Contrail

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COVER: GOING DOWNRANGE

Explosive Ordnance Disposal non-commissioned officer in charge Master Sgt. Ed Nickel, right, helps Tech. Sgt. David Niedzwiadek with a ADM-300 radiological detector during an exercise at the 177th Fighter Wing June 6. For more pictures and the story turn to page 4. U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

A child's first image

By Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Dean E. Wentzien

The third Sunday in June is Father's Day. As God's children, we not only have an earthly father, but also a spiritual Father.

A child's first image of God is his earthly father. We Christians spend a lot of time discussing ways to protect or improve our witness. We need to live our faith in front of co-workers and friends, but in the privacy of our home, we also want our family to see our Lord in us. If we show forgiveness, patience, and acceptance, then our children will expect to find those traits in the Lord.

In a similar way, negative behaviors - for example, consistent harshness, busyness, or emotional neglect - also shape a child's view of God. I remember hearing about a young man who was worried about his salvation. He had received the Lord as his personal Savior but wasn't convinced that he was truly forgiven. After having Scriptures about assurances shared with him, he responded, "I believe them, but I'm just not sure God's promises apply to me." He seemed surprised when asked about his relationship with his father. During the conversation, it came out that his dad had often made promises he failed to keep. Now, years later, the son lacked certainty that God would keep His word.

Being a reflection of the heavenly Father requires no special skills; the only training guide we need is the Bible. By approaching fatherhood as an area of service and ministry, all men are able to be successful dads.

As with any service rendered for God, the Holy Spirit offers fathers wisdom and guidance in the raising of children.

Chief Morton to hold the line

Incoming State Command Chief Master Sgt. Vincent P. Morton, right, accepts the guidon from Maj. Gen. Maria Falca-Dodson, commander, New Jersey Air National Guard, during a Change of Authority ceremony in front of Joint Force Headquarters-New Jersey, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst June 9. Morton, formerly the Command Chief of the 108th Wing, New Jersey Air National Guard is a recipient of the Bronze Star for combat in Afghanistan. U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen.

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A Message from the Wing Commander

Hello Jersey Devils!

Here we are and it is June already and the summer season is upon us. I know we all enjoy many of the South Jersey "Amenities" this season has to offer, and I certainly hope you all get a chance to enjoy a fun-filled summer and partake in your favorite activities…frequently! Statistically these next three months – June, July and August – also provide the highest risk of injury to our folks partaking in those various events. For all of you "forty-something's" out there who still feel like a teenager, remember to pack some extra Motrin, as well as a little extra common sense when trying to stretch that double into a triple! Also, if you are participating in any high risk activity, which for some of us is just about anything involving the outdoors☺…please take that extra moment and ask yourself…"Can I, or anyone near me, get hurt by doing this?" If the answer is yes, then please think hard about whether you really need to be doing that or not. If you still opt for the activity…at least take a moment to assess the risk mitigation steps you can take to avoid/minimize the pain! Your friends and family will appreciate the fact that they are not going to have to drag you to the emergency room and spend several hours waiting for you to get patched up.

I would also like to take a moment to thank all of our members who volunteered for the Memorial Day weekend events that we supported in our communities. We must keep in mind that it is our sacred duty to ensure the continued remembrance and memorialization of our nations' fallen. I know I feel a heightened sense of patriotism after attending one of these events, and I know for a fact that it makes a very strong impression on the folks out there attending these ceremonies to see you there in uniform representing our nation's heroes. It makes a difference and people do notice…thank you!

Col. Kerry M. Gentry, right, commander, 177th Fighter Wing, finishes a briefing about the Wing's mission to a group of employers of traditional 177th Guardsmen May 23. U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen

When you get a chance, please take a look at the Wing's schedule for the next several months. You will see that we have added two days on the front end of the July Unit Training Assembly (UTA) to provide additional ancillary training opportunities for the Wing. Folks can attach a couple of annual training days, or rescheduled unit training assembly's for the Thursday and Friday prior to July UTA. This will give you the opportunity to come in and knock out any additional training requirements you may have remaining for the year. Please check with your supervisors for the unit level schedule and execution of orders. In August, we have the Annual Atlantic City Airshow to support and this time it will be held on a Friday with the UTA to follow. As has been the practice in the past, we anticipate approval for the show center to be authorized as an alternate duty location. Thursday will be the practice show, with the real show taking place on Friday. September's UTA is still being worked, but suffice to say, it will be geared toward a "normal" UTA as the summer winds down and we start to focus on the nearest obstacle on the horizon…the February 2013 Unit Compliance Inspection. Have a great drill weekend!

Sincerely,

KERRY M. GENTRY
Colonel, NJANG
Commander

EOD TIP OF THE SPEAR IN WMD EXERCISE

Photos and story by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen, 177th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

In the Air Force, the only times Airmen are continuously in harm's way are when they are deployed to a combat zone.

That is not the case for Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) teams.

Whether they are clearing roadside bombs in Afghanistan or responding to a request from local authorities who have found World War II ordnance on a beach, to responding to terrorist devices of mass destruction, this is a career field that can be in harm's way regardless of whether they are deployed or not.

This concept was reinforced during a training exercise held at the 177th Fighter Wing on June 6 when EOD technician Tech. Sgt. David Niedzwiadek was sent in ahead of the strike team made up of Soldiers and Airmen of the 21st Civil Support Team (Weapons of Mass Destruction), New Jersey National Guard, to check and clear a trailer potentially laced with booby traps.

"The EOD tech was clearing any possible ordnance as we were clearing any CBRNE (chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and high-explosive) threat," said Maj. Scott Hofstetter, deputy commander, 21st CST (WMD).

The EOD Airmen worked with the 21st CST, South Jersey Transit Authority firefighters and New Jersey State Police in responding to a simulated weapons of mass destruction incident at the Wing.

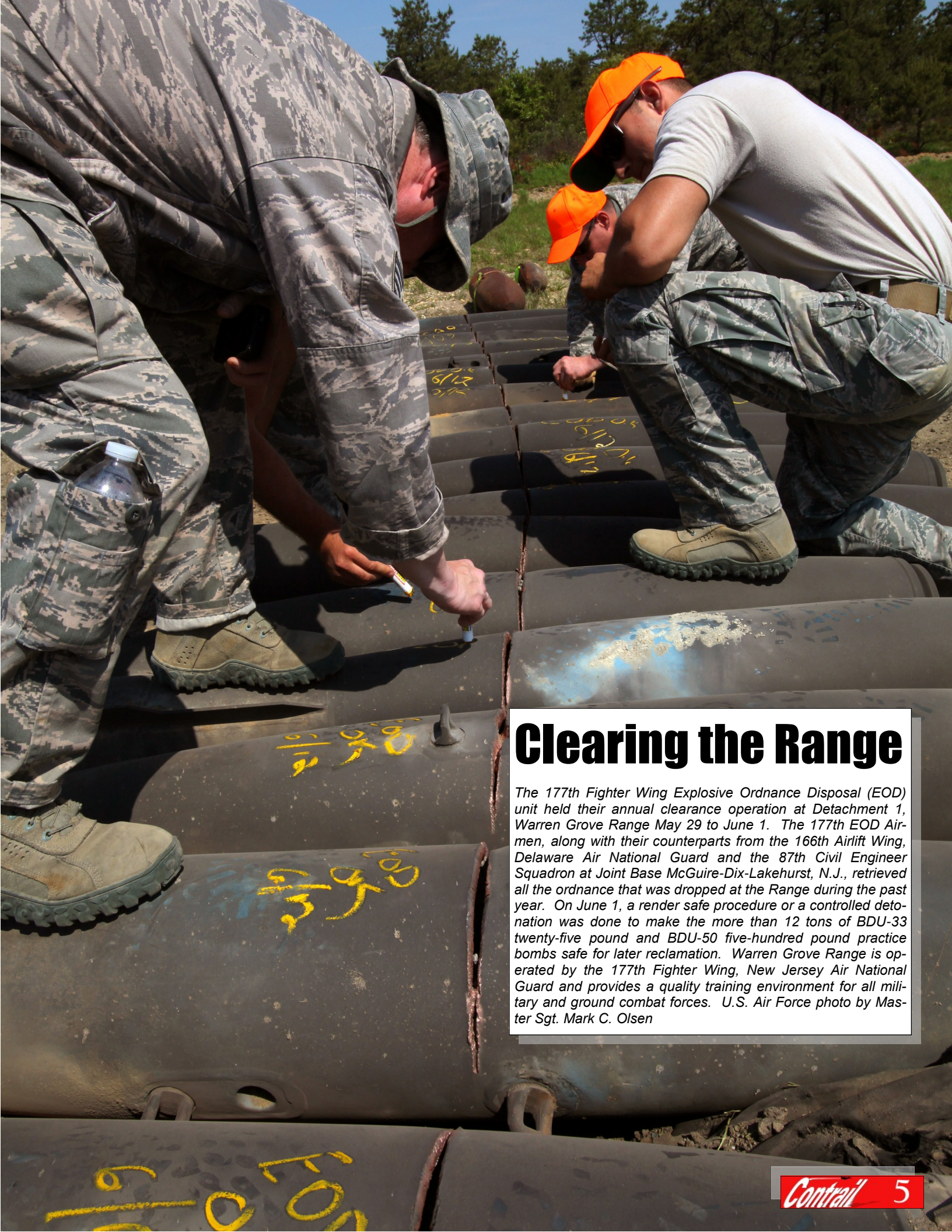
Tech. Sgt. David Niedzwiadek, Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) technician checks an ANDROS F6A Explosive Ordnance Disposal robot while Soldiers assigned to the 21st Civil Support Team prepare to check a trailer during an exercise at the 177th Fighter Wing June 6.

"Training with 21st CST was quite a benefit for future incidents that may arise," said Master Sgt. Ed Nickel Explosive Ordnance Disposal non-commissioned officer in charge.

"We send teams downrange to interrogate the scene, take samples of any type of CBRNE," said Hofstetter. "We can bring it out, analyze it and give civil authorities very fast results on what was found."

The 21st CST supports civil authorities by responding to a weapons of mass destruction (WMD) situation. The unit is made up of full-time New Jersey Army and Air National Guard members that have been trained and equipped to provide support to civil authorities at a domestic CBRNE incident site by identifying CBRNE agents/substances, assessing current and projected consequences and advising on response measures and assisting with appropriate requests for state support.

"We were able to integrate our equipment together," said Nickel. "We were able to transport their detectors downrange without actually sending their people into the hot zone, which is a great benefit for them."



Clearing the Range

The 177th Fighter Wing Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) unit held their annual clearance operation at Detachment 1, Warren Grove Range May 29 to June 1. The 177th EOD Airmen, along with their counterparts from the 166th Airlift Wing, Delaware Air National Guard and the 87th Civil Engineer Squadron at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., retrieved all the ordnance that was dropped at the Range during the past year. On June 1, a render safe procedure or a controlled detonation was done to make the more than 12 tons of BDU-33 twenty-five pound and BDU-50 five-hundred pound practice bombs safe for later reclamation. Warren Grove Range is operated by the 177th Fighter Wing, New Jersey Air National Guard and provides a quality training environment for all military and ground combat forces. U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen

Wing holds Employer Appreciation Day

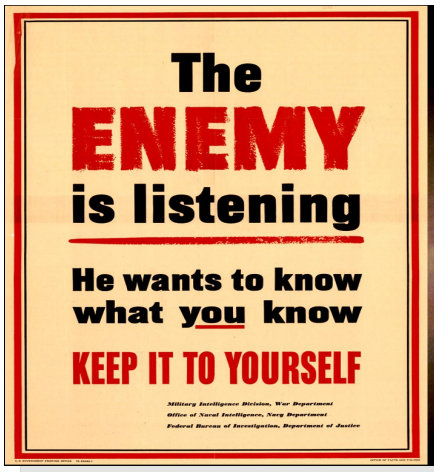
By Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen, 177th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

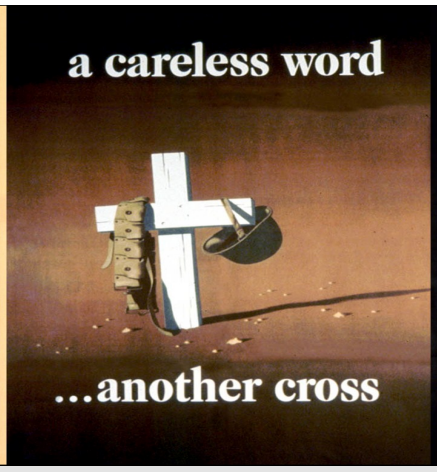
The New Jersey Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (NJESGR) and the 177th Fighter Wing held a 177th Employer Appreciation Day where traditional Guardsmen brought their employers to the Wing. After a briefing about the Wing's mission by Wing commander Col. Kerry M. Gentry, the employers toured the base, witnessed a ground scramble of F-16 Fighting Falcons and flew in a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter assigned to the 1-150th Assault Helicopter Battalion, New Jersey Army National Guard. After the employers returned, they signed ESGR Statements of Support, which enlists the support of employers in the development of policies and practices that support and encourage employee participation in the Guard and Reserve.

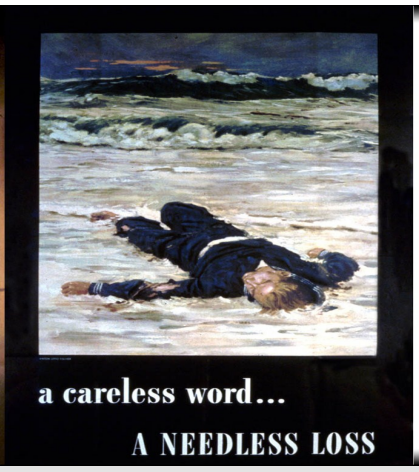
Above: Non-commissioned officer in charge of Life Support Senior Master Sgt. Jason L. Gioconda, left, describes the functions of various pieces of survival gear used by pilots to employers of traditional 177th Fighter Wing Guardsmen. Below: Fighting Falcon F-16 pilot Maj. Jeffrey A. Rouse, second from left, talks about the capabilities of the F-16.

Memorial Day flyover

Christina Jawidzik sings the National Anthem while 177th Fighter Wing F-16 Fighting Falcons fly over head during the Memorial Day ceremonies at the Brigadier General William C. Doyle Cemetery in Wrightstown, N.J. May 26. Governor's Office photo by Tim Larsen







D-Day launches the assault on Germany

On June 6, 1944, Army Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower gave the approval to launch.

His decision was an agonizing one; weather was treacherous, but circumstances dictated a high tide and a short time span. Further delays would have given away the plan, known as Operation Overlord -- D-Day to everyone else.

The force contained 39 divisions, 20 of these were American. The Allies assembled a gargantuan naval armada, from battleships and destroyers to landing craft and coasters.

Late in the evening of June 5, thousands of ships made their way across the Channel. On that same night, a fleet of cargo planes, mainly C-47 Skytrains loaded with paratroopers, took off. In tow were American Waco and British Hamilcar gliders filled with soldiers or equipment. Fighters and bombers waited until dawn. One Air Force pilot wrote it looked like "an immense migration of birds."

A B-26 Marauder flies with invasion stripes for D-Day.

The landings called for an assault on a five-divisional front. Three airborne divisions, including the U.S. 82nd and 101st Airborne, were dropped inland. They were to protect the sides of the main landing area, and close off the beaches. British and other allied troops were taking the northern beaches, code-named Juno, Gold and Sword. For the Americans: Utah and Omaha.

Overhead, specially marked black and white striped Allied Expeditionary Air Force aircraft owned the sky. Tactical bombers were hammering the whole northwest coast. The 8th AAF, commanded by Lt. Gen. James Doolittle, alone had 1,300 bombers over the area by daybreak. The 9th AAF's fighters, P-47 Thunderbolts and P-51 Mustangs, roared and dived at German strong points unhindered by Luftwaffe (German Air Force) interference. The Germans had been driven from the sky. In the air, the troops were supported by no less than 10,521 combat aircraft. Over the troops, too, screamed a hail of naval gunfire from the supporting warships. Far inland, the airborne divisions were already down and fighting hastily rallied enemy garrisons.

During the day, Germans flew 319 sorties; Allies 12,015 (not one was interrupted by enemy air action). However, a snapshot of that day cannot explain the importance of airpower. The invasion's air operations cannot be isolated from the earlier offensives carried on by the Royal Air Force and U.S. Army Air Force. The Allied Expeditionary Air Force, comprising the British 2nd Tactical Group and the USAAF 9th AAF, was set up almost a year before the actual landing.

Allied air support contained the invasion area -- destroying communication lines, rail lines and bridges. There were 66,000 tons of bombs dropped on Normandy during the three months preceding D-Day, creating what was called a "railway desert" around the Germans. The Allies further strengthened their advance by an additional 14,000 tons dropped on radar installations on the eve of D-Day.

By the end of D-Day, the Allies had control of all five beaches, but much of the jigsaw remained to be put together. British and Canadian beaches had become a solid Allied grip on the left flank. On the right flank, Americans on Utah were ashore, but German guns were still firing at Omaha. The invasion effort was already being replenished with stores, ammunition, and men by a second armada of ships.

Normandy was not a victory for a single branch of the service, nor the victory of a single nation. Normandy was the classic example of modern combined arms, air-land, and coalition warfare. It was a struggle in which the Allies were fortunate to have not merely air superiority, but air supremacy. Their task of winning on the ground was made easier. Where the Allies had won the critical battle for air supremacy was not over the beachhead. It was in the air war lasting several years preceding June 1944.

Editor's Note: June 6 marks the 67th anniversary of D-Day.

Safe summer driving

The warm summer months are a busy travel time in the United States and around the world, especially on the roads near military installations. For our military family, the start of summer means we will spend more time driving, whether we are traveling for work or recreation, heading to new duty assignments, or taking a well-deserved vacation.

To all service members, you have earned some time off this summer, and I encourage you to have fun with your family and friends. Recharge and come back to the job more focused and energized to accomplish the tough tasks at hand.

While you are on leave, however, be careful. Last year, between Memorial Day and Labor Day, 84 service members died from motor vehicle collisions, 42 in 4- wheel vehicles and 40 while riding motorcycles. Thirteen more died from water- related accidents. In total, there were 18 more fatal accidents last summer than the summer before.

Each of us must do everything we can to be safer this summer.

Military leaders, supervisors, co-workers, and family members most do their part to keep everyone around them safe, both on and off duty. Risk can be reduced by sticking to fundamental military lessons of working together, exercising leadership, focusing on the mission, and even having the courage to say "no" to a risky situation.

There are two areas in which we can do better: Wearing seat belts and not drinking and driving.

We know that seat belts save lives. Many of the injuries and fatalities sustained by our servicemen and women could have been prevented with the use of a seatbelt. All military leaders need to emphasize how important it is for all service members to follow the simple precaution of wearing a seatbelt.

We also know that alcohol, even in small quantities, impairs our decision making and is a significant factor in all accident categories. So before taking your first sip, think ahead and have a sensible plan; work together and remember never to drink and drive; remember to always be safe.

Thank you to each and every one of you serving our nation today. You serve so that America can be strong and free, and so we all can take advantage of the blessings you protect every day.

I wish each of you a safe and enjoyable summer season.

Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta

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.

Veterans Retraining Assistance Program

From the United States Department of Veterans Affairs

In an effort to reduce veteran unemployment, the VOW to Hire Heroes Act of 2011 was passed and signed into law last November. Included in this new law is the Veterans Retraining Assistance Program (VRAP) for unemployed 35 to 60 year old veterans, which will begin on July 1, 2012 – VA will begin accepting applications on May 15, 2012.

VRAP offers 12 months of training assistance to 99,000 unemployed Veterans who are at least 35 years old but no older than 60. Eligible participants will receive up to 12 months of training assistance at the full-time payment rate under the Montgomery GI Bill–Active Duty program (currently $1,473 per month). DOL will offer employment assistance to every veteran who participates or applies to the VRAP program. You can learn more about VRAP at http://benefits.va.gov/vow/education.htm.

Please visit: http://gibill.va.gov/benefits/other_programs/vrap_email_signup.html.

You will be prompted to provide your first name, last name, and email address. Once submitted you can expect to receive six to seven emails about VRAP, including notification on when applications open.

If you have any technical problems with the link or the image please email the VA at 225D.VBACO@VA.GOV for support. Detailed information on VOW and VRAP is also available at http://www.benefits.va.gov/VOW.

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

JUNE 2012

Fly the flag, foster pride, be fair and inclusive in all your actions

- ✓ Review your awards and decorations program
- ✓ Check the diversity website for suggested reading
- ✓ Include diversity messages in monthly newsletters

We have an American problem. It can only be solved by all Americans working together... I want you to find strength in your diversity.

-Colin Powell

Alder Middles School shows military pride

Story and photos by Tech. Sgt. Matt Hecht

Alder Middle School in Egg Harbor Township showed its pride and patriotism by inviting local military members to display work equipment and memorabilia and to share stories with students on May 23.

"They had a wonderful event set up that included the singing of patriotic songs by the school choir and then afterwards a chance to get to talk to the children about each of our individual experience and history," said Senior Airman Tina Fryling. "The staff and students made me feel very welcomed and comfortable."

Fryling, who recently returned from a deployment to Afghanistan, was among a group which included the U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Reserves and several retired veterans, set up a display in the school library enabling the students to see what she does at the 177th.

"The children had great questions and enthusiasm," said Fryling. "I had a great time and would love to thank them for the event they put together."

Alder Middle School students listen as Senior Airman Tina Fryling discusses her recent deployment to Afghanistan with the 177th Fighter Wing on May 23.

Alder Middle School students crowd around F-16C Fighting Falcon pilot Lt. Col. Thor Himley's table.

2012 Hiring Our Heroes Veterans Event - Ocean City, NJ

The Ocean City Music Pier
801 Boardwalk at Moorlyn Street, Ocean City, NJ
October 11, 2012
9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Join us **October 11, 2012** from **9:00 AM to 12:00 PM** for a hiring fair for veteran job seekers, active duty military members, Guard and Reserve members, and military and veterans spouses at The Music Pier, 801 Boardwalk at Moorlyn Street, Ocean City, NJ. This event will be a one-of-a-kind FREE hiring fair for both employers and job seekers.

Employers	Job Seekers
Must register for FREE at HoH.GreatJob.net	**Register for FREE at HoH.GreatJob.net** **To guarantee admission.** **Walk-ins welcome but space not guaranteed.**

This hiring event is being sponsored by The American Legion, Cape May County, hosted and cosponsored by the Morvay/Miley Post 524, Ocean City, NJ, and is conducted by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, The American Legion, the Department of Labor's Veterans' Employment and Training Service (DOL VETS), the New Jersey Committee of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development, NBC News, and other local partners.

If you need assistance registering, please contact us at hiringourheroes@uschamber.com.

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