Contrail

July 2012, Vol. 46, No. 7

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COVER: STUDENTS VISIT WING

Staff Sgt. David Sigwart shows second grade students from Atlantic Christian School a 20mm gun from an F-16C Fighting Falcon on June 14. The students were visiting the 177th for a base tour. Sigwart is an F-16C weapons loader assigned to the 177th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. For more about the visit turn to page 4. U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Matt Hecht

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Running the race of life

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

The spiritual life is often described as a race - one that has been designed by God. In it, we are called to fulfill God's purposes for us, namely, to be conformed to God's likeness and to bring Him glory.

To run the race we need to know the route. The Bible serves as our map as well as our compass and guidebook. It's an infallible manual for godly living, which is needed in our culture of contradictory voices all claiming to have the truth.

To complete the race, we need inspiration and correction. Scripture provides both through the true accounts of biblical personalities. Some of us are like King Saul, who answered God's call began the race in strong fashion (1 Samuel 10:9). Correction comes when we realize that our eyes, like his, lost their focus on God's agenda - that we have become immersed in the world's ways and have faltered. Others are like Paul, who lived an ungodly life for years before salvation. His life inspires us to persevere and to embrace God's plan with growing passion.

During a race we will encounter obstacles, against which we must persevere: criticism from believers and unbelievers; opposition to our stand for God; periods of loneliness and uncertainty when the way isn't clear. God will strengthen us as we study His unchanging character and timeless promises.

How well are you running the race?

How are you responding to the pressures of life?

Remember that God, who is our very life, is always running with us. And be encouraged through the Scriptures.

From Security Forces

The 177th Security Forces Squadron's Operation Crime Stop Program has been newly implemented. Crime Stop allows for anonymous reporting of suspected or actual crimes. Anonymous crime reports can include but are not limited to: suspicious activity, threatening acts or behavior, possession of weapons and the use or sale of illegal drugs. The dedicated phone line for Operation Crime Stop is 761-6223.

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A Message from the Wing Commander

Talk about being prepared!

On June 29, the Derecho storm certainly caught many folks off guard, and reminded many of us the importance of being prepared ahead of time for the unexpected. The storm itself was an impressive display of destruction and Mother Nature at her wildest.

Ironically this weather phenomenon highlighted the importance of social media for gaining information real time. It just so happened that I was in Bethlehem, Pa., the night of the storm. Although not physically present, I was able to gather enough information via phone calls, and the utilization of a smart phone's internet access.

After a few calls and updates with the Command Post, who did a great job keeping me up to date on the status of the base, and the use of my wife's smart phone to tap into the local radar pictures and track real time Facebook posts, I had a pretty good idea of what was going on even though I was 100 miles away.

Although the base itself lost a large number of trees, we held together pretty well. Power was only out for a couple of hours, and our on call Civil Engineering folks did a great job restoring all utilities and securing the small amount of downed wires we had. The Fire Department also gets kudo's for responding to an Alert Facility alarm right in the middle of the storm, and finding an alternate route to the facility despite many downed trees. I can only imagine how that drive was! Meanwhile, our surrounding community did not fare as well as we did on base.

Many neighborhoods would wake up to multiple downed trees and extensive power outages, that would last until past the July 4 Holiday for many of you.

What countless people quickly realized in the aftermath of this unpredicted storm was the importance of being prepared…every day and any day! Those of us who were prepared had nothing to be concerned about in the early aftermath of the storm. For those of you not prepared…I bet you will be next time!

As you can imagine, in the aftermath of the storm there was a run on many of the local stores for supplies ranging from food to gas, and generators to chain saws.

No surprise, because once you began to see the reports and pictures coming via social media and your own eyes, it looked like multiple tornados had touched down in many of the local neighborhoods.

Roads were closed, power lines were down all over the place and Atlantic County declared a state of emergency.

For those who maintain a reasonable supply of the necessities (batteries, water, flashlights, first aid kits, etc.) there was little to worry about initially. However, if you did not maintain even the most basic emergency kit inside your home, you were probably starting to wish you had by midday on Saturday as the extent of the damage became apparent.

By all accounts, it was obvious that many residences would be without power for quite a while.

Having a smart phone in the family certainly proved to be a valuable tool that I will make sure is in my emergency kit from now on.

Even though I was out of the local area, I was able to closely monitor the situation by using reports off of social media, as well as the utility companies' websites, along with an occasional update from our Command Post and friends in town. In other words, I quickly realized that my neighborhood had been hit hard and the electric company was estimating electrical outages until July 6 for my neighborhood. Heck, I even used the smartphone to Google a generator dealer near my hotel!

So as the old saying goes…"Always expect the unexpected" and be prepared because you never know!

Sincerely,

KERRY M. GENTRY
Colonel, NJANG
Commander

School visits Wing

Story and photos by Tech. Sgt. Matt Hecht, 177th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

When asked what they wanted to be when they grew up, the majority of hands from 2nd grade students at the Atlantic Christian School shot up, screaming "Horse riders!"

The students' visit to the Wing on June 14 consisted of stops at several interesting places. Their first was near the air traffic control tower, to watch several F-16C Fighting Falcons take off. Following the launch and a safety briefing, the students went to a static display F-16C Fighting Falcon, where members of the 177th Maintenance Squadron were on hand for briefings on the aircraft, as well as several components including a jet engine. Next up for the second graders was a stop in Aircrew Flight Equipment where Staff Sgt. Joe Searle displayed rescue gear that the pilots wear.

"It was a great experience," said Searle. "The kids seemed really engaged and enthusiastic, and they got to see how important the flight gear is."

The last stop was to the F-16 simulator, where the 2nd graders got to perfect their flying skills. After a whirl in the simulator, when students were again asked what they wanted to be when they grew up, more than a few screamed, "Pilots!"

Airman First Class Matthew Sinton educates a second grade student from Atlantic Christian School on the inner workings of an F-16C Fighting Falcon June 14. Sinton is an F-16C crew chief assigned to the 177th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Matt Hecht

Guardsman saves life

Story and photo by Tech. Sgt. Matt Hecht, 177th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Master Sgt. Shawn Mildren is credited with saving a life June 29 while on vacation in Ocean City, Md.

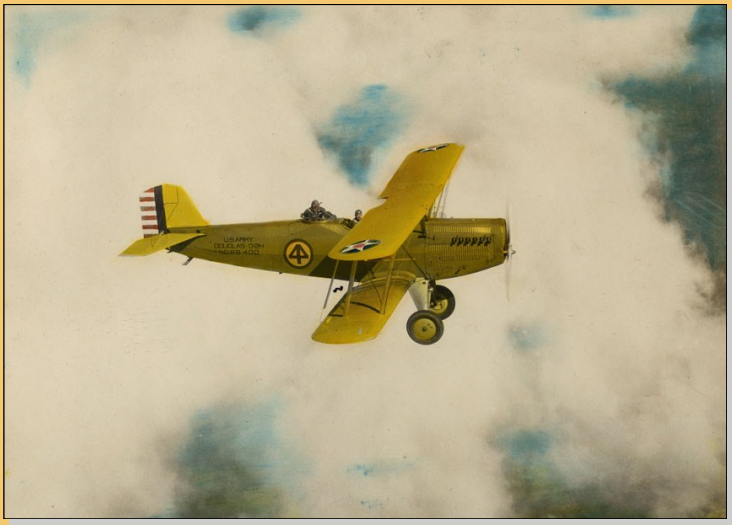
Mildren, a retired Galloway Police Department lieutenant and an Airman with 177th Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office, was kayaking with his wife, Theresa, when they saw a surf fisherman fall into deep water.

Seeing that the man was struggling to stay afloat, Mildren angled his kayak and kept the man calm.

"The water was deep and the current was strong that day," said Mildren. "I did what anyone else would have done in that situation."

After calming the man down, Mildren towed him to safety. The man later declined medical treatment.

A LOOK AT OUR PAST



Jersey Devils in the News

Around the Wing

Above: Staff Sgt. Corey E. McPherson, right, watches, Airman 1st Class Kevin P. Yearsley, left, smooths a brace before installation on an F-16 Fighting Falcon. Both Airmen are structural repair mechanics with the 177th Sheet Metal Shop. U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen. Photo right: Maj. Jeffrey Rouse, an F-16C Fighting Falcon pilot with the 119th Fighter Squadron, is hosed down by his family July 10 at the 177th Fighter Wing during his "fini flight," a final flight with his squadron. Rouse is transferring to the Texas Air National Guard. U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Matt Hecht

Jersey Devils in the News

Wilk gets Caught by a Chief

Chief Master Sgt. Randall Mason awards Senior Airman Amber Wilk with a Caught by a Chief coin for her service in the 177th Fuel Shop June 10. Wilk served on a temporary Active Guard and Reserve tour as a pneudraulic fuel systems specialist while the majority of the shop was deployed. During this period, not only did she keep up with the workflow, she was instrumental in helping prepare the shop for the upcoming Unit Compliance Inspection, converting to e-tools and all while studying and completing her career development courses and receive her five level rating. Congratulations Senior Airman Wilk, you have been Caught by a Chief. U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen.

Sullivan receives Chief's Award

Surrounded by his family, Chief Master Sgt. John Sullivan, center, Plans and Resources Superintendent, 177th Fighter Wing Communications Flight, was awarded the 2011 Major General Richard "Craig" Cosgrave Chief's Award from former New Jersey Air National Guard commander, retired Maj. Gen. Richard C. Cosgrave, right, on June 26. The award was developed to honor outstanding chief master sergeants in the New Jersey Air National Guard who demonstrated superior performance, community service, professionalism and leadership in the highest standard. Also pictured, from left to right, are Sullivan's family Jack, Sharon and Meghan. U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Allison Phillips

The Sergeant Pilots

On the eve of World War II, it soon became apparent that there were not enough college graduates or young men with two years of college to fill planned aviation cadet requirements.

As a result, in 1941, Congress authorized an enlisted pilot training program. As aviation students, they would receive the same primary, basic and advanced flight training as aviation cadets who would be commissioned as officers upon graduation.

Enlisted students would graduate as staff sergeant pilots and would serve as flight instructors, transport pilots and in similar utility roles. (Later in the program, technical sergeants and master sergeants were allowed to retain their higher rank.) It was never intended that sergeant pilots be placed in a position of command over an officer. Candidates had to have a high school diploma and rate in the top 50 percent of the class, with at least 1.5 credits in math, and be between the ages of 18 and 22.

Flight students Jim Leach (left) and Jack Hoover beside a BT-13 basic trainer. Enlisted ground crew personnel formed a silent cheering section for enlisted pilot trainees and showed it in such ways as having a frosty soft drink ready for a sweat-stained student on a hot day. U.S. Air Force photo

Despite discrimination from some officers, 2,576 enlisted men are known to have graduated as sergeant pilots under this program. Ultimately they flew virtually all types of Army Air Force aircraft.

Although most were elevated to the new rank of flight officer with officer privileges or to second lieutenant before assignment to a combat unit, about 332 pilots departed the United States while still sergeants and about 217 flew combat missions overseas as sergeants.

Not counted in this number are other sergeant pilots based in the United States flying antisubmarine combat patrols. At least 137 Americans enlisted in the Royal Canadian Air Force and were trained as Noncommissioned Officer pilots, then later transferred to the Army Air Force as sergeant pilots before promotion.

Half of the first graduating class of flying sergeants went overseas with the P-38-equipped 82nd Fighter Group. Members of this class shot down 130 enemy aircraft, and nine became aces. In all, former sergeant pilots destroyed 249.5 enemy aircraft and 18 became aces flying fighters.

William J. Sloan was the leading ace of the 12th Air Force with 12 victories. Four WWII enlisted pilots became general officers (seven pre-WWII enlisted pilots also became generals). Also included among former sergeant pilots are international race car driver Carroll H. Shelby and United States Air Force test pilot and later air show aerobatic performer Robert A. "Bob" Hoover.

Importance of 'family' in Airman resilience

Commentary by Lt. Col. Lou Marnell, 86th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron commander

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany (AFNS) -- In the last few months, we have focused on our Airmen's resiliency in the forms of briefings, roll calls, training, down days and other forums to focus on our most important resource-- our people.

As you recall from your training, the four pillars of resiliency are physical fitness, mental fitness, social fitness and spiritual fitness. Resiliency is working through challenges and taking advantage of the resources we have available to us. These resources are where we fair better than most of our corporate counterparts.

U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen

In my opinion, one of the biggest factors that helps lay the foundation for these pillars is that of the family. This can be in the form of our loved ones who are stationed with us or the role the military family plays in our resiliency. Again, it is this thought of the military family that really sets us apart from the rest of corporate America.

As military families, we have added stressors of long deployments, frequent moves, living in new parts of the world, major life changes and post-deployment adjustments. Now that I have stated what may be obvious, what can you as an Airman or us as leaders do to help with not only Airman resiliency but also family resiliency?

Our At Home Family

The same four pillars apply when it comes to our at home life. It's important not to feel like you're alone. When looking at physical fitness, make time as a family to workout together. You can do things as simple as taking a walk together once a week or going for a bike ride. You could also do like one of my senior leaders recently did, take a family course in Kook-Sul-Won. This family time brought them together and helped work out stress from work or school.

For mental fitness, it is important for families to communicate to work through issues. As my shirt and I talk with Airmen, communication seems to be the area struggling couples need to work on the most. Start with something simple; dinner as a family. For those who are geographically separated, as my wife and I are, set up a time to talk, whether it's daily or a couple of times a week. With today's technology, Skype or FaceTime make long-distance relationships a little more bearable.

When discussing social fitness, it is important to get out as a family and get involved in volunteer work, social clubs or other organizations to meet others with similar interests. For spiritual fitness, the chaplains have great resources, whether it's in the form of counseling, religious social groups or volunteer opportunities that you can do as a family to remain resilient.

Our Military Family

In our overseas environment, the military family plays a crucial role in our resiliency. Physical fitness is always important, not only in our daily lives as service men and women, but it's also a great stress reliever. Physical fitness can also play a great role in team building. Intramural sports are a great way to build squadron pride.

For mental fitness, it is incumbent on the supervisors to "know their Airmen." If you notice someone is acting different, get involved and find out why. Once you break the ice, they may open up to you and let you know what is going on. Know what resources are available to you and your Airmen.

For social fitness, squadrons and work centers should plan on family-friendly events to bring everyone together. Booster clubs, organized trips and squadron picnics are great ways the squadron can help out.

Spiritual fitness is also important for our military family. This can be done through social groups, lunch-time bible studies or other events to highlight your spiritual needs. Family readiness affects first-line leaders and Airmen readiness, which impacts missions for military leaders. First-line leaders may experience stressors in their own home life and know that these disruptions can cause stress for their unit members. It's important for leaders to encourage unit members to use the family resources that are available. Family centers offered by the military can help families stay resilient during, in between and after deployments. This, in turn, helps strengthen the health of the whole force.

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.

2012 election guidance

The Department of Defense has a longstanding policy of encouraging military personnel to carry out the obligations of citizenship and certain political activities are permitted, such as voting and making a personal monetary donation.

However, members will not engage in partisan political activities and all military personnel will avoid the inference that their political activities imply or appear to imply DoD sponsorship, approval or endorsement of a political candidate, campaign or cause. Examples of political activities that are prohibited include campaigning for a candidate, soliciting contributions, marching in a partisan parade and wearing the uniform to a partisan event.

Members will not engage in partisan political activities and will avoid the inference that their political activities imply or appear to imply DoD sponsorship, approval, or endorsement. Any activity that may be reasonably viewed as directly or indirectly associating the DoD, or any component or personnel of the department, with a partisan political activity or is otherwise contrary to the spirit and intention of this policy guidance will be avoided.

Personnel must forward all inquiries from political campaign organizations to the Public Affairs Officer (PAO) for awareness and appropriate action.

Department of Defense
Bone Marrow Drive

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

JULY 2012
Promote the promise of patriotism: implement diversity education
✓ Identify leader potential amongst your Airmen
✓ Recognize strengths and improve on weaknesses
✓ Do a self-assessment of your profesional development
Uniformity is not nature's way; diversity is nature's way.
- Vandana Shiva

PROMOTIONS & AWARDS

To Colonel
Lt. Col. Michael Love

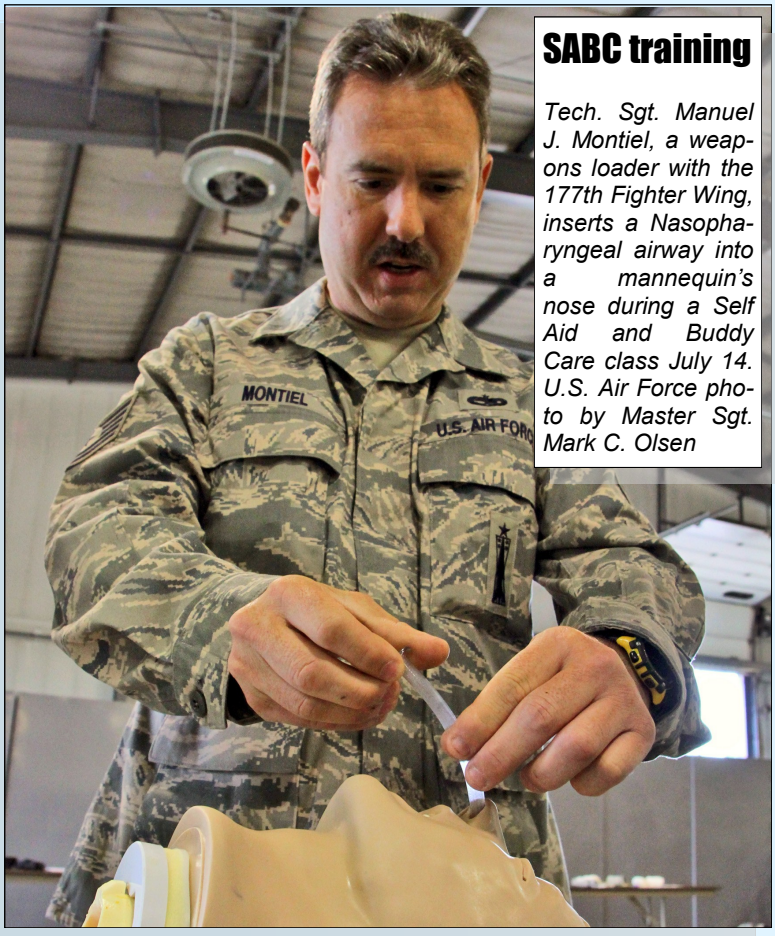
To Technical Sergeant
Staff Sgt. Alicia Balsiero
Staff Sgt. Robert Gould
Staff Sgt. Anthony Nguyen
Staff Sgt. Mark Paranto
Staff Sgt. Ryan Pickett
Staff Sgt. James Snyder

To Staff Sergeant
Senior Airman John Beaton
Senior Airman Myra Eberwine
Senior Airman Anthony Foster
Senior Airman Rebecca Patterson
Senior Airman Carla Williams

To Senior Airman
Airman 1st Class Damien Delgado
Airman 1st Class Edward Fryling
Airman 1st Class Matthew Karp
Airman 1st Class Stacy Kimatian
Airman 1st Class Francis Laast
Airman 1st Class Joseph Lagreca
Airman 1st Class Christina Lopez
Airman 1st Class Clifford Mccourt
Airman 1st Class Kristina Reinhard
Airman 1st Class David Ringer
Airman 1st Class Courtney Rynne
Airman 1st Class Lauren Siciliano
Airman 1st Class Matthew Wagner

Meritorious Service Medal
Col John Didonna

Jersey Devils



SABC training

Tech. Sgt. Manuel J. Montiel, a weapons loader with the 177th Fighter Wing, inserts a Nasopharyngeal airway into a mannequin's nose during a Self Aid and Buddy Care class July 14. U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen

The Doctor is in

Dr. Andrew Savicky is the 177th Fighter Wing Director of Psychological Health. He will support the 177th's readiness through the promotion of psychological health and resilience.

Savicky consults with commanders regarding the psychological health of their Airmen and units. As a member of helping professionals, he supports and provides consultation to resiliency efforts, suicide prevention, traumatic stress response and other programs supporting positive and mission-focused emotional wellbeing.

He is available to provide presentations to units or groups on a variety of topics to enhance wellness such as stress management, communication, conflict resolution, resiliency and relationships.

In addition, Savicky meets with Air Guard members to provide a clinical interviews and referrals to local mental health providers and other resources to address any issues hindering an Airman's maximum wellbeing.

With case management, he provides continuity and helps the member address any challenges in receiving services. Savicky also collaborates with and assists with training local community providers regarding military culture, providing information relating to best practices and treatment needed for on-going counseling for Air Guard members and their families.

Incentive flight

Tech. Sgt. Jamie Ann Tonkinson, 177th Fighter Wing Air Electrician, poses in front of an F-16D Fighting Falcon after completing her incentive flight. Tonkinson successfully completed 7.5 G's along with numerous tactical maneuvers. U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen