PENNSYLVANIA AIR NATIONAL GUARD Vol. 10, No.9 March 2011 Pittsburgh, PA

First female chaplain serves 171st

Staff Sgt. Ivyann Castillo
Public Affairs

The 171st Chaplain's office presented its first female chaplain, 1st Lt. Kristi Linn Hopp making the section a well-diverse spiritual office that also includes Capt. Sung Lee, the first Korean chaplain at the Pittsburgh unit and Maj. Jonathan Bell.

Chaplain Hopp is not only new to the unit, but also new to military life, as she joined in November 2010, and waits to attend commissioned officer training as well as the basic chaplain's course at the Air Force Chaplain Corps College in Ft. Jackson, S.C.

"It's funny I am still trying to learn the appropriate customs as well as trying to learn how to put this uniform on correctly," Hopp said smiling. "But I am very eager and excited to begin my official training."

Her first military influence was not only having several of her family members in the service but also having an academic influence. Several of her professors were retired military chaplains at the Methodist Theological School in Columbus, Ohio where she was studying for her master's degree in Divinity and Counseling.

"As I was attending school for my graduate studies, the professors would talk about what they did as chaplains, and how their role was important in helping the troops during times of need," Hopp said.

After also interning as a chaplain at the Veteran Assistance Hospitals in Coatesville, Pa., then in Pittsburgh for almost two years, she felt it was her divine calling to join the military to help give spiritual guidance to military members.

"In our school we are assigned a mentor, and Chaplain Jonathan Bell was mine," said Hopp smiling. "After talking with him and praying about it, he helped me sign up and the next thing I know I am here."

"I wanted to help our people who are serving, and I also wanted to serve my country," Hopp said proudly.

"In this field, I was always the minority being a female whether it was attending school, interning or being a pastor at my civilian church," Hopp said. "I am used to being part of a female minority but it never affects how I help people."

"However, from what I see, women in ministry is slowly increasing," states Hopp.

Hopp is a pastor in three different churches: Charleroi United Methodist Church, Webster Methodist Church and Monessen United Methodist Church which keeps her very busy during non-military duty days as with most chaplains.

So if you happen to go into the chaplain's office or attend one of the Protestant services and see a caring, polite and kind-natured person, Chaplain Hopp is always eager to help along with the other chaplains to give you spiritual guidance.

"I want to be there for everyone in this unit as well as be here for my responsibilities as a military chaplain," Hopp stated.

1st Lt. Kristi Hopp, the newest addition to the 171st Chaplain's Office, will perform the Protestant service Sunday of March drill weekend. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Stacey Barkey)

Mission continues with fewer resources

Commander's CORNER

by Brig. Gen. Roy Uptegraff, Wing Commander

At the end of last month, I had the opportunity to once again gather with all the chairmen of the ANG's weapon system councils and learn what is going on, what is needed, and what to expect as we go forward.

The over-arching issue, as always, is the challenge of getting the resources to ensure we can accomplish the mission. For example, the FY 2011 fiscal continuing resolution for the funding of our government has been very costly to the Department of Defense. Essentially, we are operating on a budget that was built for the year 2010; not 2011.

Recently, our Secretary of Defense Robert Gates sat down with the cadets at West Point and offered some of his insight as the SecDef. Here are a few of his comments I would like to share:

> *We can't know with absolute certainty what the future of warfare will hold, but we do know it will be exceedingly complex, unpredictable, and – as they say in the staff colleges – 'unstructured. Just think about the range of security challenges we face right now beyond Iraq and Afghanistan: terrorism and terrorists in search of weapons of mass destruction, Iran, North Korea, military modernization programs in Russia and China, failed and failing states, revolution in the Middle East, cyber, piracy, proliferation, natural and man-made disasters, and more.*
>
> *And I must tell you, when it comes to predicting the nature and location of our next military engagements, since Vietnam, our record has been perfect. We have never once gotten it right, from the Mayaguez to Grenada, Panama, Somalia, the Balkans, Haiti, Kuwait, Iraq, and more – we had no idea a year before any of these missions that we would be so engaged.*
>
> *There has been an overwhelming tendency of our defense bureaucracy to focus on preparing for future high-end conflicts – priorities often based, ironically, on what transpired in the last century – as opposed to the messy fights in Iraq and Afghanistan.*

So, there you have it. My top responsibility is to ensure you are trained, equipped and prepared for whatever tasking comes to the 171st. With a tight budget promised for FY 2012 just eight months away, I have noticed the National Guard Bureau is taking a greater look at how we train. Is it cost effective?

Look for more research and development in what is referred to as Immersive Training. That is, what can we do with the use of computer simulation and online connectivity to enhance training and reduce costs? It is becoming an economic necessity due to an increasing and appalling level of government debt.

Though we did see great news that the Air Force has picked a next generation tanker to eventually replace the KC-135, we do know it will take many years to effectively field it. Expect no changes at Pittsburgh for the time being.

At the upcoming drills, and as I discussed at Commanders Call last month, you are going to see and participate in training directed toward ensuring success at our ORI in 2012.

In May, we are going to have a sizeable cargo loading exercise. Let's be safe, on board and smart about ramping up for the 2012 inspection. Lots of changes in the way we do business will occur, but we are champions of flexibility and the nation's backstop. Thanks for what you do.

"Editorial Staff"

Brigadier General Roy E. Uptegraff, III, Commander

171st Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs Office: Capt. Dicie Hritz

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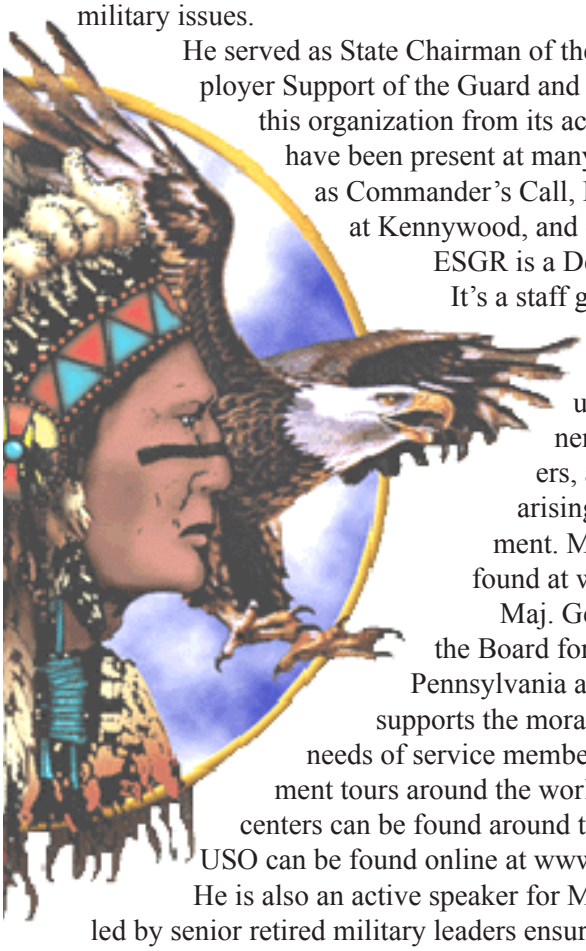
Changing of the guard

by Command Chief Master Sgt. Vic Guerra

We have another changing of the guard. Gov. Tom Corbett was inaugurated as the 46th Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on January 18, 2011. Gov. Corbett nominated Maj. Gen. Wesley E. Craig to be Adjutant General of Military and Veterans' Affairs on February 3rd.

Maj. Gen. Craig assumed his duties as Acting Adjutant General of the Pennsylvania National Guard on February 14, 2011. He is "Acting" Adjutant General for the time being since his nomination, as well as all of Gov. Corbett's nominees to cabinet-level positions, requires confirmation by Pennsylvania's Senate.

Maj. Gen. Craig retired in 2006 from the Pennsylvania Army National Guard as Commanding General, 28th Infantry Division, with close to 40 years of military service. He held several other senior-level command positions such as Deputy Commander, 28th Infantry Division; Commander, 56th Mechanized Infantry Brigade, and Commander, 1st Squadron, 104th Armored Calvary. After retiring, Maj. Gen. Craig stayed active in military issues.



He served as State Chairman of the Pennsylvania Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve. Many of you may recognize this organization from its acronym, ESGR. ESGR representatives have been present at many of the wing's various functions such as Commander's Call, Family Day, Military Appreciation Day at Kennywood, and during our pre-deployment briefings. ESGR is a Department of Defense organization. It's a staff group within the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs. It promotes cooperation and understanding between Reserve component members and their civilian employers, and assists in the resolution of conflicts arising from an employee's military commitment. More information about ESGR can be found at www.esgr.org.

Maj. Gen. Craig also serves as Chairman of the Board for the United Service Organizations, of Pennsylvania and Southern New Jersey. The USO supports the morale, welfare, social and entertainment needs of service members and their families. Their entertainment tours around the world are well known and numerous USO centers can be found around the world. More information about the USO can be found online at www.uso.org.

He is also an active speaker for Mission: Readiness, an organization led by senior retired military leaders ensuring continued American security and prosperity by calling for smart investments in the upcoming generation of American children. More information on Mission: Readiness can be found at missionreadiness.org.

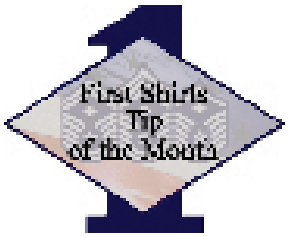
I look forward to meeting and working with Maj. Gen. Craig in the future as our new Adjutant General. As you can see, he has devoted his career to serving and supporting our nation, and our military. More on Maj. Gen. Craig and the Pennsylvania National Guard can be found at www.pa.ng.mil.

Briefs FYI

Events

2011 PNGAS Conference

The 2011 PNGAS Conference will be held March 31 to April 3 at the Lancaster Host Resort and Conference Center. On-line registration is available until March 27 and interested individuals can register at http://www.pngas.net/events/event_login.asp?id=137676 or contact Rosie Bruner at register@pngcldw.org.



The metal pin rank is no longer permitted to be worn on the light blue jacket for enlisted airmen. Rank must be worn using only the chevron rank ensignia sewn on the sleeves.

A white embroidered Air Force logo is authorized on the top left half of the light blue jacket but is not required. Airmen must have the jacket zippered 3/4 when wearing it.

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

Estimated pay date for the March **UTA**:
March 15

Estimated pay date for the March **SUTA**:
March 23

Camraderie through cyberspace

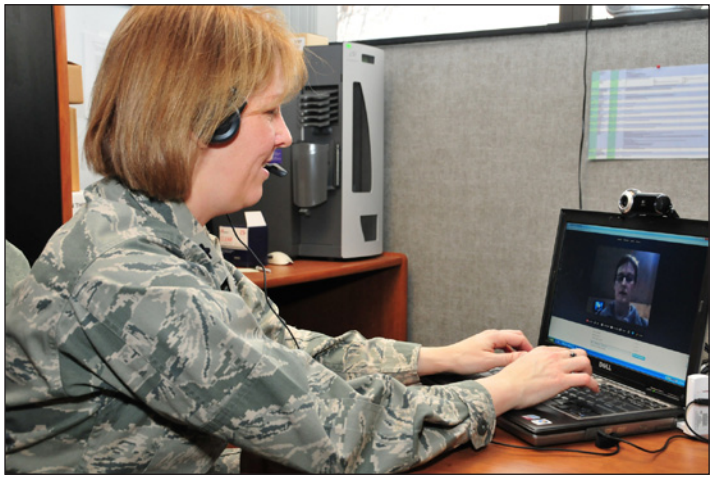
Tech. Sgt. Stacy Gault
Staff Sgt. Ivyann Castillo
Public Affairs

Advanced technology has made communication easier for deployed members to keep in touch and connected to their families. This can be a great blessing and challenge at the same time.

"I was so happy and lucky to have the means to contact my family at home but it was also challenging because I was still involved in the daily things like checking on my son and making sure bills were paid," said Lt. Col. Michele Papakie, inspector general, 171st Air Refueling Wing.

Throughout history, when troops were away at war the only real form of communication was letter writing and possibly a radio/telephone patch.

"During Vietnam, if weather conditions allowed it and after hours of waiting for your turn, we could contact our families back home with a radio that was patched to an operator who would call the residence," said retired Chief Master Sgt. Raymond Dougherty, Papakie's father and former 171st Air Refueling member.



Lt. Col. Michele Papakie communicates with Maj. Karen Knoerdel, who is currently deployed to Balad, Iraq, through Skype and other forms of new technology. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Ann Young)

"It was funny in a way because we still had to use radio etiquette by saying the word 'over' after you spoke in order for the other person to respond," laughed Dougherty. "My mother didn't know that so the line was open for awhile the first time we spoke."

Now with the changing times, communication is readily available. Defense Switched Network line patches, telephone centers, e-mails, social media like Facebook and Skype allows service members to not only talk to their family and friends but also see them through a web cam. This makes keeping in touch with loved ones a lot easier.

"I was able to celebrate my birthday with my family while I was overseas through Skype, and we had a good time making jokes with one other," said Michele Papakie.

Airman 1st Class Derek Papakie, Lt. Col. Papakie's son, said the ability to see his mom and talk to her was very comforting during her six-month deployment.

"When I bought my new cell phone, it was great because I had the Skype application right on my phone and could talk to her any time," said Derek Papakie.

He said Facebook was also a great tool because they could leave notes for each other at their convenience without worrying about the time difference.

"If I had something to tell her, I could without being connected at the same time." It was the longest deployment Michele and Derek Papakie had been away from each other.

But again it can be difficult on both ends since they can't physically touch each other; they can only see one another on the surface.

"I am always excited to see my family but again when we finish our conversations, and I exited out of Skype, I would miss them even more," continues Michele Papakie.

"It is a new convenience and you get used to it," said Derek Papakie, "But when the Internet was down in Afghanistan or you had a weak connection, it can be nerve-racking to be disconnected." Despite the downfalls of new technology, he insists it's better than relying on just letters.

In any case communicating with family is still a necessity especially if you are deployed. With so many accessible avenues, to have that connection and either see a new toddler take its first steps or just be a comforting voice, ensures you can be a part of your families' lives and ensures your safety to your loved ones at the home front.

Senior Airman Derek Papakie hugs his mom, Lt. Col. Michele Papakie as she returned from her six-month deployment to Afghanistan.She was also welcomed by her friends and family at the Pittsburgh International Airport. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Stacy Gault)

Flight BEHIND THE Fight

171st Legal Office

Tech. Sgt. Todd McFeeley
Public Affairs

The base legal office furnishes advice on subjects, both military or civilian in nature. The services provided are available to all members of the 171st Air Refueling Wing and their family members.

"Deployment issues take priority and after that we provide as much legal assistance to our unit members as possible," said Master Sgt. Jim Spagel, 171 ARW legal office.

"The Staff Judge Advocate, Lt. Col. Tom Jess, is the legal advisor to the wing commander, which is our number one function. Number two is we provide legal assistance to all the members to prepare them for deployments. Will preparations, powers of attorney, or any other assistance they need prior to the deployment."

Any consultation you may have with the Staff Judge Advocate or staff office personnel, concerning legal matters is confidential. Your discussion will be private, and held in the strictest confidence. Any information which you may discuss will not be disclosed to others without consent.

Before adequate advice can be given on any question, the legal assistance officer needs all the facts pertaining to your legal problem. In order to ensure that all the facts are revealed, you should bring any documents or correspondence you may have concerning the situation. It may also be wise to make a checklist of facts and questions you would like to discuss, this will help insure that you leave the legal office with all of your questions answered.

The legal office focuses its resources to provide legal assistance primarily for mobilization and pre-deployment issues.

Some of the services provided by the base legal office are: notary services, powers of attorney, basic wills, advanced medical care directives (such as medical powers of attorney), dependent care directives, Service member Civil Relief Act (SCRA), Uniformed Service member's Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) advice and casualty affairs assistance.

The legal office staff is authorized to provide limited legal advice on issues such as: divorce, child custody, child support, adoption, consumer affairs, landlord-tenant issues, financial responsibility and taxes.

The office consists of all traditional guardsmen. "When we do our additional days we post the dates to make everyone aware when we are in during the week," said Spagel.

The office of the Staff Judge Advocate is open for appointments as follows:

Saturday and Sunday of the primary drill weekend, 8 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.

"We provide tax assistance and notary services free of charge to our members," said Tech. Sgt. Lisa Miller, 171 ARW legal office.

Senior Airman Mark Kamyk, from finance, completed tax assistance training and he will be doing taxes in the legal office until April 18th.

Senior Airman Kamyk is available every Thursday and Friday for tax assistance. Scheduling for tax assistance can be done by visiting Y:\Wing\JAG\VITAschedule.

Tech. Sgt. Lisa Miller prepares the paperwork for Senior Airman Mark Kamyk's will, a service provided by the legal office. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Stacey Barkey)

YRRP
YELLOW RIBBON
REINTEGRATION PROGRAM

Save the date:
When: May 6, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. (times approximate)
What: Mandatory Yellow Ribbon Pre-Deployment Briefing
Who: 171st Deploying Unit member scheduled to deploy from May - Dec for 30 days or more, and a designated family member (spouse or parent)
Where: TBD
Why: Congressionally mandated, information for servicemember and designated family member for deployment assistance.

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 next 171st/112th luncheon is April 18.

Congratulations to our recent retiree's: Lt. Cols. Gregory Dongilli and Kevin Amsrud; and Master Sgt. Deborah Vadas. Welcome to retirement, and if we can provide any assistance to you, give us a call, 412-776-7587.

We extend our sympathies to the friends and families of Chief Master Sgt. Robert H. Brodt who passed away on Feb. 4 and Senior Master Sgt. Louis E. Saltzer who passed away on Jan. 27. Both men served faithfully until their retirement at the 171st Air Refueling Wing.

It has been brought to our attention that an organization called "Veterans Affairs Services" has been contacting veterans for their personal information for illegal purposes. They are gaining access to military personnel through their close resemblance to the VA name and seal. Be cautious when you are asked for information, make sure you are comfortable with who you are giving it to.

TRICARE: To qualify for TRICARE Standard/Extra at age 60, a member must complete 20 years of complete service. For questions about coverage or more information, contact our office.

So for the 171st Retirees Office, we hope you continue to have a great retirement year.

Don't let friends check-out where you 'check-in'

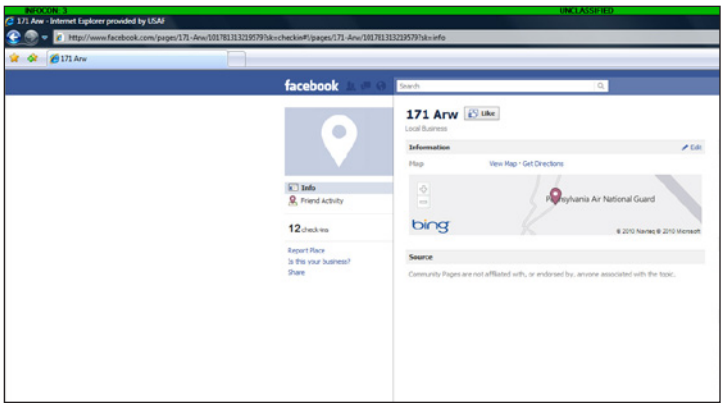
By Lt. Col. Jim Brown
OPSEC Officer

As I briefed at last drill's Commander's Call, location-based social networking is quickly growing in popularity. A variety of applications are capitalizing on users' desire to broadcast their geographic location.

The increased popularity of these applications is changing the way we as a digital culture view security and privacy on an individual level. These changes in perception are also creating OPSEC concerns on an Air Force and Air National Guard level.

Airmen **SHOULD NOT** use location-based social networking applications when deployed, at training or while on duty at locations where presenting exact grid coordinates could damage operations. It is advised the GPS function is turned off on personal cell phones during operations, especially in a deployed environment.

Recently it was discovered that unit members are using Facebook Places to "check-in" at the base. It is a reminder that threats such as this can occur and affect home operations. Members should not use Facebook to show their location while on military status, this includes the 171st Air Refueling Wing.



You have just entered the ...

RECRUITER ZONE

Our Recruiting Team -- (412) 776-7495

Master Sgts. Sue Smith and Skip Powell, Tech. Sgt. John Frazier, Staff Sgts. Shayla Pollard and Lindsey Duncan and Airman 1st Class Lisa Weiss

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

Retention Corner

Master Sgt. Don Schauer
Staff Sgt. Elizabeth Simoneau

The education fair held at February's Commander's Call was a huge success! Unit members were able to get information from 15 colleges and universities offering accelerated programs geared toward military members. If you were not able to speak with all of the institutions you are interested in, please stop by the retention office for more information on programs.

Special Note on Post 9/11 GI-Bill (Chapter 33) Title 32 time: currently, the VA is not accepting any Title 32 orders and the retention office has not yet received guidance on how members can apply Title 32 time toward Chapter 33 eligibility. The retention office will disseminate guidance to the Wing as soon as it becomes available.

Also, please note, if you are planning to transfer your Chapter 33 benefit to your spouse and/or child/children, DO NOT WAIT! Beginning August 2012, all members will incur a 4-year service commitment from the day they elect to transfer the benefit regardless of their time in service. Members will continue to be ineligible to transfer their benefits once they have separated from the Armed Forces.

Unit members had the opportunity to speak with representatives from 15 different educational instituations from Western Pennsylvania during the 2011 Commanders Call. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Stacey Barkey)

Welcome New Recruits

Eric Cook
Matthew Ford
Benjamin Lybrook
Matthew Nance
Heather Sikina

Congratulations on your promotion!

Staff Sgt. Gregory R. Woodard

Help Wanted

Career air liaison officer positions

The 148th Air Support Operations Squadron, Fort Indiantown Gap, has traditional Guardsmen officer vacancies for career (non-rated) air liaison officer positions (13LXU). We are accepting applications from non-rated officers in the grade of O-3 and below or enlisted personnel qualified for commissioning. This is a male only battlefield airman career field. Previous Tactical Air Control Party (TACP), Joint Terminal Attack Controller (JTAC), or Combat Arms experience highly desired. Interested applicants must send a letter of intent, resume, and current physical fitness test scores to both Capt. Curtis Mulkey (curtis.mulkey@ang.af.mil) and 2nd Lt. Shawn Bearinger (shawn.bearinger@ang.af.mil) or mail 1-520 O'Neil Street; Annville, PA 17003 by May 6. Questions can be directed to Capt. Curtis Mulkey or 2nd. Lt. Shawn Bearinger via e-mail or call 717-861-1152, DSN 423-1152.

Safety apprentice wanted

Safety specialists assist in managing and conducting safety programs to include mishap prevention, hazard abatement, confined space, lockout/tagout, materials handling, fall protection, machine guarding, personal protective equipment, trenching and excavation, electrical safety, explosives safety, traffic safety and aviation ground operations.

Applicants must have a prior qualification at the 5-skill level in any AFSC, an AFQT minimum score of 55. 3-level technical school is seven weeks at Lackland AFB and 7-level technical school is three weeks. Interested personnel contact the ground safety manager 412-776-7377 or Judith.mcgrath@ang.af.mil.

HIGH Flyer

Aircraft: 58-0112
Hours Flown: 73.8
Sorties Flown: 25

Crew chiefs: Master Sgt. Charlie Kuhn, Tech. Sgt. Jason Houk, Staff Sgts. Joshua Johnson & Bryant Balash and Airman 1st Class Aaron Snyder.

Burghers' Beat... "Why are you looking forward to Spring?"

Master Sgt. ScottLaRue

Medical Group

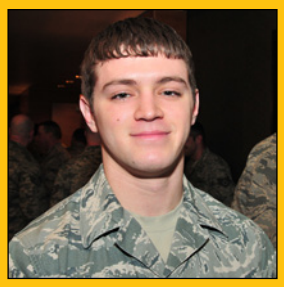
"I'm looking forward to baseball season. I'm a big Red Sox Fan."

(U.S. Air Force photos by Staff Sgt. Sara Kaufman)

Staff Sgt. Anthony Richards

Civil Engineering

"I'm looking forward to the warm weather since I just came from Al Udied not long ago and it was hot there. It's hard to get used to the cold in Pittsburgh."



Airman 1st Class Nick Endres

Medical Group

"I'm looking forward to this college semester being over and starting my summer job as a camp counselor and wrestling director at Summer's Best Two Weeks sports camp."

Senior Airman Courtney Hoberek and Staff Sgt. Ashley Moore

Logistic Readiness Squadron and Operations

"We are looking forward to playing softball together because we used to play together in high school."

What were your thoughts about the 2011 Dining Out?

Share your opinions by completing the survey at http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/27LCLFP