Contrail

March 2012, Vol. 46, No. 3

Say Yes

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Senior Airman Matthew Flores, Munitions Systems Specialist with the 177th Fighter Wing, proposes to his girlfriend, Corrine Peterla, after returning to the 177th on Feb. 24. For Peterla's answer turn to page 6. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Andrew Moseley, 177FW/PA)

Chaplain's Corner

Staying close to God

By Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Dean Wentzien

Isaiah 41:10-14

As children of the Most High, we are called to walk with Him whether circumstances are delightful or difficult. Both can be challenging.

In times of relative ease, we may lose sight of how dependent we are on God. Of course, we still desperately need His direction and care, but pleasant "seasons" can cloud that reality and lull us into a self-sufficient mindset. To prevent this, we should discipline ourselves to fill our minds with God's Word, pray for direction, and listen for His answer.

Strenuous times, on the other hand, can draw us to our Creator for sustenance and help. With Christ by our side, we can walk fearlessly through any situation. As the Lord warned, hardship is inevitable (John 16:33). Yet we have a choice about how to respond. We can either let painful situations trigger increased dependence upon the Lord, or we can allow doubt, depression, and anger to fill us.

The Lord promises to give all that we need to endure difficulty well. Our responsibility is to stay by His side, follow where He leads, and obey even when we don't like or understand what is happening. Our goal should align with the apostle Paul's: "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith" (2 Timothy 4:7).

Where are you today - in the midst of a trial or pleasant circumstances? Be aware of temptations like discouragement or apathy that could pull you away from a close walk with your heavenly Father. When you emerge from this period, will you be able to say with Paul that you finished well?

Energy Plan

Global Vigilance, Reach, and Power at home and abroad require vast amounts of energy - whether it is fuel for our aircraft, gas for our vehicles, or electricity for our space and cyberspace efforts. As the largest energy user in the federal government, the Air Force must find ways to reduce our energy consumption, especially given the current economic environment. To ensure Airmen always have reliable, secure access to energy when and where the mission requires, we will pursue an energy posture that is resilient, robust, and ready to support our global missions.

-- Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz

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A Message from the Wing Commander

Hello All,

Well this is my last Contrail…it's hard to believe that I'm done with my time here as a Jersey Devil. I've been in our unit since 1990 and I never imagined the day would come when I'd have to move on…but of course that's the fact of life. We have all been through so much together and especially the last three years during my tenure as wing commander. I'd like to take some time to recap what we have accomplished together over those three years and then say thanks. Let's start with inspections: the Phase 1 and 2 Operational Readiness Inspections, three Alert Force Evaluations, an Environmental, Safety And Occupational Health Compliance Assessment And Management Program Inspection; a Joint Staff Integrated Vulnerability Assessment Inspection, a Standards/Evaluation Inspection and an Air Traffic System Evaluation Inspection to name the major ones. We flew more than 11,400 hours of incident free flying hours in support of daily training, two major aircraft deployments, two air expeditionary force deployments and seven operational readiness exercise's. Thanks to your combined efforts we ensured mission accomplishment. We rescued our neighbors across the state during storms, floods and a hurricane. Our firefighters and explosive ordnance disposal team helped the surrounding communities on several occasions. We deployed 1,022 people to 38 different locations in 18 different countries. We are a big part of the reason our enemies don't sleep well and we have never lost a unit member in combat! We hosted three airshows providing a glimpse of our mission to almost three million people! We accomplished an aircraft conversion and, if you include 2008, we accomplished two of them. We also accomplished major home station modifications to our aircraft keeping them viable for combat. We built a new headquarters, an air support operations squadron facility, a munitions administration building, new end of runway ramps, an operations vault second to none, and yes, finally, a running track! Again if you include 2008 we also built a new alert facility!

Airmen of the 177th Fighter Wing Aerospace Expeditionary Forces who deployed to Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom December 2011 thru February 2012, are greeted as they step off of the plane on Feb. 24. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Andrew Moseley, 177th Fighter Wing Public

As I write this I simply can't believe that you did all that. And you did it all safely under all conditions. Our nation owes a debt of gratitude that can never be repaid! All I can say is I am so grateful to be part of such a winning and successful team. A million thanks to all of you!

I want to close by giving you all some advice and things to think about in no particular order. First, never forget that you are less than one percent of our country and always remember that you represent the military to the American public. Make them proud in all you do. I want you to know that I believe you have been set with an incredible leadership team and I am proud to say that this is the first time in the unit's history that I see things just continually getting better because we have a deep bench of good leaders. That's not to say that things are going to be easy, because the Guard and Air Force are getting smaller, and no one knows what the end state will be. But I know the Wing will be in good hands and that you have leadership that understands the value of our people and the importance of upholding the Air Force core values. I know things are not perfect and we have our areas that need improvement. But when you are tempted to complain, I ask you to instead offer a solution. My last point is about camaraderie…again I know things can sometimes be tough, but I guarantee you there is no organization, anywhere on the planet, that approaches the camaraderie of the military. This really is the best way of life. Take care of each other, best of luck in all you do and know I'll be there for the Wing!

Have a safe drill.

ROBERT C. BOLTON
Colonel, NJANG
Commander

177th FW Change of Command Ceremony

March 11, 2012
10 A.M. Main Hangar

177TH AEF RETURNS HOME

Family, friends and 177th Fighter Wing personnel gather to celebrate the return of the 177th Fighter Wing Aerospace Expeditionary Forces from Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, on Feb. 24. The Airmen deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom from December 2011 thru February 2012. (U.S. Air Force photos by Master Sgt. Andrew Moseley, 177th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)

Say Yes

Story and photos by
Master Sgt. Andrew Moseley,
177th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

I could hardly see through the viewfinder.

The raw emotions of the onlookers were palpable for 360 degrees.

On the early morning of Feb. 24, Senior Airman Matthew Flores returned home from a two-month deployment to Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, and he still had one more important mission to accomplish...proposing to his girlfriend Corinne Peterla.

While everyone's tears were welling up, he was smiling widely and knew what he had to do.

Flores, a munitions technician with the 177th Fighter Wing had just completed his second deployment after being deployed to Iraq in 2010. Before leaving to Afghanistan, he planned on proposing to his girlfriend when he got back and had asked his father to hold onto the ring until he returned.

After stepping off the plane, his father passed him the ring, and then in front of all the other returning Airmen and their families, Flores dropped to one knee and proposed to Peterla.

" I couldn't think of a better time than as soon as I stepped off the plane," said Flores.

Peterla's answer was "Yes."

Jersey Devils in the News

Teamwork

Airman 1st Class Jonathan Nieves and Staff Sgt. Carlo Lat open a panel on an F-16 Aircraft at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, Jan. 12. Nieves is an aircraft electrician and Lat is a crew chief; both are assigned to the 16th Aircraft Maintenance Unit from the 177th Fighter Wing. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Ericka Engblom)

Night ops

Tech. Sgt. Sean Latimer, an F-16C Fighting Falcon crew chief, performs maintenance on an aircraft, Feb. 14,. Latimer is assigned to the 455th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron from the 177th Fighter Wing. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Matt Hecht, 177th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)

177th leaves it's mark!

Elements of the 177th Fighter Wing may be long gone from Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, but some enterprising Airman or group of Airmen left their mark. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Matt Hecht, 177th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)

Air Force women trace history to World War II

By Martha Lockwood, Defense Media Activity

FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, Md. (AFNS) -- The Air Force's acceptance of women into the force dates back to long before the first "Women's History Week" celebration in 1978.

In 1942, the U.S. Army Air Corps took the unheard-of step of forming and employing two women's aviation units. That same year, a unit of flight nurses who had not yet quite finished their training, were sent into North Africa on Christmas Day following the Allied invasion in November of that year.

And the history of women--civilian and military --was forever changed.

WASPS, WAFS and a Willingness to Serve

Originally, the idea of using women pilots was first suggested in 1930, but was considered "unfeasible," according to information maintained at the National Museum of the Air Force in Dayton, Ohio.

Then, in mid-1942, an increased need for World War II combat pilots, favored the use of experienced women pilots to fly aircraft on non-combat missions.

Two women's aviation units--The Women's Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron (WAFS--with a capital S) and the Women's Airforce Service Pilots (WASPs) were formed to ease this need. More than 1,000 women participated in these programs as civilians attached to the USAAC, flying 60 million miles of non-combat military missions.

These two units were merged into a single group, the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) program in August 1943, and broke ground for U.S. Air Force female pilots who would follow in their footsteps decades later.

Of the more than 25,000 women who applied for pilot training under the WASP program, 1,830 were accepted, 1,074 were graduated, and 916 (including 16 former WAFS) remained when the program was disbanded in December 1944. WASP assignments were diverse--as flight training instructors, glider tow pilots, towing targets for air-to-air and anti-aircraft gunnery practice, engineering test flying, ferrying aircraft, and other duties.

Although WASPs had the privileges of officers, they were never formally adopted into the USAAC. In November 1977--33 years after the WASPs program was disbanded--President Carter signed a bill granting World War II veterans' status to former WASPs.

"Winged Angels."

It was a slightly different story for flight nurses who were members of the military from the beginning. As it was with so many advances and innovations resulting from World War II, the USAAC radically changed military medical care, and the development of air evacuation and the training of flight nurses were advanced to meet this need.

After the invasion of North Africa in November 1942, the need for flight nurses exceeded the supply, and women who had not yet finished their training were called into action and sent to North Africa on Christmas Day. Finally, in February 1943, the first class of Army Nurse Corps flight nurses graduated.

Unlike their stateside-stationed counterparts in the WASPs, flight nurses (nicknamed "Winged Angels") in the Army Nurse Corps served in combat. They were especially vulnerable to enemy attacks because aircraft used for evacuation could not display their non-combat status.

These same aircraft were also used to transport military supplies. In anticipation and preparation for almost any emergency, flight nurses were required to learn crash procedures, receive survival training, and know the effects of high altitude on a vast array of pathologies.

Of the nearly 1.2 million patients air evacuated throughout the war, only 46 died en route. About 500 USAAC nurses (only 17 died in combat) served as members of 31 medical air evacuation transport squadrons throughout the world.

When President Harry Truman signed The National Security Act of 1947, creating the Department of Defense, the U. S. Air Force became a separate military service. At the time, a number of Women's Army Corps (WACs) members continued serving in the Army but performed Air Force duties.

The following year, some WACs chose to transfer to the Women's Air Force (WAFs--with a lower case s) when it finally became possible to do so.

Originally, the WAFs were limited to 4,000 enlisted women and 300 female officers, all of whom were encouraged to fill a variety of ground duty roles--mostly clerical and medical--but were not to be trained as pilots, even though the USAAC had graduated the first class of female pilots in April 1943, during wartime.

In 1976, when women were accepted into the Air Force on an equal basis with men, the WAF program ended, but not

Continued on Page 11

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

***DEADLINE:* Friday, March 16, 2012**

All items must be completed or application will not be accepted. Please print clearly

NAME (First, Middle, Last)	SEX ☐ MALE ☐ FEMALE
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE, ZIP	
HOME PHONE NUMBER	STUDENT"S SCHOOL ID#
NAME OF SCHOOL PRESENTLY ATTENDING	SCHOOL'S PHONE #
ADDRESS OF SCHOOL PRESENTLY ATTENDING	COUNTY
NAME AND ADDRESS OF SCHOOL YOU WILL BE ATTENDING	HAVE YOU BEEN ACCEPTED? ☐ YES ☐ NO
APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE	DATE
177TH FW MEMBER'S SIGNATURE	DATE

All applications and essays become the property of this organization. This application may be photocopied.

2012/2013

Submit application packages to:
177th FW Chief's Council
Attn: CMSgt Don Harris
400 Langley Road
Bldg. 402
Egg Harbor Twp, NJ
08234-9500

177th FW Chief's Council 2012-2013 Scholarship Program

The 177th FW Chief's Council will be awarding a $500.00 scholarship for post-high school education (college, community college, or trade school).
The Scholarship Committee has established the following criteria for eligibility:

1. Applicant must be a dependent of a 177th FW member.
2. Applicant must be a graduating high school senior.
3. Application must be typed or printed legibly and accompanied by the following documents:
    a. School transcripts with GPA.
    b. Letter of recommendation (teacher, guidance counselor, etc).
    c. List of extracurricular activities (sports, band, clubs, military organizations, etc.).
    d. Personal letter explaining future goals, career ambitions, and any community service activities you participate in.
    e. Brief essay (500 words or less) on "What it means to you to be an American".

The Scholarship Committee will select the winner from all the eligible applications received. The winner will be notified upon selection. The winner will receive the $500.00 check during the June UTA.

News Airmen Can Use

Annual dental exam

The annual dental exam will be completed by your civilian dentist.

Get a DD Form 2813 and have your dentist complete the form and return it to the clinic. Questions call 761-6240.

Contrail Photos

Contrail photos are at the Y Drive.

You can copy them by either typing or copying and pasting the following link:

Y:_177 FW HEADQUATERS ELECTRONIC FILE PLANS\177FW PA ELECTRONIC FILE PLAN\00 - Items to be filed\PA\2012 Images.

Photos are categorized by month and date.

Proration of Imminent Danger Pay

A new law may affect the pay you receive when you are on duty in an imminent danger pay (IDP) area. About 27 locations world-wide have been designated by the Secretary of Defense as IDP areas.

The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (NDAA 2012), signed on Dec. 31, 2011, requires prorating IDP so that members are paid for only the actual days they perform duty in an IDP area. Before Dec. 31, 2011 members received the full $225 a month even if they performed duty only one day in an IDP area. Now service members will receive $7.50 for each day they are on duty in an IDP area up to the maximum monthly rate of $225. Members who are exposed to a hostile fire or hostile mine explosion event are eligible to receive non-prorated Hostile Fire Pay (HFP) in the full monthly amount of $225. Members cannot receive both IDP and HFP in the same month.

The law required proration to begin on Dec. 31, 2011; however, because it took time to publish implementing guidance and ready pay systems, prorating the pay did not begin on that date. DoD began prorated payments on Feb. 1, 2012.

Members may have been overpaid between the date the NDAA was signed on Dec. 31, 2011, and Feb. 1. The services are working to waive or remit debts for members who may have been overpaid during this period.

If you have questions, please contact your finance office at 761-6182.

Women's History Month

...To ignore the vital role that women's dreams and accomplishments play in our own lives would be a great mistake. We draw strength and inspiration from those who came before us - and those remarkable women working among us today. They are part of our story, and a truly balanced and inclusive history recognizes how important women have always been in American society.

Virginia Woolf

I'M NOT AFRAID OF STORMS FOR I'M LEARNING HOW TO SAIL MY SHIP

LOUISA MAY ALCOTT

Women's Education-
WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC

MARCH 2012

Value the civilian side of the National Guard.

- ✓ Observe Women's History Month
- ✓ Celebrate St. Patrick's Day

Human diversity makes tolerance more than a virtue; it makes it a requirement for success.

- Rene Dubos

Women in Air Force history

Continued from Page 8

before many milestones were achieved and marked along the way in preparation for today's Air Force woman.

The WAFs in Evolution

The first WAF recruit was Sgt. Esther Blake who enlisted on July 8, 1948, in the first minute of the first day that regular Air Force duty was authorized for women. She had been a WAC, and she transferred in from Fort McPherson, Ga.

The first recruits reported to Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, in 1948. When basic training was desegregated in the Air Force the following year, many African-American women recruits joined, even though the integration of quarters and mess had not yet been achieved.

At first, WAFs wore men's uniforms with neckties. It was "a look" that didn't last long, and inter uniforms for WAFs were modeled after flight attendants' uniforms, using the same material as the men's winter uniforms.

The necktie was abandoned early on, and was replaced with tabs on the collar. The summer uniform--a two-piece dress made of cotton-cord seersucker--didn't fare as well. Ill-fitting, it required frequent ironing. It would be years before a suitable women's uniform would be achieved.

Milestones Along the Way

In its 10-year lifespan, from 1951 to 1961, the 543rd Air Force Band (WAF) was served by 235 women musicians, with approximately 50 members at any one time. This band, the WAF Band as it was known, along with the all-male Air Force Band, served as ambassadors of the Air Force simultaneously.

The WAF band marched in both of President Eisenhower's inaugural parades, and they played for President Kennedy's inauguration, among other concert engagements throughout the nation. The band was deactivated in 1961. Some say that it was a victim of its own success.

It was during this same time period--1956--that a WAF section was introduced into the college-level Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) program, and by 1959 four universities were running ROTC WAF sections. By 1970, they had achieved a national presence.

Concurrent with the expansion of the ROTC women's cadet program, Congress passed Public Law 90-130 in 1967, lifting grade restrictions and strength limitations on women in the military.

And with the end of Selective Service (the "draft") in 1973, recruiting practices changed. Shortly afterwards--1976--the separate status of WAF was abolished, and women entered pilot training as military personnel for the first time. (The WASPS and WAFS of World War II had come in to service as civilians with pilots' licenses.) Our country's bicentennial year also saw women entering the service academies, which had not been opened to them prior to President Ford's administration.

By 1993, women were receiving fighter pilot training, and Lt. Gen. Susan J. Helms (then Maj. Helms), member of the first class of the U. S. Air Force Academy to graduate women, was also the first American military woman in space as part of the Space Shuttle Endeavor team.

Coming, full circle, the final chapter for the WAFS and WASPS of World War II was achieved in 1977, when President Jimmy Carter awarded them full status as veterans, complete with benefits. A fitting epilogue was added in 2010 with the awarding of the Congressional Gold Medal. Today, there are approximately 300 of the original women air force pilots still living.

By the Numbers

The milestones cited above are just that--the highlights of women in service to their country. Each day, women in the Air Force distinguish themselves and honor those who have gone before them by doing the jobs that matter to us all--performing in professional, administrative, technical and clerical positions.

Women make up 19 percent of all Air Force military personnel and 30.5 percent of all civilian personnel. Of the female officers, 55 percent of the female officers are line officers, and 45 percent are non-line. Of the 328,423 active duty personnel, 62,316 are women, with 712 female pilots, 259 navigators and 183 air battle managers.

Women's History Month

Today, Women's History Month awareness for all the armed services is initiated by the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute headquartered at Patrick Air Force Base, Fla. Among the tools and initiatives for observing this month-long celebration of the role women have played throughout history, the Institute is making available a free download of this year's Women's National History Project poster, "Women's Education--Women's Empowerment."

Empowerment of women has strengthened the services. Starting with the WASPS and WAFS of World War II, through the WAFs of the '50s and '60s, through the acceptance and promotion of women at the service academies, each generation of women and their evolved sense of service to their country, has prepared the future for generations of women seeking unlimited opportunity.

Employer Appreciation Day

Mark your calendars:

May 23, the 177th Fighter Wing along with the New Jersey Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve will be holding an Employer Appreciation Day for the civilian employers of our traditional unit members

The event will be at the 177th and will include meals, base tour and a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter ride to Warren Grove Range

To nominate your Outstanding Civilian Employer, contact Capt. Memmelaar at 761-6206 no later than March 11

HURRY - SEATING IS LIMITED

177th Fighter Wing

New Jersey Committee ESGR® Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve

Illustration by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen 177FW/PA