



PENNSYLVANIA AIR NATIONAL GUARD Vol. 10, No.6 December 2010 Pittsburgh, PA

Former journalist recalls time on Tanker Times staff

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

Lt. Col. Michele Papakie spent 13 years in public affairs, both as enlisted and an officer. But her work as a reporter stuck with her throughout her career.

Papakie said the production of the publication was much different when she began her career than it is today.

“Back then, there were only two of us in the office, and we had to put out the paper every month,” Papakie said. “Many times, I would bring my two-year old son with me and set him up across the hall in the wing conference room to watch Disney movies with a Happy Meal in the evenings while we worked on the paper.”

She would type articles on a typewriter, run each one through a waxing machine then do a paste up of the paper on a light table, using exacto knives to get the cuts perfectly straight.



Working in a joint unit, Papakie had the opportunity to learn about different equipment and vehicles during her deployment in Afghanistan. (U.S. Air Force Photo by Master Sgt. Ron Heitzenriter)

Many stories are engrained in her memory including the Flight 427 crash in 1994, and crawling into a fuel cell but it was her trip to Ghana with the clinic that was life changing.

“I was tasked to capture the trip, but when we went to a remote location to give vaccinations for a meningitis epidemic, there weren’t enough people to give shots,” Papakie said. “I was given an orange and roll of toilet paper to practice on, then put down my camera and started giving shots myself.”

In 2002, Papakie left public affairs to become the wing military equal opportunity officer, but her experience gained while working in public affairs led Papakie to other opportunities in her civilian career.

She served as the director of public affairs for Chartiers Valley School District, the City of Pittsburgh Bureau of Police and California University of Pennsylvania.

Currently a journalism professor at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Papakie recently returned from a six-month deployment in Afghanistan where she served as the program coordinator for equal opportunity and also sexual assault prevention and response.

“My interviewing skills helped me ask thought provoking questions, take notes quickly and listen to what victims were telling me. Most importantly, I knew remaining objective during a case was imperative,” Papakie said.

Papakie is using her military experience to teach future journalists. She instructs her students how to be both print and online journalists because she knows that is where the industry is headed.

Papakie said “going green” with the Tanker Times is a positive move both financially and to keep up with the progression of news coverage.

“Moving from a push media to a pull media always presents challenges,” said Papakie, “but if I moved from carving the Tac Talk into stone tablets to producing it on a Mac [computer], I guess I can teach myself to read the Tanker Times online.”

Inspection time nears

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

I am elated that our medical group achieved a satisfactory grade in our recent Health Services Inspection (HSI). This is a success in an era of pronounced marginal and unsatisfactory results in Air National Guard HSIs.

The poor HSI results have received the attention of leadership in Washington, D.C. The Readiness Commander has urged Wing Commanders to commit resources from other areas on the base toward the medical group to assist with inspections.

That is exactly what we did. Call it swarm theory. That is, when the colony is disturbed, the colony throws its forces against the disturbance.

Unfortunately, the cost of swarming is expensive in terms of manpower and it draws support away from other areas. What would be better for all of us is to have a right-sized organization that can be inspection ready every day. I believe the string of difficulties we are seeing in HSIs will merit more attention in doing just that.

The medical group's structure has not changed in any significant way since the cold war era. Frequent and large scale deployments have produced a workload that never existed before the 1990s. I expect we will see more changes coming.

A recent surprise was the announcement of a new position being created for every Wing in the Air National Guard. We are getting a Wing Director of Psychological Health. Certainly this is a product of many unfortunate experiences leading to the tragic loss of jobs, families and life.

About the time you are reading this, we should be deep into the final preparation or execution of our Unit Compliance Inspection. At this point, I offer my thanks and appreciation to all of you who made a supreme effort to show our Air Force we are fully trained, prepared and equipped to deliver combat support wherever needed.

Like our Operational Readiness Inspection in 2008, it has been a real effort to fine tune our records and processes. We have sent individuals and teams to other bases and hosted a number of guests to ensure we understand and are implementing our programs and standards in accordance with present requirements, directives and regulations.

As always, show your pride, professionalism and integrity at every opportunity you have. I have deep admiration for what you do and I want to make sure our inspectors feel the same way when they depart. Take them aside and show them your unit, shop or work station and tell them your story of success. They need to hear that from you.

December is the holiday season so enjoy the time with your families and loved ones. Please be safe. At this time of year, fires started in the home by burning candles are at an all time high. Please be very careful and give yourself extra time and slow down during the snow fall. God bless!

Commander's CORNER



The Aircraft Maintenance Squadron 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 | -Willing to attend the following training in short order: |
| -Possess or qualify for a secret security clearance | -Commissioning (8 weeks) |
| -Comfortable speaking in public and leading diverse groups | -Aircraft Maintenance Officer Course (10 weeks) |

More training to follow which will include: maintenance and personnel management procedures, and organizational and mission requirements; capabilities, limitations, and basic operating principles of aircraft systems and components; theory of flight and airframe construction; life cycle sustainment, quality assurance; supply, transportation, logistics plans, contracting, flying operations, munitions, and other unit operations related to aircraft maintenance units.

Interviews will be held during February UTA. To apply for this position, forward a resume to Lt. Col. Mark Goodwill and Capt. James Weber no later than Feb. 2. For questions call 412-776-7598 or e-mail:

Mark.Goodwill@ang.af.mil or James.Weber.2@ang.af.mil

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Even one is too many

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

For this month's article, I borrowed from a recent article that Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force, James A. Roy wrote. I feel that this is an important message and I couldn't say it any better. It's not a total quote, but almost and I wanted to make sure credit was given where credit is due. This message is also appropriate to keep in mind beyond the military aspect.

An alarming trend is happening in our Air Force, and we need your help. We've had a drastic increase this year in the number of suicides among our total force Airmen – active duty, guard, reserve and civilians. Last year we lost 84 Airmen to suicide; this year, we already nearly reached that number by October. Even one suicide is too many!

We must take immediate action and get involved. We need to look out for each other and understand that we're not alone. Be ready and willing to assist your Wingman and ask for help when you need it. We must all take the time to care about those around us. That's what good Wingmen do, and that's what our Air Force needs.

Supervisors at every level must act now. Get to know your Airmen better and understand their personal and professional challenges. This is not a time to sit idle and think this won't happen in your unit. No one is immune. Suicides range the spectrum of ages, locations, MAJCOMs and career fields. The two most common factors we've seen are problems with relationships and finances.

We need to be good Wingmen for others, and also need to develop and maintain trusted relationships and friendships where we can talk openly and honestly about things happening in our own lives. We need to feel comfortable exchanging ideas, views and experiences with those who are closest to us. There is always someone available for you.

So many people care about you – more than you may think; family, friends, co-workers, supervisors, first sergeants, commanders, chaplains, medical professionals and senior leaders are ready and willing to listen and help. Just give them a chance. Don't ever think you are alone or that no one will understand. We will understand, and we will help you. It doesn't matter whether you write, call or e-mail, please reach out. We are an Air Force family and you mean a lot to all of us. If you feel you are at the end of your road, you are not – talk with someone. We care about you and will ensure you receive the help you need.

You should never be afraid of seeking help for fear of reprisal. Our lives should be the priority. The Air Force also has many resources to help. Military and family life consultants, chaplains and medical professionals are all available. Also, Military One Source counselors are always available by calling 800-342-9647 or visiting www.militaryonesource.com.

With everyone's help, we can and must step up and reverse this devastating trend. Even one suicide is too many.



Briefs FYI

Poster Contest

Effective January 1, 2010, Ground Safety at the National Guard Bureau is starting an Air National Guard poster program. They will use photos and slogans submitted by ANG units. You can contact public affairs for photography support. If you have good photos, slogans or ideas contact the safety office at 412-776-7377.



It is important everyone remember military customs and courtesies during the inspection and with visitors on base. Be sure your cover (hat) is on and off at the appropriate times and places. Also, covers DO NOT belong on the tables in the dining facility for sanitary and health safety reasons. First impressions are important, so show your military excellence.

For more information on uniform standards and changes, visit www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/dress/index.asp

Estimated pay date for the December UTA:
December 15

Estimated pay date for the December SUTA:
December 21

For questions or more information:

National Suicide Prevention 1-800-273-8255 www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org	Military OneSource 1-800-342-9647 www.militaryonesource.com
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RETIREE OFFICE
300 Tanker Road #4210, Coraopolis, PA
15108-4210
412-776-7587,
FAX: 412-776-7441
george.manown@ang.af.mil/
gmanown@gmail.com

The first 171st /112th luncheon for 2011 will be Jan. 17 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 hardcopy after December 2010, keep this page of the newsletter as a personal reminder, or read the Tanker Times at www.171arw.ang.af.mil.

A note on TRICARE regarding child health care coverage, I have not received any further information since our last newsletter. If I get any news, I will put it in the January edition.

We extend our sympathies to the friends and family of Maj. Gen. Robert G. Christjohn, who passed away on Nov. 4, 2010. The general began his career in the Iowa ANG, where he flew the F-102. In January of 1982, Gen. Christjohn came to Pittsburgh and became the Wing Commander of the 171st Air Refueling Wing. In January, 1993, he went on to become the Pennsylvania National Guard, Deputy Adjutant General for Air. In April, 1995, Maj. Gen. Christjohn retired from this position and returned to Iowa. We are grateful for his leadership to the unit, and his service to our country.

Congratulations to our recent retirees: Maj. Robert D. Hartshorn; Master Sgt. John M. Cima; Master Sgt. David Scarsella; and Master Sgt. Cheryl A. Shirley. Welcome to retirement, and if we can provide any assistance to you, give us a call.

That's it for now, so for the Retirees Office, we hope you have a great holiday season.

"By Law" may miss intended beneficiaries

by Lt. Col. Tom Jess, JAG

If you have designated your Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) benefits to be distributed "By Law," do you know who would receive the insurance proceeds upon your death? Chances are you don't.

Most service members understand the value of being able to leave up to \$400,000 to their loved ones via their SGLI benefit. Many, however, unknowingly put at risk their intended beneficiaries' ability to collect payment from the policy. When writing "By Law" as the policy's beneficiary, you give up (or "forfeit") control of the distribution of the proceeds and open the door to claims, disputes and potentially lengthy litigation by third parties claiming to be beneficiaries under the "By Law" distribution scheme.

When you use a "By Law" beneficiary designation on your SGLI policy, a court may end up interpreting the distribution of your benefit using definitions from the SGLI statute and state laws. As these laws vary from state to state, the legal definition of terms like "spouse", "child", "parent", and "next of kin" may not be the same as you intend. For instance, the term "parent" generally does not include foster parents or stepparents. An actual case of a member who died on active duty with "By Law" as the beneficiary designation for SGLI illustrates this point. For his entire military career, the member had sent monthly allotments to the foster parents who raised him. Yet on his death, his SGLI proceeds went not to the "parents" he intended but to the drug-addicted natural mother who had abandoned him as a child. Without a specific indication of who you intend to be your beneficiary, no one can confidently predict how a "By Law" designation will be distributed.

Don't leave the distribution of this valuable benefit to chance. Take a few minutes to specifically name your intended beneficiaries of your SGLI policy. Review the beneficiaries you have listed regularly--when you permanently change station, prepare to deploy, or whenever circumstances affecting your family arise, such as a birth, death, marriage, divorce or separation. This responsible approach best ensures the proceeds from your SGLI policy are distributed in a timely manner only to those who you wish to receive payment.

If you have any questions pertaining to your SGLI benefits, please visit your military personnel flight or a legal assistance attorney.

Treasures for Children

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

RECRUITER ZONE

You have just entered the ...
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!

 Caleb Dorman Lindey Pucel Candice Cook Derek Papakie	 Erika Stover
 Jeffrey Johnson	 Kreig Williams Daniel Novak Emmanuel Ilagan Jr. Keith Crytzer Scott Nagel Michael Donovan

Welcome New Recruits

Conor Shanley Dominic Carrera Kaitlyn Falbo Bradley Jones Michael Howze	Lyndon Ramsey Victor Beckley Megan McBane Erin McBane
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Special note from Senior Master Sgt. Cheryl Guandolo:
 Thanks to everyone who contributed to the Breast Cancer fundraiser this past month. A special thanks to Maj. Kacey Boyle, Senior Master Sgt. Maureen Foley, Master Sgt. Monica Heyl, Airman 1st Class Brittany Hutsler, and Student Flight members Paul Woziak and Michael Ladakos for organizing it all.

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

Since 2003, the 171st has flown approximately 23,000 Bravo missions and offloaded more than 80 million gallons of fuel supporting missions abroad.

The POL (Petroleum, Oils and Lubricants) flight, processes every gallon of fuel that is offloaded from the Pittsburgh fleet.

"I can honestly say we're the busiest guard unit in the country," said Senior Master Sgt. John Statzer, fuels superintendent.

Supporting the 'Air Bridge' or Bravo mission, along with the Alpha alert line and other daily missions, POL processes an average of one million gallons of fuel a month. Members staff the shop for 19 hours everyday to keep up with the workload.

In addition to their Air Force training, flight members bring additional skills to complete the mission.

"I think if you look around, a lot of us come from different backgrounds or work areas," said Staff. Sgt. Dominique Clerkley.

As a traditional, Clerkley was manager for Ashland Oil Company. He said he developed leadership skills in his civilian career that helped him excel as the support manager for the flight.

Clerkley is responsible for the flight members' training and readiness because he said deployment experience is an integral part of the flight's success.

"The guys we have here deployed overseas numerous times, so when we have a new Airman in the shop, we can share our experiences here and abroad."

Staff Sgt. Donald Lewis is responsible for the accountability of incoming and outgoing fuel.

"Attention to detail is crucial to keeping track of our resources," said Lewis. Ensuring the fuel quality is also one of the most important of their daily tasks.

"If a plane was to go down, the first thing to look at would be the quality of the fuel," said Lewis.

Statzer said, it's the younger Airmen of POL that are the future of the flight. Currently the oldest member of the flight was born in 1958. By 2018, there will be a 100 percent turnover and oldest POL member will have been born in 1975.

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Retirement or Separation

You can't believe it has been at least 20 years since you were in basic training and wondering what in the world was I thinking! Now is time to say good-bye and transition into that new career you've been dreaming about. Remember you don't have to wait until drill weekend to begin the separation/retirement process. You can start the process at home with online services. Go to virtual Personnel Center – Guard and Reserve (vPC-GR) to submit a voluntary separation discharge/resignation or retirement application. You can access vPC-GR from the AF Portal, www.my.af.mil, under the top portal links section.

Electronic Military Personnel Records

Please remember that our electronic records are now available and you can access them 24/7 from your home with a CAC reader. Just use the Personnel Record Display Application (PRDA) to view and/or print forms from your official military personnel record. You can access PRDA from the AF Portal, www.my.af.mil, under the top portal links section.

HIGH Flyer

Aircraft: 59-1523
 Hours Flown: 54.9
 Sorties Flown: 12

Falcon's Spirit

Crew chiefs: Fran Startare, Seth Bradley, Justin Jones, Christina Stehr and Chad McMillen

No more printed and mailed Tanker Times

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 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.

'Burghers Beat... "What's your favorite holiday tradition?"



**Senior Airman
 Mike Dunn**

*Maintenance Group
 "Christmas dinner
 with my whole entire
 family."*



**Staff Sgt.
 Jim Theobald**

*Supply Squadron
 "Visiting family and
 catching up on stories
 on Christmas Eve and
 Christmas day."*



Capt. Pauline Hutsler

*Medical Group
 "I love spending
 Thanksgiving at my par-
 ents. We all bring our
 own part of the meal."*



Owen Barrette

*Student Flight
 "The Turkey Bowl on
 Thanksgiving."*

*(U.S. Air Force photos by
 Master Sgt. Stacey Barkey)*