess," said Weber. They did all the leg work to make this event go on without a hitch, especially with our inspection that just passed in March, they took it upon themselves to coordinate and take care of everything."

"Everything went great," stated Weber. "The kids really had a great time."

"Again this event would not have gone off so well without everyone's support," continued Weber. "On behalf of Lt. Col. Hess, Mrs. Hess, Rich Kelly, Pritchard and myself... Thank you all very much."



Senior Airman John Robinson of Vehicle Management demonstrates an internal combustion engine to a group of boy scouts during the 171st Scouting Skills Weekend 2010. (U.S. photo by Tech. Sgt. Ed Reich)

AEF in full swing

by Brig. Gen. Roy Uptegraff, Wing Commander

Commander's CORNER

In the past several weeks, I had the opportunity to visit MacDill Air Force Base for Phoenix Rally. That is the term used for Air Mobility Command's Commander Conference. Gen. Johns, his staff and all wing commanders from around the AMC system came together to learn and share what they know.

A session I particularly enjoyed was a meeting with all of the KC-135 wing commanders. How odd no one has thought of such a thing in the past! For the first time, we as tanker commanders, got together to discuss our hottest issues. What we quickly focused on was the ongoing dilemma of our nuclear mission in the post-Strategic Air Command era.

Now that the active duty tanker commanders are subject to a no-notice Operational Readiness Inspection in this arena, and the reserve commanders could get a similar inspection during a scheduled exercise, we are all realizing how short we are in resources to perform this mission well.

Make no mistake, we are capable of doing the mission any day of the week, and our 2008 inspection indicated a superior level of capability. However, modern sophisticated communications systems with the burden of having the nuclear mission nested in Strategic Command, Global Strike Command and Air Mobility Command creates a more challenging path to follow. I look forward to sharing ideas and information with my active duty and reserve counterparts as we attempt to map better, simpler routes to reduce the complexity in executing the mission.

And speaking of executing the mission, in a matter of weeks, our jets, crews, maintainers and support personnel will once again support the air expeditionary force. Nearly one third of the Wing will be engaged in some type of combat support from now until the end of the year. This is the key reason why we have chosen not to have our annual dining out in 2010. Better to wait until the majority of our members return home so we can share in as much camaraderie as possible.

Certainly, this is going to be a very fast-paced and critical deployment. With the drawdown of the Iraq war and the push into Afghanistan, we are in a historical transition with much uncertainty on the horizon. Our 171st airmen are fully trained, equipped and prepared to go forward this spring and summer and give our nation the best of what they do – provide 24/7 combat support. Although our jets are over 50 years old, I consider them the best in the fleet. Their operational readiness is in the top third of the Air Force inventory and our veteran maintainers fully understand their strengths and weaknesses.

To prove our capabilities and readiness during critical times, just weeks ago our Logistics and Maintenance inspection landed an overall score of 97.22%. This remarkable achievement is a credit to every airman on the base. In a private meeting with me, the team chief expressed his awe at how supportive and proactive everyone is to everyone else. That is our culture in action! When we take that quality to the fight, we take the power of enthusiasm which is highly contagious to those around us. It is going to be a very challenging summer, but our young leaders from airmen to Lieutenant Colonels will take charge as we always do.

Later this month will be our annual Pennsylvania Guard leadership conference in Pittsburgh. Many of our Army and Air Guard friends from around the state will arrive in Station Square April 22, to listen and learn from our Adjutant General, her staff, and key invited leaders from across the nation. You can learn more about this terrific event at this website: www.pngas.net/2010cldw.htm. Feel free to wander in and see all that the event has to offer.

After just discussing being ready before executing the mission, today, I cut the grass for the first time and a big rubber flap on my lawnmower somehow got under the machine, got chewed up and then spit out the side after a couple of loud bangs. Perhaps I failed to adequately pre-flight my equipment due to lack of proficiency! Let this be a lesson for all of you to take extra caution and practice safety first as we enjoy the warm season's opportunities.



CORNER

"Editorial Staff"



Brigadier General Roy E. Uptegraff, III Commander

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Being a good wingman

by Chief Master Sgt. Vic Guerra, Command Chief

I'm sure that you've heard me talk about being a good wingman before. We need to continue to look out for each other. With summer just around the corner, bringing with it the season of parties, it is time to remind everyone about the importance of being a good wingman.

Being a good wingman, looking out for one another and taking care of each other is our duty, our moral obligation. If we fail in this duty, it could have adverse affects on our mission readiness and our ability to work effectively as a team. It's our duty whether deployed or at home. It's an ongoing responsibility. After all, people are our greatest resource, and if we don't look out for each other, who will?

Summer is almost upon us, along with the good times. It brings graduations, holidays, baseball games and wedding. The drinking and celebration generally associated with these activities can lead to trouble if one is not careful.

If you attend a party, go with friends and watch out for each other. It's imperative to have a designated driver who won't drink to drive everyone home safely. If you're not that designated driver, drink in moderation. If your friends are drinking, look out for them as well. We don't always make the wisest decisions when we're sober and being under the influence can only make it worse.

April was Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM). Studies indicate that about half of all of the sexual assaults in the U.S. involve the use of alcohol by the offender, the victim or both. In his letter announcing April as SAAM, Gen. Craig McKinley, chief, National Guard Bureau, wrote "sexual assault prevention must focus on stopping offenders before they act..." It sounds like he was talking about being a good wingman.

Good wingmen need to safely intervene when they recognize inappropriate behavior. McKinley's letter continued to say, "sexual assault degrades mission readiness and is at odds with our core values. It is the responsibility of all men and women in the National Guard to 'never let your guard down.' Remember that preventing sexual assault is everyone's duty."

Common sense, situational awareness and trusting your instincts will help you be a good wingman in preventing a sexual assault.

As military members, we defend our nation, families, friends and allies, but we need to remember that we defend our fellow Airmen as well. Looking out for each other, stepping in when needed, lending a helping hand or just being there to lean on, is what being a good wingman is all about.



Sexual Assault and Response Coordinators

SARC: Capt. Dicie Hrtiz
ALT SARC: Master Sgt. Julie McBane

Victim Advocates:

Master Sgt. Kim Rose
Master Sgt. Rebecca Lechner (258th ATCS)
Master Sgt. John Thompson

Briefs FYI



Kennywood Military Appreciation Day

Saturday, Sept 25. 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. rain or shine. Exclusive day at the park for military and family members. Ticket Price is \$14 per person. Tickets must be purchased in advance, and will not be sold at the park. Contact your unit representative for further information.

Martinsburg Institute Spouse Scholarship

Martinsburg Institute will provide a full tuition scholarship to the spouse of any service member who enrolls in the institution. The college offers certificate programs in the areas of Medical Billing & Coding, Information Technology, and Business, and more. For more information, contact Michael Johnson at 985-326-4862/504-756-7676 or MJohnson@MartinsburgInstitute.com

171st CAM Squadron Reunion Luncheon

All former members 171st Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron are invited to another luncheon May 8, 12:00 p.m. at Hoss' Steak House in Moon Township. If interested contact Henry Lach 412-897-6165, Ron Hoenig 724-650-2832 or Ray Dougherty 724-695-8238

Estimated pay date for the May UTA:
May 12

Estimated pay date for the May SUTA:
May 26

Retiree Office
300 Tanker Road #4210
Coraopolis, PA 15108-4210
412-776-7587
FAX 412-776-7441
ray.long@ang.af.mil

Priority Space-Available Travel

The National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal 2008 now grants priority round-trip space-available transportation for health care reasons to military retirees in U.S. commonwealths and possessions. These individuals will be provided space-available transportation in a Category IV status in order to obtain certain health-care services.

The retired Airmen must be referred in writing by a local military or civilian primary care provider to receive specialty care services outside of the commonwealth or possession.

Retired Airmen may be accompanied by a dependent, if required, as determined by the primary care provider and stated in the referral for medical services.

Retiree Appreciation Day

Grand Forks Air Force Base in North Dakota is hosting the event, 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. May 15 in the J.R. Rocker Club. Activities include a bus tour, reduced bowling rates, medical screening, drawings, discounts and more. For more information, contact retired Senior Master Sgt. David U. Collins, the Retiree Activities Office director, at 701-746-4979; or send e-mail to ducing@gra.midco.net.

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Human trafficking

"We did not have a right to choose where we lived ... freedom of speech, freedom of actions. The traffickers had keys to our apartment. They controlled all of our movement and travel. They watched us and listened when we called our parents. They didn't let us make friends or tell anyone anything about ourselves. We couldn't keep any of the money we earned. We couldn't ask anyone for help." -- Lena

Lena was an athletic student from Eastern Europe yearning to visit the United States through a study-abroad program at her college. She had visions of learning English and returning home to share her experiences with her family.

But the human traffickers who ensnared her had a different vision for Lena, shipping her to America and exploiting her in the sex industry for profit. They met her at the airport with news that her study abroad placement had been changed. She was given new bus tickets and sent off to Detroit, Michigan. Once there they took her passport and her freedom.

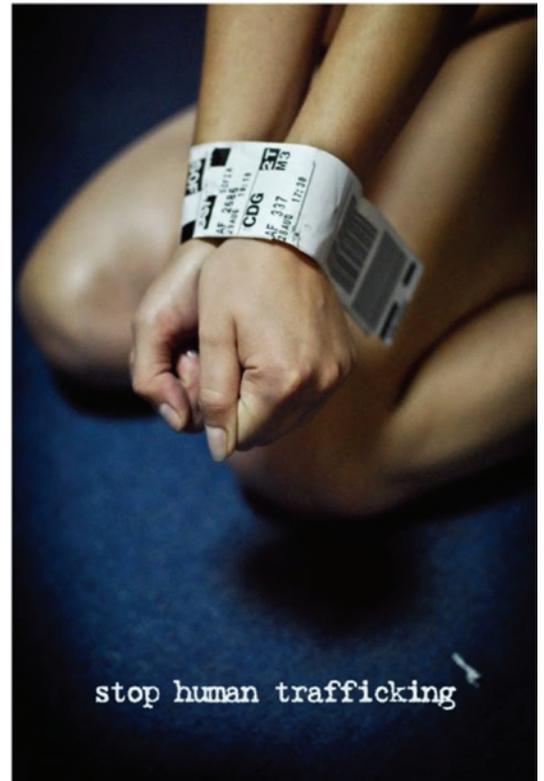
After almost a year of enslavement, Lena risked her life to make a daring escape. Unfortunately there are thousands of adults and children like Lena who have not been able to escape their traffickers. These victims, especially the children, are in the same position Lena was: They're being exploited and can't ask anyone for help.

The data on human trafficking is sparse, but what is known is terrifying. It's already the second largest criminal industry in the world -- behind only the trade in illegal drugs -- and it's growing fast. The global commercial sex trade exploits one million children annually. At least 100,000 and perhaps as many as 300,000 children in America are victims of sex trafficking each year.

The grim reality of child sex trafficking in the United States is this: Human traffickers are selling sex with children in big cities and small towns throughout America.

Child sex trafficking has been illegal in the United States since 2000 with the passage of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act. Under this law it is illegal to recruit, harbor, transport, provide or obtain a person under the age of 18 years for the purpose of a commercial sex act. --- CNN, Nov 25, 2009

Remember, as members of the Armed Forces whether state-side or abroad, participating in human trafficking is a punishable offense. If you suspect that human trafficking is occurring, report it to your local law enforcement agency, AFOSI or Security Forces—Col. Steven Painter, vice commander, 171st Air Refueling Wing



258th Air traffic controllers take charge while deployed

by Staff Sgt. Ivyann Castillo, 171st Public Affairs

It was a normal day with the usual standard operations at the Air Traffic Control tower at the 379th Expeditionary Operational Support Squadron in Southeast Asia. The air traffic controllers were conducting normal business until 12:37 p.m. Mar. 22. That's when the tower's commercial power went down almost hindering flight missions. With quick-thinking, expertise and competence, Staff Sgt. Kevin Hennelly and Senior Airman Daniel Zummach, both air traffic controllers with the 258th Air Traffic Control Squadron, along with their crew overcame the problem caused by the outage. Flight operations at the tower continued.

"The Qatari Emiri Air Force backup generator's power wasn't working and simultaneously there was a complete loss of radar, airfield lighting, weather readouts and remote control of the Air Traffic Control and Landing System and barriers," said 2nd Lt. Ryan White, airfield operations flight director, 379th EOSS.

In addition, the QEAF radios were on a limited power supply which was on a tertiary system, creating a multiple point of failure in the system, according to White. Two circuit breakers blew out and the tower generators were unable to supply power.

Shortly after the outage, the battery backups died, all the radios including the secondary system were inoperable and only six programmed land mobile radios, LMRs, were functioning, stated White.

"With absolutely no ability to pre-train for this type of situation, the controllers maintained an outstanding level of situational awareness and professionalism," stated White.

The crew safely and expeditiously conducted 29 aircraft operations that included the launch and recovery of Air Tasking Order missions in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, according to White.

The crew acted at this capacity for a little over two hours only operating with six LMRs until power was on and normal operations could resume.

"Again, these individuals did an outstanding job, and I would like to thank home station commanders for sending well trained Airmen ready to take on the challenges of a deployment," said White.

"We are definitely proud of them, but not surprised, both of these young Airmen are solid, capable professionals who take their job very seriously," said Chief Master Sgt. Steven Anslinger, chief of maintenance, 258th ATCS. "They have just proven how much of an asset they are to our squadron, and the Air Force."

Zummach has returned home and Hennelly will be returning home in the summer. Both, along with two other members of their crew who were on duty that morning, were coined by the installation commander while deployed.



From left to right: Staff Sgt. Valdez, Staff Sgt. Brown, Col. Schultz and Staff Sgt. Hennelly, attached to the 379th Expeditionary Operational Support Squadron, Southeast Asia, were part of the crew on duty the morning of the power outage in the tower. Their outstanding efforts were recognized as they were coined by the installation commander. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Michelle Larche)



Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets from the University of Pittsburgh attended an orientation flight here Mar. 30. They had an opportunity to witness an in-flight refueling of a C-17. Fittingly they were able to pose in front of the new Pitt Panther nose art barely in service for two weeks representing their university. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Ann Young)

Stay Vigilant

As a result of the 9-11 terrorist attack, the Air Force implemented an antiterrorism program called "Eagle Eyes," which is operated by the Air Force Office of Special Investigations. Much like a neighborhood watch program, the Eagle Eyes program is an aggressive Air Force-wide neighborhood watch program that educates people on observable activities and what to do if they see something suspicious. The motto for Eagle Eyes is "Watch. Report. Protect."

"Eagle Eyes enlists the help of base personnel whether active duty, reservist, family members, or civilian contractors and the civilian communities surrounding the base to remain vigilant and keep their eyes and ears open to any suspicious activities," said Special Agent Mickel Howell, 10th Field Investigations Squadron (10 FIS) OL-B (Pittsburgh), Eagle Eyes Program Representative. "The 2001 attack did not just happen without planning. There were precursor events that occurred and eventually led up to the attack. These terrorists planned their attacks, conducted surveillance, obtained training and rehearsed their operation."

There were numerous lessons learned in the federal law enforcement and intelligence communities which played a key role in the development of Eagle Eyes.

"Of most importance, we learned that every terrorist act is preceded by observable activities. These activities usually



include surveillance, elicitation for information, tests of security, acquiring supplies, conducting a dry run -- practicing the terrorist act, and deploying the assets to commit the act," said SA Howell. "Once the assets are deployed to commit the attack, it is most likely too late to prevent the act from occurring."

AFOSI 10 FIS OL-B special agents are out on the streets on a daily basis briefing Eagle Eyes information not only to the base community, but also to local vendors and companies that may be of interest to a terrorist. Through education, it is possible to train individuals on how to help prevent a terrorist attack from occurring.

Once a potential indicator is observed, it is reported to OSI through various channels. OSI then investigates the reported activity.

Here are some examples of what has been reported through the Eagle Eyes program. Unidentified men taking pictures of the base; a male attempted to elicit information from an intelligence member concerning security operations; incidents of counterfeit military identification card production; attempts to elicit technical information from a reserve technician by an unidentified male; suspicious phone calls made to various organizations by unknown callers.

By reaching out to Air Force members, their families and the local community through educational briefings and word of mouth, these incidents were reported in a timely manner. By reporting these incidents, potential criminal or terrorist plots were foiled.

Pentagon officials may extend tanker bid deadline

*by Army Sgt. 1st Class Michael J. Carden
American Forces Press Service*

Defense Department officials here March 31 informed companies interested in bidding on the KC-X aerial refueling tanker contract that if the European Aeronautics Defense and Space Co. formally expresses an intention to compete, the bidding deadline would be extended 60 days, the Pentagon press secretary said March 31.

"We are committed to a fair, open and transparent competition in order to get the best airplane to our warfighters at the best value to the taxpayers," Geoff Morrell announced in a late-afternoon news conference here.

Officials announced the final request for proposals, the Air Force requirements for the refueling tanker and a May 10 deadline last month. EADS recently expressed interest in the contract and requested a 90-day extension.

"It is not uncommon to grant a reasonable extension in competitions of this sort, and we consider 60 days to be reasonable," Mr. Morrell said.

The extension would give EADS and the Boeing Co., another company that has expressed interest, to submit their proposals by July 9.

Mr. Morrell also noted that the Pentagon is prepared to expedite the bid evaluation process to ensure production of the tanker begins in early fall.

"Given that this plane is long overdue, and we do not want its delivery date to slip later than it already has, we are prepared to compress our bid evaluation period to stay as close to the original award schedule as possible so as to still award the contract early this fall," he said.

The extension should not be confused with a "willingness to change any of the plane's military requirements or the way bids will be evaluated" in the future, he added, stressing that local and international politics did not influence the decision.

"Politics are not a part of this process -- never have been, (and) never will be," he said. "We are basing this strictly on the needs of the warfighter, the law of the land, and our desire to make sure that the taxpayers get their money's worth."

The Air Force KC-135 modernization program contract is estimated to be worth \$35 billion.

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Contact us toll free at 1-877-249-5193 or through the web www.171arw.ang.af.mil



Education Assistance Program

For those members using EAP it's time to complete your 2010-2011 paperwork. The current version will cover reimbursement for the Summer of 2010, Fall of 2010 Spring of 2011 and Summer 2011.

The forms can be obtained by visiting your Unit Training Manager. Once completed all forms must be returned to your UTM for review. Your Unit Training Manager will then submit these forms to the Base Education and Training Office.

Deadlines for timely payment to the schools:

1. 30 May - Summer Semester
2. 30 June – Fall, Winter (if applicable), Spring and Summer
3. At no time will applications be accepted for the 2010-11 academic year after January 15, 2011. This program does not allow payment for previous years.

Disbursements:

- Applications received by 30 May SUMMER - Mid Jul
- Applications received by 30 June FALL - Mid September
- SPRING - Mid January
- ADJUSTMENTS - Mid April
- **Applications received by January 15 will make the Adjustment Disbursement.**

Please be mindful that EAP is YOUR responsibility. If you have any questions please contact your Unit Training Manager or Base Education and Training Office at 412-776-7318.

Operation Purple® Family Retreats

Operation Purple® Family Retreats is sponsored by the National Military Family association and designed to bring families together for four days in a national park setting. With an emphasis on environmental education, military families will participate in fun, family-focused activities that will allow them to strengthen and renew relationships while exploring their natural surroundings.

In addition, FOCUS (Families Over Coming Under Stress), a resiliency-building program designed for military families and children facing the challenges of multiple deployments, has designed activities which highlight areas of strength and resilience in the family and promote family growth. A team from UCLA and Harvard Medical School designed the program. Families will work together to strengthen their relationship through a variety of activities designed to compliment the retreat environment and experience.

These retreats are open to service members and their families who have experienced deployment within the last 15 months.

Applications are currently being accepted for all of the retreats coming this year. Interested families should visit www.militaryfamily.org/our-programs/operation-purple/family-retreats/ for further information or to apply.

Congratulations on your promotion!



Jenny L Brown
Justin W McLaughlin



Bryan R McKee
Amadeus J Hill
Michael D Suehr
Rikki E Renkin

Welcome to the 171st

Erika A. Stover
Taylor N. Trautman

Scholarship News from State Headquarters:

Thiel College located out of Greenville, PA is offering two types of scholarships to members of the Pennsylvania National Guard. One full, renewable scholarship, the Pennsylvania Guard Scholar Award includes room and board for the 2010-2011 year. The Unlimited Service Scholarships of up to \$5,000 is awarded to active members of the Pennsylvania Army and Air National Guard who enroll at the institution as full-time students. Applicants wishing to enroll as part-time students may do so for the fractional Service Scholarship for up to \$2,500.

Valley Forge Military Academy and College established the General H. Norman Schwarzkopf '52 Scholarship Program to honor its most respected alumni and military leader. Recipients, "Schwarzkopf Scholars" are awarded tuition, room and board and basic services.

For information on these scholarships, contact 1st Lt. Miller Israel at 717-861-9329 or israel.a.miller@us.army.mil

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Military families get free access to caregiver network

by Elaine Wilson, American Forces Press Service

Military families now have free access to an online network of quality caregivers who can assist with everything from babysitting to dog walking.

Sittercity is the nation's largest online source for local babysitters, nannies, elder care providers, dog walkers, housekeepers and tutors, and contains more than a million caregiver profiles, officials said.

Military members and their families can activate their membership by going to <http://www.sittercity.com/dod>.

The Sittercity Corporate Program, funded by the Defense Department, offers military families -- including active duty, Guard and Reserve -- with a paid membership to the site.

"We believe that access to Sittercity's nationwide network of quality care providers will be highly beneficial to our service members and their families," said Tommy T. Thomas, deputy undersecretary of defense for military community and family policy.

The paid membership enables military families entry to a custom-built Defense Department Web site portal where they can match up caregivers to their situation; gain instant access to caregiver profiles that include background checks, references and reviews; and find military-certified care providers as well as caregivers who are military-subsidized and authorized access to a military installation.

The site will help meet the unique needs of military families as they face deployments, long hours at work and assignments to remote locations, Thomas said.

"Because of the mobile nature of military life, trusted community resources are often difficult to identify and locate," he acknowledged. "These online tools will help service and family members attain the best match between resource and need."

Thomas said servicemembers and their families can rest assured that they're being provided with top-notch care. The site "links military family members with somebody that the Department of Defense says, 'We've entrusted you to provide this service to our people,'" Thomas said.

"If that military member is out on the front line knowing that the family back home has a sense of ease and comfort, life is good for everybody," he added.

While the membership is free, servicemembers will be responsible for the hiring and payment of caregivers, officials said.

Military members and their families can activate their membership by going to www.sittercity.com/dod.

↑ HIGH Flyer

Aircraft: 59-1504
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Sorties Flown: 21

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

Tentative Orientation Flight schedule for 2010 planned

July 15	Educator Flight
August 5	Educator Flight
August 19	Employer Flight
September 23	Spouse Flight
October 14	Clergy Flight
November 12	Veterans Flight

To submit an individual for one of the flights above, please email the following information to Public Affairs, 171.arw.pa@ang.af.mil :

First and Last name, Title, SSN, Phone number, Email address, Sponsor name, Emergency contact and phone number. Priority nominations are given first to current 171st ARW members. Thank you.