



The Future  
belongs to  
those who  
believe in

## The Immortal Chaplains

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

FEBRUARY 2011, VOL. 45, NO. 2

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*Tech. Sgt. James H. Ferretti hugs his daughter prior to deploying on Jan. 29. Several Airmen from the 177th Fighter Wing Civil Engineering Squadron deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Andrew Moseley/Released)*

**Military chaplains throughout history have inspired, guided and comforted men and women in combat.**

The greatest legacy for today's warfighter chaplains is the extraordinary faith and courage demonstrated by the 'four chaplains' during World War II.

None have been braver nor given of themselves more than these Army chaplains who sailed into immortality aboard the troop ship *Dorchester*.

The *Dorchester*, a converted commercial ocean liner, was part of a six-ship convoy that left Boston Harbor 2 February 1943, bound for Greenland. Among its mostly 902 military passengers were four men who would leave an everlasting impression on fellow shipmates.

Lt George L. Fox, a 42-year-old Methodist minister from Lewistown, Pa., was the only chaplain with combat experience. He had earned the Silver Star and Purple Heart medals in World War I. The others were new to the military: Lt Alexander D. Goode, a 31-year-old rabbi from Brooklyn, N.Y.; Lt John P. Washington, a Roman Catholic priest from Newark, N.J.; and Lt Clark V. Poling, a 32-year-old Dutch Reformed minister from Columbus, Ohio.

These chaplains helped calm some of the anxiety experienced on board ship. Many feared traveling through the North Atlantic, knowing that German submarines regularly preyed upon Allied shipping.

Shortly after midnight on Feb. 3, 1943, a torpedo from a German U-boat slammed into the *Dorchester's* starboard side, amid ship. The subsequent explosion and fire knocked out the ship's power and radio communications.

The order to abandon ship was given. The *Dorchester* would sink in 27 minutes.



Panic gripped most everyone as they clamored for life boats or jumped into the ocean ablaze with burning fuel.

Survivor William Bednar recalls, "I could hear men crying, pleading, and praying. I could also hear the chaplains preaching courage. Their voices were the only thing that kept me going."

The four chaplains soon began distributing life jackets from a torpedo storage locker. When the supply ran out, the chaplains removed their life jackets and gave them to terrified men.

"It was the finest thing I have seen or hope to see this side of heaven," recalls survivor John Ladd.

As the ship sank, survivors remember seeing the chaplains standing next to one another, arms linked together, as they prayed. They and 668 others died that night. Only 230 men survived.

Shortly thereafter, the United States Postal Service, waiving their five-year rule that people must be dead for at least five years before they're eligible for commemoration on U.S. stamps, issued a postage stamp honoring the four chaplains.

On Feb. 3 1943, Vice-President Harry Truman dedicated a chapel in honor at Temple University in Philadelphia. The Vice-President said, "This interfaith shrine...will stand through long generations to teach Americans that as men can die heroically, as brothers, so should they live together in mutual faith and good will."

The Chaplain's Medal for Heroism, also known as the Four Chaplains' Medal, was established by act of Congress on July 14, 1960, and was presented posthumously to their next of kin by Secretary of the Army Wilber M. Brucker at Ft. Myer, Va., on Jan. 18, 1961.

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE WING COMMANDER



### Hello All,

This past week marked my second anniversary as Wing Commander which is hard for me to believe. It really is the best job I've ever had thus far and I guess that's why it's been flying by so fast. I've done and seen many things I never anticipated (big time understatement!), but the constant throughout all of it has been the awesome people. I'm truly blessed to have such a great group of people to command and be associated with. I'm absolutely convinced that the American public has no idea how amazing all of you are, not to mention the sacrifices you make trying to juggle two careers and family. Our story needs to be told and finally the Guard leadership at the national level is starting to do just that. With more cuts to the military on the horizon, we need to make sure the public knows that the Guard is the best bang for the buck. So let me quote you some of facts the Guard Director has published so you can help to spread the word.

Air National Guard members provide full-time readiness at part-time cost placing minimal burden on taxpayers. Reserve component pay averages 25 percent of an active duty member and Reserve component retirement costs 10 percent of active duty. A recent study and comparison of personnel appropriations by the Heritage Foundation revealed that Air Reserve component members use about 14 percent of appropriated personnel funds, but perform more than half of all Air Force missions. From a planning perspective, the Air National Guard provides 35 per-



U.S. Rep. Frank LoBiondo (R-2nd Dist.), right, poses with 177th Wing Commander Col. Robert C. Bolton, left, and Senior Airman Ryan Lenegan on Jan 28. Lenegan is part of a group of Airmen from the 177th Civil Engineering Squadron who are deploying in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Andrew Moseley/Released)

cent of the USAF capabilities for six percent of the budget. You all know that we have a homeland defense mission here, but did you know that the Guard operates more than 90 percent of the Air Defense sites?

Another advantage the Guard has over active duty is in our infrastructure and our ties to local communities. Locally-based facilities across America means reduced cost to the taxpayer and increased regional support. Like the 177th, most Air Guard bases are "dual-use" with civilian airfields; as a result, the taxpayer gains about \$12 billion in airfield facilities for around \$4 million.

From my perspective, the priceless advantage the Guard has over active duty is our ties to our local communities. Unlike active duty, all guard units have state missions, and there are numerous instances where guard units have come to the aid of local communities during various emergencies. Let me give you just a few of our own examples. It seems every few months our Explosive Ordnance Disposal team gets called out to take care of some type of unearthed ordnance in surrounding towns. Our fire department stands ready to assist the airfield and, more recently, we formed an emergency response team with our ASOS Humvees to help stranded victims during snow storms. Pretty impressive and I think we need to make sure the word gets spread.

Let me now shift gears to a few current events worth reviewing. The Phase 1 Operational Readiness Inspection is rapidly approaching and this drill will be devoted to accomplishing more vital training as well as Part task training exercises. We have folks from off base here to help so take advantage of their experience and learn all you can. On Sunday our Exercise Evaluation Team will be dropping the Prepare To Deploy Order for the March Operational Readiness Exercise, which is our last chance to exercise the entire machine before the IG shows up in April. As a reminder, the March ORE is a three-day event running from March 11-13. The 13th will be devoted primarily to exercise results/outbriefs in the morning with the afternoon devoted to accomplishing a Winter Wingman Day.

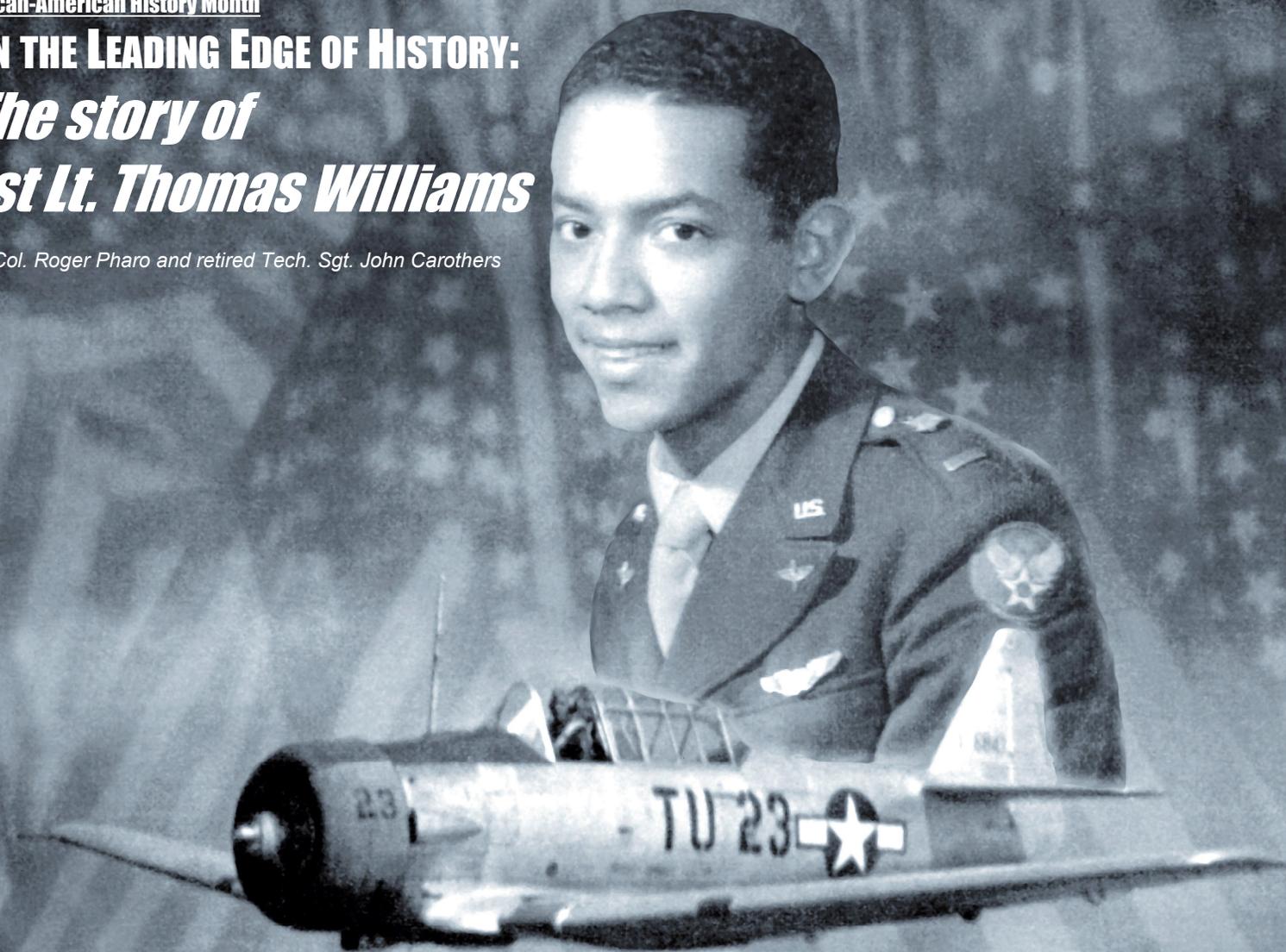
We said goodbye to our latest group of deploying Civil Engineering Airmen on Jan. 29 and we had the pleasure of having Congressman LoBiondo here to wish them well. Finally, the location of our Aviation Package AEF, scheduled for December of this year, was changed from Korea to Afghanistan!

Have a great drill.

ROBERT C. BOLTON  
Colonel, NJANG  
Commander

# ON THE LEADING EDGE OF HISTORY: *The story of* **1st Lt. Thomas Williams**

By Col. Roger Pharo and retired Tech. Sgt. John Carothers



*Illustration by Chief Master Sgt. Don Taggart, 177FW/CF*

**Although just 29 years old when he died in an aircraft mishap on Jan. 15, 1955, 1st Lt. Thomas E. Williams touched many lives and secured a place in history by helping usher in the civil rights movement.**

His story is one of perseverance, moral courage and unwavering patriotism.

On May 7, 1954, Williams became a member of the New Jersey Air National Guard and was assigned to the 141st Fighter-Bomber Squadron, 108th Fighter-Bomber Group, McGuire Air Force Base. On that day Williams not only became the first African-American to serve in the New Jersey Air National Guard but in the entire Air National Guard as well.

Throughout his brief but eventful life, Williams continually demonstrated the strength of character that only those destined for greatness possess. No challenge was too difficult, no obstacle too great, to impede his rendezvous with history.

As part of our celebration of African-American/Black History Month we bring you the story of one of our own -- 1st Lt. Thomas E. Williams -- New Jersey Air National Guard.

**The Williams Family - A History of Service**

Thomas Eldridge Williams was born on October 27, 1925 in Lawnside, N.J., and was raised in Philadelphia. The youngest of four children in the Richard and Ossie Williams household, Thomas followed in the military footsteps of his father and older brother.

Capt. Richard A. Williams, Sr., Thomas' father enlisted in the Army's 10th Cavalry in 1898 and served in the Philippines during the Spanish-American War. Capt. Williams soldiered in the ranks with Brig. Gen. Benjamin O. Davis, Sr., the first African-American general officer in the United States Armed Forces and father of Lt. Gen. Benjamin O. Davis, Jr., commander of the first African-American fighter squadron. During World War I, Capt. Williams commanded Company L, 370th Infantry, and saw action in several major campaigns in France. In 1935, Capt. Williams organized and commanded the First Separate Battalion, New Jersey State Militia based in Camden. He served as its commander until 1940. Capt. Williams and the elder General Davis remained lifelong friends.

Capt. Richard A. Williams, Jr., Thomas' brother, served as

***Continued on Page 5***

On Feb. 26, 2001, the New Jersey Air National Guard created the Lieutenant Thomas E. Williams Leadership Award for New Jersey high school students honoring the memory of the NJANG's first African-American aviator. The award recognizes students, who display strong personal character, citizenship, leadership and dedication in the battle against intolerance. During the ceremony, Maj. Gen. Richard Cosgrave, then NJANG Commander, presented an honorary award to members of Williams' family.

**Continued from Page 4**

a Tank Company Commander in the famed 761st Tank Battalion, part of Gen. Patton's Third Army. This all African-American battalion finally received its long-overdue Presidential Unit Citation for Extraordinary Heroism in 1978. Another member of the 761st was Jackie Robinson, the Brooklyn Dodger's Hall of Fame player who broke the color barrier in Major League Baseball.

Thomas Williams was destined to continue the long patriotic tradition of his family.

**Lt. Thomas Williams -- Tuskegee Airman**

Following his graduation from West Philadelphia High School in 1942, Thomas Williams enlisted in the United States Army Air Force. Later during his enlistment, he entered into the Army Air Force pilot training program at the Tuskegee Army Airfield, Ala.

Inspired by the tremendous success of the Tuskegee Airmen already serving in Europe, he hungered for the opportunity to see action during World War II. However, he graduated flight training in September 1945, less than a month after the war ended.

Following his separation from active duty in August 1946, he served in the Air Force Reserves while pursuing higher education. He studied zoology at Cornell University for three years and continued his education at Temple University and Rutgers, where he majored in chemistry and English.

**The Civil Rights Movement**

During the Korean War, Williams returned to active duty and immediately volunteered for combat duty. Unfortunately, he did not get his wish but instead was stationed at Bolling Air Force Base, Washington, D.C. While serving during the Korean War, he attended Basic Instructor's School at Craig Air Force Base, Selma, Ala. Although Williams did not know it at the time, this turn of events would ultimately lead to his becoming a key voice in the success of the civil rights movement.

On June 23, 1953, while commuting in full service dress from Eglin Field, Fla., back to Selma, Williams politely declined to yield his seat -- third from the back of the bus -- and move to the extreme rear of the bus. This action resulted in his being charged under the Jim Crow laws with, "being of one race and willfully occupying a seat reserved for another race." In a Crestview, Fla., courtroom, Williams courageously challenged this charge as violation of his Constitutional rights. The Florida judge decided that his court could not hear such a challenge and referred the matter to a higher court, releasing Williams pending the new trial. Unfortunately, this did not satisfy some members of the local law enforcement who arrested Williams in the next town on a charge of speeding. This action eventually led to Williams receiving a letter of reprimand of his commander. In November 1953, the Craig Air Force Base commander recommended that Williams be discharged under the reduction in force program.

Undaunted, Williams met with the NAACP's special counsel, Thurgood Marshall, and pressed on with his challenge. Marshall requested that the Air Force allow Williams to return to

active duty, but Williams declined the offer and instead opted to join the New Jersey Air National Guard on May 7, 1954. A dedicated man of principle, Williams then took his challenge to another level -- the Congress of the United States.

On May 13, 1954, the Eighty-Third Congress convened hearings before the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce. First Lieutenant Thomas E. Williams was the first witness called during the proceedings and was introduced by Clarence Mitchell, Washington Bureau Director of the NAACP. Williams' eloquence and outstanding military bearing had a profound effect on the committee. His testimony was instrumental in the passage of a bill to amend the Interstate Commerce Act prohibiting the segregation of passengers in interstate commerce on the basis of color or race. Eighteen months later, on Dec. 1, 1955, Rosa Parks also refused to move to the back of the bus.

**New Jersey Air National Guardsman**

Williams entry into the New Jersey Air National Guard, was paved in February 1948, by New Jersey Governor Alfred Driscoll who ignored federal policy mandating segregation and ordered the full integration of the New Jersey National Guard months prior to President Harry Truman's Executive Order 9981 of July 26, 1948.

During a routine training mission on January 15, 1955, Williams' F-86A Sabre aircraft entered into an unrecoverable spin. During the ejection sequence, the jettisoned canopy impacted Williams' helmet fatally injuring him. His aircraft crashed into a meadow near Dock Street in Parkertown, N.J. The cause of the mishap was never determined.

Williams was survived by his wife, Ruth, and a two year-old daughter, Joyce.

Upon his passing, Maj. Arthur E. Martone, Commander 141st Fighter-Bomber Squadron, wrote to Williams' sister, Mrs. Hilda Picou, "Thomas has been with us just a short time and during the period he lived up to the standards and traditions of the Air Force and New Jersey Air National Guard. His likeable personality was coupled with intelligence, common sense and outstanding ability as an aviator."

Many Parkertown residents believed that Williams may have stayed with the aircraft long enough to ensure that it cleared the populated area of the town and, therefore, died a hero. In a letter addressed to Mrs. Picou dated Feb. 8, 1955, Mrs. A. Inman of Dock Street, Parkertown, wrote: "Dear Mrs. Picou, any time you would like to come down... you come down and we'll have a nice long chat about your brother. I believe he died a hero -- as much as I believe anything."

The proud legacy of the Williams family includes service in the Spanish-American War, enduring the grueling battles of the Argonne Forest, breaking through the Siegfried Line, and opposing racial discrimination. Their long history of battling tyranny and fighting injustice serves to enrich the members of the New Jersey National Guard. We thank them for being part of our history. 

*Historical research provided by retired Master Sgt. Michael Stowe and retired Staff Sgt. Stephan Clanton. Historical information courtesy of the Williams and Picou families*

# *Workin' under the wings*

U.S. Air Force photos by Staff Sgt. Matt Hecht, 177FW/PA

Senior Airman Mark Huff checks over paperwork on an F-16C, making sure that everything is good for the days' go”





*Tech. Sgt. Brad Reynoso makes some final adjustments while attaching munitions to an F-16C.*



*Airman First Class Jeffrey Montemurro pumps air into the tire of an F-16C Fighting Falcon.*



*Senior Airman Mark Huff readies an F-16C Fighting Falcon for takeoff.*

# JERSEY DEVILS IN THE NEWS



## Leadership team cited

Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, second from left, The Adjutant General of New Jersey, presented the 177th's Propulsion Flight's leadership team with the Team Award during the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Award Ceremony on Jan. 13. Receiving the award are, left to right, Master Sgt. Christian Skierski, Turbo Jet Mechanic; Senior Master Sgt. George D. Clark Jr. Noncommissioned Officer in Charge of Propulsion and Master Sgt. Robert Hernandez, Turbo Jet Mechanic. The 177th Propulsion Flight is currently ranked number one over-all in composite reliability scoring in the F110-GE-100B/C Operational Fleet 24-Month Rolling Average and Best-in-Class Ranking out of 19 Air National Guard and active duty Air Force units. Photo by Mark C. Olsen, NJDMAVA/PAO.



## Albanian recruiters visit Wing

Master Sgt. David Diaz, left, 177th Fighter Wing Recruiting Office Manager, discusses recruiting office techniques and strategies with Albanian military recruiters, right to left, 1st Lt. Eugert Hoxha, Maj. Roland Duraj and Marsela Sinjari at the 177th Fighter Wing Recruiting Office, located at the Consumer Square Mall in Hamilton Township on Jan. 27. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Andrew Moseley/Released)

# New Jersey first state to integrate military

From the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

The National Guard Militia Museum of New Jersey in Sea Girt will open a Black History Month exhibit celebrating the service of New Jersey's African-American Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen.

"Leading the Charge: African-Americans in the New Jersey National Guard" highlights more than two centuries of African-American service through art, photographs, primary source correspondence, and video excerpts from the museum's award-winning Center for U.S. Veterans' Oral Histories. Admission is free and the exhibition runs through Feb. 24.

Notable among New Jersey firsts, the state National Guard was the first component of the U.S. Armed Forces to racially integrate. In February 1948, several months prior to President Harry Truman's Executive Order 9811, New Jersey Governor Alfred Driscoll ignored federal policy mandating segregation and ordered the full integration of the National Guard. The exhibit features never before seen correspondence between Governor Driscoll, Army Secre-



Painting by Peter Culos portraying 22nd United States Colored Infantry Soldiers as they break through Confederate defenses at Petersburg, Va., in June, 1864.

tary Kenneth Royall and Secretary of Defense James Forrestal's office.

"As a consequence of his leadership, New Jersey became the first component of the entire U.S. Armed Forces to end segregation," said 1st Lt. Vincent Solomono, museum curator and Historian of the New Jersey National Guard.

In addition, the exhibit highlights the experiences of the 22nd United States Colored Infantry, comprised mostly of African-American New Jerseyans. The 22nd fought in the Civil War and led a decisive charge at Petersburg, Virginia in June, 1864. That attack is depicted by local artist Peter Culos and featured in the exhibit.

The National Guard Militia Museum is open Tuesday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and the first, second, and third Saturdays and Sundays of the month from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information, visit the museum web site at [www.state.nj.us/military/museum/](http://www.state.nj.us/military/museum/) or call (732) 974-5966.



FEBRUARY IS  
AFRICAN-AMERICAN  
HISTORY MONTH

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

## FEBRUARY 2011

*Make a commitment to implement Diversity Training.*

- ✓ *Observe African-American History Month*
- ✓ *Send Valentines to deployed members*

*The wave of the future is not the conquest of the world by a single dogmatic creed but the liberation of the diverse energies of free nations and free men.*

*- John F. Kennedy*



# NEWS AIRMEN CAN USE

Compiled by the 177th Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office



Find the 177th on

**facebook**

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/177th-Fighter-Wing-NJANG/128573160486904>

## Get your Contrail Photos

Contrail photos are at the Y Drive type in: Njatl14 \shared\\_177FWCC ElectronicFilePlan\001 items to be Filed\PA. Once there, go to folder that is titled 2011 Images. Photos are categorized by month.

**FOD IS EVERYONE'S PROBLEM**

## Annual dental exam

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

Exceptions include pilots, base newcomers, class three individuals or those who have never been seen by a wing dentist.

Start with DD Form 2813 from the clinic or it is available on the local area network (K:\FORMS\DD\ 2800 \dd2813.pdf); have your dentist complete the form and return it to the clinic. Questions call x6240.

## SFRC Increases grants

The New Jersey National Guard State Family Readiness Council has increased the amounts of family and business grants up to \$5,000 and \$10,000.

Both are what are known as TIER I grants. TIER II family grants are also available to Guard non-deployed service members who were on State Active Duty or State Missions (e.g., hurricanes, floods, border missions) for more than 20 consecutive days. Those who meet these criteria can apply for a financial hardship grant up to \$1,500.

Applications are available at all New Jersey Army and Air National Guard Family Assistance Centers. Contact Jean Perry if you are interested in applying at (609) 645-6248.



## Let it snow

Airman from the 177th Civil Engineering Squadron clear the flightline to sustain operations after a winter snowstorm blanketed the Northeastern United States on Jan. 27. (U.S. Air Force Photo by Staff Sgt. Matt Hecht/Released)

# THE HUD

## Alien Summer

By Staff Sgt. Matt Hecht, 177FW/PA

HEADS UP ON MOVIES, GAMES, & ENTERTAINMENT

Hello, and welcome to the HUD, your site for news and updates in the world of movies and video games! This month we're going to talk a little about the movies of 2011.

Each year seems like it has its own theme – 2010 was the year of remakes, and 2011 looks to be the year of alien movies!

You heard me right; there is an unprecedented amount of alien genre films this year. Here's a quick list of what's coming out this year, whether you should see it or not is up to you!

First up is Disney's *I Am Number Four* (Feb. 18) starring Alex Pettyfer, Timothy Oliphant and Dianna Agron. The story centers around nine aliens whose planet is destroyed, so they escape to earth while being chased by their enemies. Hot on its heels is the epic looking *Battle: Los Angeles* (March 11), starring Aaron Eckhart, Michelle Rodriguez and Bridget Moynahan. It's a story about a Marine platoon facing off against an alien invasion. If violent alien invasion films aren't your thing, opening on the same day is the family-friendly animated movie *Mars Needs Moms*, starring Seth Green, Joan Cusack and Dan Fogler. This Disney picture is about Moms being kidnapped by Martians. The following week sees even more alien action as *Paul* (March 18) hits the big screens, starring slapstick duo Simon Pegg and Nick Frost, with Seth Rogen voicing the titular character Paul. It's about two British comic book geeks who visit Area 51 and pick up a surprise guest.

The alien theme continues in April, with *Apollo 18* (April

22), which not much is known of, other than it involves aliens on the Moon. We won't see any more alien movies until the blockbuster season starts in June with the release of *Super 8* (June 10), which is directed by J.J. Abrams, and stars Elle Fanning, Amanda Michalka, and Kyle Chandler. It is set in 1979, and is about an alien that breaks loose in Ohio. Opening the following week is *Green Lantern* (June 17), which is equal parts alien/superhero movie - starring Ryan Reynolds and Blake Lively. Just when you thought it was safe to go outside *Transformers: Dark of the Moon* (July 1) opens and this time Earth faces a full scale alien robot invasion. The fun in July doesn't end there! Next up is *Cowboys & Aliens* (July 29), which combines two genres – western and science fiction movies – and is brought to us by Iron Man director Jon Favreau. Cowboys and Apaches make up their differences to fight a common threat – an alien invasion in the old west! The movie stars Daniel Craig, Harrison Ford and Olivia Wilde.

August gives us the last of the alien movies of 2011 – *The Darkest Hour* (August 5). The movie, yet again, features an alien invasion, this time in Russia, and how five young Americans try to survive it.

There you have it – ten alien themed movies coming out this year. Will they bomb, or will 2011 be known as the year of the alien invasion movie? Keep watching the skies! ☹

## Air Force officials caution against geotags

Social media offers many Airmen another way to keep in touch with colleagues, friends and family, but users need to be aware of the risks associated with technical tools that help them share information.

As Airmen use smartphones to take pictures and access social networking sites, they could be inadvertently posting information showing the exact location of their home, work location, or daily travel patterns through "geotagging."

"When Airmen post photos to the web or post their location via location-based software applications such as 'Foursquare' and 'Facebook Places,' a savvy terrorist or crimi-

nal can easily track where they live and work, their route of travel and even determine if they're away from home," said Maj. Gen. John Weida, the assistant deputy chief of staff for operations, plans and requirements.

Because geotagging adds geographical identification to photographs, video, websites and SMS messages, people can tag a location on their photos, even if their camera or smartphone does not have a GPS function.

Airmen, civilians, contractors, and family members need to practice good OPSEC and remain aware of what information they are placing in the public domain.

## THE FIGHTING FALCONS by SSgt Matt Hecht





*Recent Espionage & Terrorism Cases  
Show That Warnings Were There! If  
You See Something Suspicious,  
Report It to Security!*

