

Contrail

MARCH 2011, VOL. 45, No. 3



Spring is in the air

By Chaplain (Capt.) Thomas P. Ganley

MARCH 2011, VOL. 45, NO. 3

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CHECKING THE TO

Aircraft Egress Mechanic Airman 1st Class Leeihnae Reese with the 177th Fighter Wing works on an F-16C Fighting Falcon on Feb. 13, 2011. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen/Released)

Spring is in the air, and with that new life, new birth, new change

Isn't it wonderful that the winter is now behind us and spring is finally here?

For those of you who like the winter, and mind you, I do also...I'm glad that the snow and cold weather are pretty much behind us. Liturgically, we are celebrating Passover and Easter all most at the same time this year. There is a difference in the lunar and solar calendars that has made this so, but it is always nice to celebrate "The Holidays" together in a way that can show how God is working for the People of the First Testament, and those of the Second or New Testament.

The word lent, that we have just completed, comes to us from the German which means to lengthen or springtime. In the Season of Lent from Ash Wednesday till Holy Thursday, we pray for a change in our being in acts of prayer, fasting and good works. The Sacred Triduum then starts on Holy Thursday, leading us into the three special days that prepare us for Easter and the Great Event of the Resurrection.

Passover is the commemoration of the Exodus Event of the Torah, and tells us the story of how Moses was called to lead the Hebrews out of slavery in Egypt and into the Promised Land. Having completed my Masters of Arts in Judeo Christian Studies from Seton Hall this past December, I have come to appreciate the connection that we Christians are sup-

posed to have with our Jewish Friends, and to see how we can see our similarities, rather than look at our differences.

God is very good, He only wants us to be happy and holy in this world and then be with Him in the next. That is why with the spring now upon us we can break out of our old shells, and look to the "new life" that comes at Easter and to appreciate the fact of not forgetting or not going back to being slaves to anyone as we see with the Exodus. God called and choose Moses to go to Pharaoh and say "let my people go". Moses was a messiah figure that pre-figured the way to Jesus, and for all of us to see and appreciate, that God had a plan from the beginning of time that would come to pass in sending Jesus to us as Our Savior and King. There has been too much in the past of differences and misunderstandings that has led to many injustices of both peoples', which should only lead to a better understanding for the future.

May all of us, have an appreciation of the good that God has set down for us over the centuries, and pray that one day we can all be hand in hand, brothers and sisters together.

God Bless You.
God Love You!
Amen.



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.

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A MESSAGE FROM THE WING COMMANDER



Hello All,

Let me start off by giving you my Operational Readiness Exercise pitch...this is our last chance before the real thing next month! The full-time force has been working overtime to get us where we need to be and now we all need to put on our game faces and get it right. I know there will still be learning and I expect some mistakes, but I need all of you to have a positive attitude, show a sense of urgency, and by the end of this weekend be fully ready for the Operational Readiness Inspection. Remember that our April Phase I ORI is the last inspection to catch us up with the rest of the Air Force, and you can be sure the world will be watching.

I'll now switch gears to talk about our Winter Wingman Day we'll be doing this drill. Suicides have drastically increased in the military over the last couple years, so we're going to spend some time together this weekend after the ORE talking about the concept of resiliency and re-emphasizing the Wingman concept.

According to the Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health, resiliency is defined as the ability to withstand, recover, and/or grow in the face of stressors and changing demands. More simply put, resiliency is the ability to handle life and keep a positive attitude. We can be ready for life's stressors and changing demands by continually building our resiliency skills. Keep in mind that resiliency encompasses the total person to include physical, mental, social, and spiritual fitness. Being strong in all domains allows us to be resilient when faced with difficult situations. I don't expect to teach resiliency in one day as it is something that is developed as you grow. But I think we can review the concept and then emphasize the point that we are a team, and that no one on our team has to face anything alone.

My perspective is this: I've been around long enough to realize that life is a constant cycle between good and bad times. Nothing in life is perfect and everyone will face failure and disappointment at some time. Knowing this and accepting it then leads to the conclusion, in my opinion, that the key to success in life is to keep trying, learn from your mistakes and always focus on the positive. Anything else is a waste of your time and does you no good. Many successful people have been quoted "It's not how many times you fail, but whether or not you keep trying". Like I said, I don't think we can teach resiliency in one day, but the one thing I want to place great emphasis on is the concept of the team. I have faced adversity in my life, including a suicide in my family, but have always bounced back; mainly due to the support structure I have (my team).

So let's talk about this concept of the team and, more importantly the Wingman concept. I believe that you can have all the resiliency in the world, but you will eventually fail if you go at it alone. It's a simple fact that we all need help at certain times in our lives. The people who generally get into trouble are the ones who either don't have anyone, or are afraid to seek out help when required. As military members, we are part of a special team. Our team faces the biggest challenge of any team because when we lose people die. So we owe it to ourselves to be the best team we can be.

There are many things that make up a good team, but let me focus on a few key areas. A good team has people who know how to do their job and realize the value each one has. A successful team has people who know each other's strengths and weaknesses and then know how to work together to exploit the strengths and minimize the weaknesses. We need to know each other and take care of each other. If you are an Airman, you need to be familiar with the people you work with and you need to say something if you see someone who needs help. If you are an NCO or officer, you need to know the strengths and weaknesses of all your people under your command. If you don't know at least a little something about the personal lives of the people under your command then you are not doing your job as a leader. We'll talk more about this in our breakouts sessions, but this is some food for thought. I'll close with one last point...there is a mountain of help available when someone is in trouble or needs help. This should be no surprise but I want to remind everyone of that. Of all states, we have the best family services and family support system. Please make sure to spread this word, especially to new folks.

Have a great drill!

ROBERT C. BOLTON
Colonel, NJANG
Commander



**JOINT FORCE HEADQUARTERS – AIR COMPONENT
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17 February 2011

MEMORANDUM FOR Members of the 108th WG and 177th FW

FROM: NJANG/CC

SUBJECT: Operational Readiness Inspections (ORIs)

1. This letter is in advance of the upcoming Operational Readiness Inspections (ORIs) in both your respective Wings. I am acutely aware of all that you have on your plates as members of the New Jersey Air National Guard. You all bear the responsibilities and tasks of continuous training, multiple and lengthier deployments and ongoing, intensive inspections. Sometimes it seems with very little appreciation. I know the sacrifices you and your families continue to make in the wake of such demands that pull you in different directions.
2. So this message to all of you today is about how proud I am of each and every one of you, the job you do as individuals, and collectively as a team. You are why the New Jersey Air National Guard has the best two Wings in the Air National Guard. You are why we are at over 100% strength in both Wings; in fact, we are one of only four states in the Nation with multiple Wings that are green in overall strength. You are why every deployment and mission is successful and you all come home safely. Finally, you are why we will do well on the ORIs for both the 177th and the 108th and those good results will help to assure our future going forward for both Wings.
3. So please continue to do what you do every day. Your ongoing dedication, perseverance and commitment does not go unnoticed and it **is appreciated**. Know that we are ready at Joint Force HQ-Air to support you with whatever resources you need and that we will stand with you as you head into the final lap of preparing for these inspections and seeing the final results.

MARIA A. FALCA-DODSON
Major General, NJANG
Commander

Jersey Devils



MARCH 177TH FIGHTER WING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH



CONGRESSIONAL COMMISSION STUDIES WOMEN IN COMBAT

By Karen Parrish, American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFNS) -- Defense Department officials will review the recommendations of a congressional commission studying the role of women in combat when the group's report is complete, a DOD official said Jan. 14.

Congress established the Military Leadership Diversity Commission as part of the 2009 National Defense Authorization Act. The commission's task is to evaluate and assess policies that provide opportunities for promotion and advancement of minority members of the armed forces.

The commission's report, expected in March, will include the findings and conclusions of the commission as well as its recommendations for improving diversity within the armed forces.

"DOD will look at the recommendation and go from there," Pentagon spokesman Marine Corps Col. Dave Lapan said. "We'll see what the nature of the report is when it's done."

Congress repealed the combat exclusion laws in the January 1994 National Defense Authorization Act, but requires the services to submit proposed changes to existing assignment policy to Congress for review, Lapan said.

"For example, when the Navy recently changed its policy to enable women to serve on submarines that would go through that process," he said. "So the Navy would have to inform Congress it was going to make a change."

The Marine Corps also triggered congressional review when it opened some intelligence positions to women, Lapan said, but female Marines serving on engagement teams in Afghanistan are in line with department policy on women's assignments.

Lapan said the U.S. military currently prohibits women from serving in combat units below the brigade level. The Marine women on engagement teams are not assigned to combat units, but are augmenting them for a specific mission, he said.

"Part of the reason to do that was because the infantry battalions that were out there didn't have any women, because they couldn't," he explained.

Women make up 14.6 percent of the active duty military. By service, the percentage ranges from 7.5 percent in the Marine Corps to 19.2 percent in the Air Force, according to statistics compiled by the Women in Military Service for America Foundation.

In the Air Force, 99 percent of all occupations are open to women. The Air Force also has the highest percentage of all the services of women with 19.2 percent. At the 177th Fighter Wing, 18 percent of the base population is female.

Women's history — a historical review

From the National Archives and Records Administration

Anna Mae Hays, Chief of the Army Nurse Corps, became a brigadier general on June 11, 1970. Minutes later, Elizabeth P. Hoisington, Director of the Women's Army Corps, received her stars. In 1971, the Air Force promoted the director of Air Force women, Jeanne M. Holm, to brigadier general.

A few months later, Ann E. Hoefly, the Chief of the Air Force Nurse Corps, became the fourth woman general. In 1972, Alene B. Duerk, Chief of the Navy Nurse Corps, received a spot promotion to become the first female rear admiral (lower half), the Navy's equivalent to brigadier general.

The Navy promoted a female line officer, Fran McKee, to flag rank in 1976. McKee thus became the first Navy woman who was not a nurse to achieve star rank. Two years later in 1978, the Marine Corps promoted its Director of Information and former Director of Women Marines, Margaret Brewer, to brigadier general. Director of Information and Technology, Chief Information Officer Vivien Crae was promoted to rear admiral by the Coast Guard in 2000.

The first woman awarded a disability pension by Congress was for wounds incurred during military service was Margaret Corbin. She took over her fallen husband's cannon in the Battle of Fort Mifflin during the American Revolution and she herself was wounded.

During the War of 1812, two women served as nurses aboard Stephen Decatur's flag ship.

During the Civil War women disguised as men served on both sides. Women also served as spies, nurses—including aboard at least one hospital ship.

Dr. Mary E. Walker was awarded the Medal of Honor for her service as a contract surgeon in the Union Army during the Civil War. She is the only woman who has received the nation's highest military award. The medal was awarded for her work as a physician on the battlefield and in military hospitals without regard to her own health and safety. When the criteria for awarding the medal changed in 1917, Dr. Walker's medal was rescinded along with 900 others. In 1977, due to the persistent efforts of the Walker family, the Army Board of Correc-

tions reviewed the case and reversed the 1917 decision, thus restoring the Medal of Honor to Dr. Walker.

Women have served in the American armed forces for over 100 hundred years--since 1901--when the Army Nurse Corps was established. The Navy Nurse Corps soon followed in 1908.

Women who were not nurses were first enlisted in the Navy and Marine Corps during World War I. Only nurses served in the Army during this war; but the Army did hire about 200 civilian women who were fluent in both English and French to serve as telephone operators. These women, often referred to as the "Hello Girls," were later given veterans' status.

During World War II, 432 American military women were killed and 88 were prisoners of war.

In September 1942, the Army Air Force (AAF) created the Women's Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron (WAFS) and appointed Nancy H. Love its commander. Love recruited highly skilled and experienced female pilots who were sent on noncombat missions ferrying planes between factories and AAF installations. While WAFS were being organized, the Army Air Force appointed Jacqueline Cochran as Director of Women's Flying Training. Cochran's school, which eventually moved to Avenger Field in Sweetwater, Texas, trained 232 women before it ceased operations. Eventually, more than 1,000 women completed flight training. As the ranks of women pilots serving the AAF increased, the value of their contribution began to be recognized, and the Air Force took steps to militarize them. As a first step the Air Force renamed their unit from WAFS to Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP).

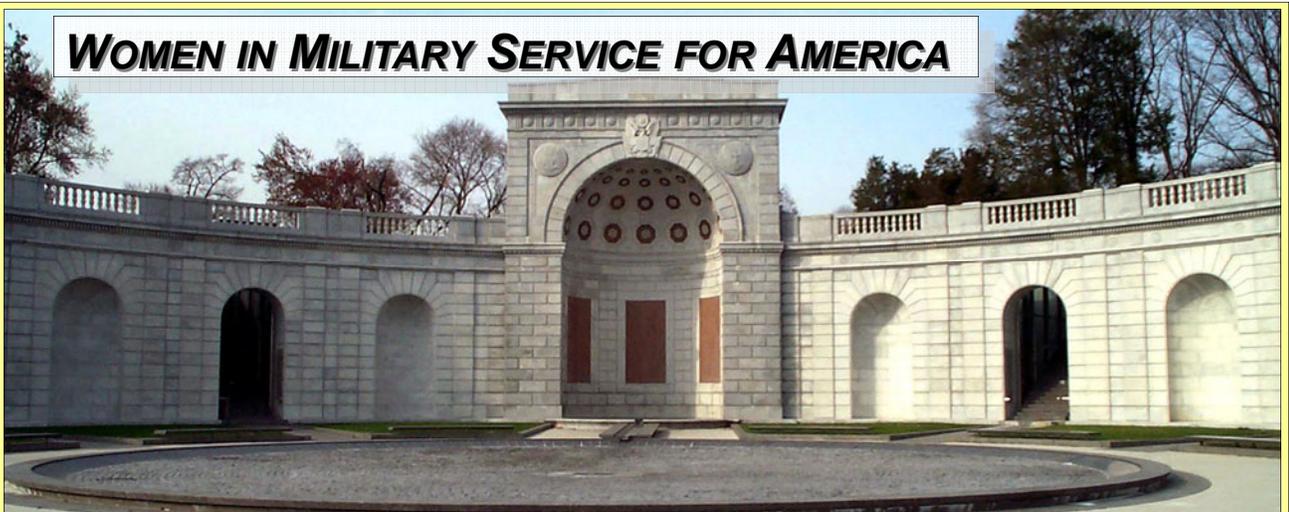
Almost 41,000 women served in theater during Persian Gulf War. 13 women were killed and two were taken as prisoners of war.

To date, more than 20,000 women have served as peacekeepers in Bosnia and Kosovo.

Two women sailors were killed and five were wounded in the terrorist attack on USS Cole.

About 10 percent of the U.S. Forces currently serving in Afghanistan and Iraq are women. 🇺🇸

The Women in Military Service for America Memorial is at the gateway to Arlington National Cemetery. Groundbreaking took place on June 22, 1995 and the Memorial was dedicated on Oct. 18, 1997. It stands in lasting recognition of all women who have served, are serving and will serve in our nation's defense.



JERSEY DEVILS IN THE NEWS

EOD assists local police

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Matt Hecht, 177FW/PA

Early Wednesday morning, March 9, the Hamilton Township police department responded to a report of multiple gunshots in the vicinity of the 3100 block of Woodland Drive in the Woodlands Condominium Complex, Hamilton Township.

Fortunately no one was injured, but to find out the extent of the damage to the two apartment units, a unique source was tapped – the New Jersey Air National Guard 177th Fighter Wing Explosive Ordnance Disposal.

Two EOD technicians, Tech. Sgt. David Niedzwiadek and Staff Sgt. John Hurley, both from the 177th Civil Engineering Squadron, responded to the scene.

"Their technical skills and equipment were used to locate rounds which were embedded into the two units," said Hamilton Township Police spokesman Lt. Ed Barr.

"We used our X-Ray apparatus to help locate the bullets," said Niedzwiadek. "It felt great helping out the local police."



Tech. Sgt. David Niedzwiadek, left, and Staff Sgt. John Hurley of the 177th Fighter Wing Explosive Ordnance Disposal.

"It was good to see how the Hamilton Township Police do their forensics, and it was a great operational use of our equipment," said Hurley.

"The integration with local law enforcement went very smoothly."

Airmen take top slots at annual FAA CFC run/walk event



Eight 177th Airmen, left to right, Tech. Sgt. Justin Kelley, Senior Airman Alison Jones, Master Sgts. William Dingman and Laura Moyer, Senior Airman Patrick Ireland, Tech. Sgt. Kirk Sherry and Master Sgt. Richard Buhl, not pictured Senior Master Sgt. Timothy Donovan, participated in the Combined Federal Campaign Fundraiser Run/Walk at the William J. Hughes Technical Center in November 2010. Dingman took the Air Guard Men's 1st place, while Jones claimed Air Guard Women's 1st place. In the Clydesdale category 1st place went to Buhl while Sherry grabbed the 2nd place trophy. Courtesy photo.

Fuel Your Future

Air National Guard

AROUND THE WING



Senior Airman Henry C. Lanier II, above, performs maintenance in the cockpit of an F-16C Fighting Falcon on Feb. 13. Tech. Sgt. Michael F. Sears, left, a Munitions Disposal Mechanic with the 177th Fighter Wing Explosive Ordnance Disposal team, waits the order to remotely detonate a backpack by a Remotec MK VI Andros robot during a training exercise on Feb. 13. (U.S. Air Force photos by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen/Released)





NEWS AIRMEN CAN USE

Compiled by the 177th Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

A word from the 177th SARC

From Capt. Toni Memmelaar, 177FW/SARC

I know that most of you know me pretty well, but I would like to take a minute to introduce myself in a new role - as the 177th Fighter Wing's Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC). I have a responsibility to ensure that any member who reports a sexual assault is treated with the utmost respect, care and confidentiality.

EVERY reported sexual assault will be treated seriously and victims will be afforded dignity and fairness. The Wing's well trained team of Victim Advocates will also do the same for any victim assigned to them.

- Capt. Toni Memmelaar: SARC
- Capt. Laura McKendrick: Alternate SARC
- Maj. Roxellen Auletto: Victim Advocate
- Tech. Sgt. Grant Holway: Victim Advocate
- Staff Sgt. Nicole Horn: Victim Advocate
- Airman 1st Class Stephen Moore: Victim Advocate

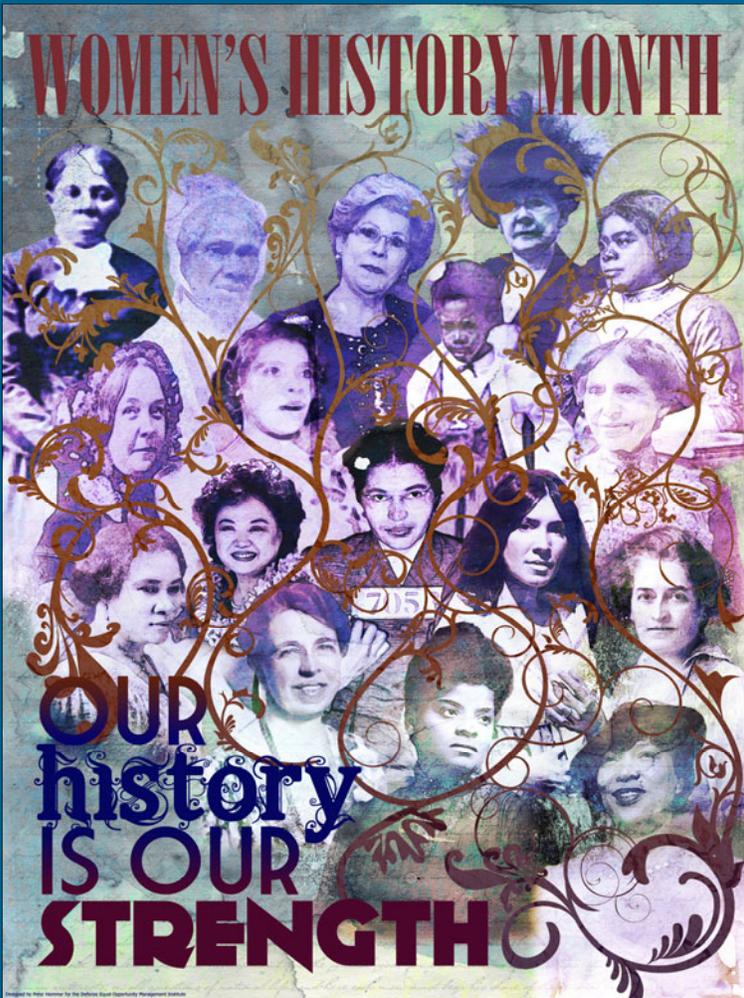
If you have been sexually assaulted or know someone who has, please find the strength within yourself to come talk to me or one of the Victim Advocates. If you are not comfortable talking in person, feel free to call the SARC cell line at 609-385-3671.

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.



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

MARCH

2011

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

STATE, WING GARNERS AWARDS IN MEDIA CONTEST

From the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

The public affairs offices of New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs and the 177th Fighter Wing received several awards in the 2010 National Guard Bureau Media Contest.

The contest recognizes the best and brightest in Guard's public affairs community, which includes more than 1,000 citizen-Soldiers and – Airmen from the 54 states and territories, and includes all the state Joint Force Headquarters.

The contest, which has been running for more than 30 years, has produced many Thomas Jefferson Award winners – the highest award given to a Department of Defense public affairs practitioner.

In the Graphics Layout & Design category, Master Sgt. Mark Olsen, 177th FW/PA and a public affairs specialist with the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, received third place for his work on "Guardlife, the Magazine of the New Jersey National Guard".

The Contrail, the 177th Fighter Wing's monthly newsletter, received second place in the Web-Based Publication category.

In addition, Staff Sgt. Matt Hecht, also assigned to the 177th FW/PA, received two awards – first place in the Graphics



Animation category for his piece "NJ State Video Intro" and third place in the Graphics Illustration category for his design "Ready Always".

Rounding out the awards was Master Sgt. Mark Olsen, 177th FW/PA, coming in third place in the Illustrative Photo category for his image "Major accident response".

Winners at the Guard level are moved up into the Army and Air Force media contests. 🇺🇸

ORI IS IN APRIL—R U READY?

Get your Contrail Photos

Contrail photos are at the Y Drive type in: Njatl14 \shared\177FWCCElectronicFilePlan\00litemstobeFiled\PA. Once there, go to folder that is titled 2011 Images. Photos are categorized by month.



Find the 177th on
facebook.

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

Stop Loss Pay deadline extended

From the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

The deadline for eligible service members, veterans and their beneficiaries to apply for Retroactive Stop Loss Special Pay (RSLSP) has been extended to March 18, 2011, allowing personnel more time to apply for the benefits they've earned under the program guidelines.

The deadline extension is included in the continuing resolution recently signed by President Obama, which provides funding for federal government operations through March 18.

The RSLSP was established to compensate for the hardships military members encountered when their service was involuntarily extended under the Stop Loss Authority between Sept. 11, 2001, and Sept. 30, 2009. Eligible members or their beneficiaries may submit a claim to their respective military service in order to receive the benefit of \$500 for each full or partial month served in a Stop Loss status.

To apply or to get more information on RSLSP, including submission requirements and service-specific links, go to www.defense.gov/stoploss. 🇺🇸

*An Immunization Can
Protect Your Health -
Only Vigilance Can
Protect Our Security*

USAF photo by MSgt Keith Reed

