Contrail

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COVER: MOUNTAIN VIEW

Tech. Sgt. Grant Holway looks out of an F-16D Fighting Falcon on July 15, while flying over Denali National Park and Preserve, Alaska. Holway is a fuel systems technician in the 177th Maintenance Squadron. Photo courtesy Tech. Sgt. Grant Holway.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

THE LORD'S BLESSINGS

By Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Dean Wentzien

PSALM 33:12 "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people whom He has chosen for His own inheritance."

God has certainly blessed the United States, extending His hand of provision across this great nation. Yet, how often do we fail to say, "Thank You, Lord"?

When Americans celebrate our independence every July, it is fitting that we take a moment and offer thanks to God for providing so abundantly for us. Specifically, consider how He has blessed us in these areas:

Godly Heritage - history shows that the vast majority of the men who signed our Constitution were practicing Christians. This country was founded on biblical principles and a Christ-centered interpretation of justice, fairness, and equal opportunity.

Natural Resources - just think about all the blessings God has put at our feet: minerals, ore, oil, forests, lakes, pastures, farmlands, and more. He has provided not only what we need for ourselves, but also enough to care for other countries around the world.

Economy - the free enterprise that characterizes America is a remarkable benefit for us all. We excel in innovations because we are at liberty to follow our passions.

Freedom - every time you cast a ballot - no matter how unimportant a given election may seem - you should thank God for the freedom to personally impact the direction of this country. It's an amazing blessing that is completely unknown in many nations around the world.

Slow down a bit and look around, intentionally noticing the Lord's blessings in your life. For what do you most need to give thanks?

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,

Here we are with summer in full swing and I hope you are all enjoying it as much as possible. It's been pretty quiet around the base since the first week of July, when we launched more than 100 Airmen out to Alaska for Red Flag. The deployers consisted mainly of operations and maintenance personnel who are getting valuable training in preparation for our upcoming deployment to Afghanistan. Most people think of Las Vegas when they hear the term "Red Flag", but several years ago the Air Force opened a similar facility at Eielson Air Force Base in Alaska. Alaska provides a unique opportunity with high terrain similar to that our pilots will be dealing with when they deploy. In addition to simulated combat training, there were live weapons drops and live fire with the F-16's 20mm Gatling gun, something we haven't done in more than a year. I look forward to their safe return this weekend.

Speaking of drill weekends, I decided to rearrange some drill dates this fall to accommodate the Governor's review. The affected months are September and October. The September drill dates are now 24-25 and the October drill dates are now 22-23. The Governors review will take place on Sept. 25 and many people will be required to attend the practice the day before. I moved the October drill since the originally scheduled drill date would have been the very next weekend after the Governor's review. If this causes anyone trouble with an employer or conflicts with something else, work with your supervisor.

Let me now cover some recent events... A couple weeks ago a group of us including Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, The Adjutant General travelled to the Republic of Albania where we met with their military leadership and attended a graduation ceremony. Albania is New Jersey's State Partnership Program partner and we have a team New Jersey Army Guardsmen who have been training for the past three months to go to Afghanistan with a group of Albanian Army soldiers. The graduation ceremony was for this joint team and their mission will be to train Afghan National Army soldiers.

I'm happy to say we have been making steady progress with our base running track, which is being constructed over by the Civil Engineering cantonment area. Last drill I gave a pitch for interested individuals to consider joining the Honor Guard and, to date, we have only had one taker. As a reminder, the Honor Guard program is an exciting one where you not only get to serve and represent our unit and country; you get paid to do it! The cost of the uniforms is also covered. Also last month you should have heard about the New Jersey Joint Force Headquarters Climate Survey and the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" (DADT) mandatory training we are all required to accomplish. The DADT training is accomplished via ADLS and it doesn't take long at all. Please get this done over this drill as we are past the completion date and this has the attention of senior Air Force leadership. I also ask you to please complete the JFHQ Climate Survey put out by Maj. Gen. Falca-Dodson, the commander of the New Jersey Air National Guard. Again, our completion numbers are low, and it is important for her to get a feel for how you feel things are going here in the Wing and in the state. Thank you in advance for your attention to these areas.

One last current event to mention is our annual air show coming up on Wednesday, August 17. As in years past, everyone is encouraged to bring out family and friends to the Boardwalk for this excellent event! If you don't like crowds, the day before is the practice event and you can still enjoy most of the same events. Full-timers can choose either the practice or the actual air show day as their duty location, pending unit needs. Also I look forward to awarding superior performers admission to the Chalet on air show day. Have a good drill and be safe!

Have a safe and productive drill!

ROBERT C. BOLTON
Colonel, NJANG
Commander

RED FLAG ALASKA

By Staff Sgt. Matt Hecht, 177FW/PA

Denali Mountain Range, Alaska by Senior Airman Andrew DeMartini, 177/FWAMS

The men and women of the 177th Fighter Wing recently participated in Red Flag Alaska 11-2, a 10-day air combat training exercise sponsored by the United States Pacific Air Forces and held at Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska.

The history of Eielson goes back to 1943, when it was established as Mile 26 Satellite Field. The base was renamed to honor polar pilot Carl Ben Eielson, who was the first person to fly an airplane across the Arctic Ocean.

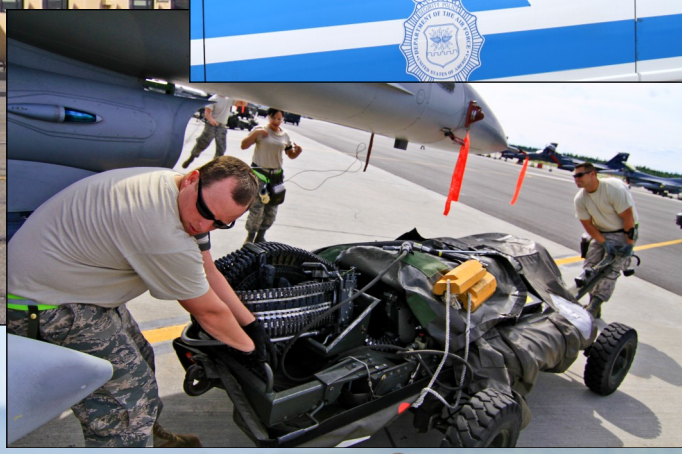
Red Flag Alaska 11-2 featured a coalition force including the Royal Australian Air Force, Japanese Self Defense Force, along with the Singapore, and Thailand Air Forces. The training included air-to-air combat against Air Force Aggressor Squadrons, as well as air-to-ground missions in support of infantry personnel.

Airman 1st Class Felix Perez readies an aircraft for launch. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Matt Hecht)

Tech. Sgt. Keith Williams, 177th Maintenance Squadron, takes in the view over Denali National Park and Preserve, Alaska, from the back seat of an F-16D. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Keith Williams)

RED FLAG ROUNDUP

Photos by Staff Sgt. Matt Hecht, 177FW/PA



Flight line imagery

Photos by Senior Airman Andrew DeMartini, 177FW/AMS

Alaska wild-life

Alaska was not only a great training environment, it was also a great destination to take in the sites and view a variety of wildlife including moose, grizzly bears, elk and wolves. Many 177th members went hiking, fishing, white water rafting and flying. Denali National Park and Preserve, the location of Mount McKinley, the highest mountain peak in North America, was only a few hours drive from Eielson Air Force Base.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Matt Hecht, 177FW/PA

Photo by Staff Sgt. Rich Szerbin, 177FW/MXS

Photo courtesy Staff Sgt. Elizabeth Hamby, 177FW/OG

Photo by Senior Airman Andrew DeMartini, 177FW/AMS

Sunglasses while in uniform

By Chief Master Sgt. George Gulya, 177FW/FSS

Take time to make sure you and your wingman are paying attention to Air Force standards. Below are the requirements for sunglasses while in uniform.

Conservative ornamentation on frames and lenses: Frames may be black or brown material, or gold or silver wire. Brand name glasses may be worn with small logo on frames or lenses. Logo must be same color as frames or lenses.

Conservative wraparound sunglasses, as well as Conservative, clear, slightly tinted or photosensitive lenses may be worn.

Conservative lenses and frames: Faddish styles and mirrored lenses are prohibited. No sunglasses to include darkened photosensitive lenses in formation. Not worn around the neck or on top/back of head or exposed hanging on the uniform. Specifically, eyeglasses/sunglasses will be worn in the manner for which they were made.

Finally, remember while performing duties as a Pallbearer Sunglasses are not authorized.

Ground Safety Reminders

By Senior Master Sgt. Michael T. Wachter, 177FW/SEG

Seat belts: All personnel are reminded to wear them at all times, in both personal and government vehicles – this is the law – observe it.

Hands free devices are required while driving on base and anywhere in New Jersey. Do not use cell phones at all when operating a government vehicle.

No texting and driving this state law.

Motorcyclists must wear all required personal protection equipment.

Walkers, joggers and bike riders are reminded that no headsets are allowed when exercising on base roadways.

For your safety you should jog or walk facing traffic.

Bicyclists will follow the flow of traffic and wear helmets this state law.

Wear reflective gear during times of reduced visibility.

Pedestrians always watch for traffic. In turn, motorists watch for pedestrians.

Pay strict attention to heat stress advisories when considering physical training.

The Air National Guard: Best Value for America

"In fiscal year 2006, it cost the federal government more than $126,000, on average, to provide annual compensation to active duty service members…Most reservists are part-time, and their per capita compensation was $19,100 in FY 2006."

- Government Accountability Office, "Military Personnel"

"…we find that the total amount budgeted is approximately $51,000 for each reserve component service member and $223,000 for each active component service member."

-Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller)

"When…personnel appropriations are compared, it is striking to note that Air Reserve Component members use about 14 percent of appropriated personnel funds, but perform over half of all Air Force missions." - The Heritage Foundation

"Our analysis found that reservists are the best buy for the taxpayer…by any metric they are a cost-effective source of trained manpower, particularly as the cost of active-duty manpower has grown exponentially in recent years. We consulted CBO, GAO, the DOD comptroller, and outside think tanks. There are many studies and lots of data, but they all come to the same conclusion..."

- Commission on the National Guard and Reserves, 2008

References

- Commission on the National Guard and Reserves (CNGR), Final Report to Congress, 2008
- GAO Report 07-828, June 2007
- Congressional Research Service, RL30802 (10 Feb 2009) and RL32965 (30 Nov 2009)
- The Heritage Foundation, Web Memo #1942 (2 Jun 2008)
- Statement for the CNGR concerning final report, testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee

Learn more at www.ang.af.mil

The Air National Guard: Best Value for America

"Given the…looming fiscal challenges the nation confronts, the projected demands for forces, the unique capabilities resident in the reserve components, and their cost effectiveness, the Commission sees no reasonable alternative to an increased use of and reliance on the reserve components"

- Commission on the National Guard and Reserves, 2008

Our People: 106,700 Americans on call in 50 states, three territories, and the District of Columbia

Air National Guard members provide *full-time* readiness at a *part-time* cost; minimal burden on taxpayer unless called for duty

Cost-effective
- 35% of USAF capabilities for 6% of budget
- Reserve component retirement costs 10% of active duty
- Reserve component pay averages 25% of an active duty member

Available
- In the past year, 18,366 Air Guardsmen have deployed to 62 countries and every continent, including Antarctica
- An average of over 30% of all deployed Air Force aircraft needs filled by ANG units

Dedicated
- Over 70% of all deployments filled with volunteers
- With over 146,000 deployments since 9/11, the ANG maintains the highest retention of any service (active or reserve)

Our Infrastructure: Cost effective capabilities across the nation and in your community

Locally-based facilities across America means reduced cost to the taxpayer and increased regional support

Community Contributor
- 75% of facilities "dual use" with civilian airfields
- Strengthens communities by providing capabilities like air traffic control, and communications.

Efficient
- Community basing allows use of existing civilian infrastructure
- $4 million in taxpayer money gains $12 billion in airfield facilities

Homeland Defenders
- The Air National Guard operates 90% of the US air defense alert sites
- Dispersed smaller bases aid in domestic response

News Airmen Can Use

Vacancies at the 177th

From the 177th Force Support Squadron

The 177th Fighter Wing has numerous openings in both its enlisted and officer ranks.

Currently the Wing has three officer openings – security forces operations officer, executive officer and aircraft maintenance officer. Contact Lt. Col. Ronald Williamson at 6213 for more information on the application process.

There are several full-time enlisted openings including sheet metal mechanic, electronics mechanic supervisor, aircraft mechanic leader, electronic integrated systems mechanic, aircraft mechanic, aircraft ordnance systems mechanic supervisor, aircraft ordnance systems mechanic and finally a production supervisor.

For more information about full-time vacancies go to www.state.nj.us/military/vacancy/index.html or call Airman 1st Class Kristina Reinhard at extension 6209.

There are also openings for traditional Guardsmen in tactical air control party, integrated avionics systems, aerospace ground equipment, aircraft electrical and environmental, fuels and petroleum oil and lubricants; logistics plans, vehicle equipment maintenance, munitions, armaments, structural, contracting and a safety specialist. Contact Master Sgt. Christina Vidro at extension 6217 for information about any of these positions.

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.

Don't gamble with your safety

Get your Contrail Photos

Contrail photos are at the Y Drive type in: Y:_177 FW HEADQUATERS ELECTRONIC FILE PLANS\177FW PA ELECTRONIC FILE PLAN\00 - Items to be filed\PA\2011 Images. Photos are categorized by month.

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

JULY 2011

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

Jersey Devils in the News

177th Airman earns 2011 Chief's Award

Chief Master Sgt. Michael Allen, right,177th Fighter Wing, receives the Major General Richard "Craig" Cosgrave Chief's Award from former New Jersey Air National Guard commander, retired Maj. Gen. Richard C. Cosgrave, on July 7. The award was developed to honor those outstanding chief master sergeants in the New Jersey Air National Guard that demonstrated superior performance, community service, professionalism and leadership in the highest standard. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Matt Hecht)

Security Recognized

Security Forces Squadron members of the 177th Fighter Wing participate in a medal ceremony on July 12. Three Security Forces Airmen were awarded Air Force Commendation medals for their work in the Unit's Phase II Operational Readiness Inspection and their deployment to Iraq. (U.S. Air Force photo/Master Sgt. Andrew J. Moseley)

Weapons Loaders

Senior Airman Kelly Eilenberg installs a fin on an AIM 120 advanced medium-range air-to-air missile during the annual load crew competition on June 12. Weapons shops Air Force-wide compete internally while here at the 177th, the competition has been held since 1981. Eilenberg was assigned to Tech. Sgt. Michael Bishop's team, which won the competition. This year's contest featured the wing's top four crews. Each group starts with 3,000 points with points deducted for wrong answers on a written test and mistakes made during the actual load competition. Each team must load two AIM 120 missiles, a GBU 12 Paveway II laser-guided bomb and a GBU 54 Joint Direct Attack Munition. (U.S. Air Force photo/Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen)

PROMOTIONS & AWARDS

To Lieutenant Colonel:
Maj. Brian McCarthy
Maj. Ronald Williamson

To Major:
Capt. Gerald Bennett

To First Lieutenant:
2nd Lt. Keith Griefer

To Second Lieutenant:
Chief Master Sgt. Jacquelyn Jackson

To Senior Master Sergeant:
Master Sgt. John White

To Master Sergeant:
Tech. Sgt. Michael Thompson

To Technical Sergeant:
Staff Sgt. Howard Chattley
Staff Sgt. Valorie Chiola
Staff Sgt. James Eckert
Staff Sgt. Lucas Gunther
Staff Sgt. Bryan Hicken
Staff Sgt. Luz Rosario
Staff Sgt. Jaspera Talib-Moore
Staff Sgt. Brandon Wood

To Staff Sergeant:
Senior Airman Erica Aybar-Morillo
Senior Airman Joshua Bone
Senior Airman Joshua Bronson
Senior Airman Brian Cooke
Senior Airman Andrew Constantine
Senior Airman Kevin Costa
Senior Airman Richard Elliot
Senior Airman Adrienne Guagenti
Senior Airman Brandon Johnson
Senior Airman Sangha Hari Mohan
Senior Airman Jamen Lomonaco
Senior Airman Robert Taylor
Senior Airman Michael Walsh
Senior Airman Sebastian Zelazny

To Senior Airman:
Airman 1st Class Kathleen Barton
Airman 1st Class Jason Dever
Airman 1st Class Kelly Eilenberg
Airman 1st Class Clint Ellis
Airman 1st Class Vincent Loglisci
Airman 1st Class Stephen Moore
Airman 1st Class Bryan North
Airman 1st Class Denery Phillips

Meritorious Service Medal
Col Marcus Quint
Lt. Col. Daniel Mitola
Lt. Col. Ronald Williamson
Maj. Diana Brown
Maj. Jan Burgress
Maj. Thomas Dahl
Maj. James Layton
Chief Master Sgt. Jose Gonzalez
Chief Master Sgt. George Gulya
Senior Master Sgt. Jeanette Giza
Master Sgt. Anna Ayars
Master Sgt. Donald Meddings

Non-Article 5 NATO Medal for service with NATO in relation to the ISAF Operation
Senior Master Sgt. Robert Zaniewski
Tech. Sgt. Justin Kaenzig
Staff Sgt. Jose Oyola
Staff Sgt. Jonathan Scheets
Senior Airman Ethan Hugg
Senior Airman Augustin Rosado

Air Force Combat Action Medal
Tech. Sgt. David Niedzwiadek
Staff Sgt. Michael Sears

177th Employee of the Year – 2010
The employee of the year and special achievement awards recognize 177th Fighter Wing personnel who have shown outstanding job performance, customer service and the ability to go over and above the established job requirements. Their dedication and efforts have made the 177th Fighter Wing a better and more efficient operation and created a more positive image of the Wing.

177th Medical Group:
Staff Sgt. Karen Henry
177th Fighter Wing:
Master Sgt. Anna Ayars
119th Fighter Squadron:
Maj. John Barrett
177th Det-1:
Master Sgt. Samuel Arlia
177th Maintenance Squadron:
Tech. Sgt. Brian McDevitt
177th Maintenance Group:
1st Lt. Dawn Schol

177th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron:
Master Sgt. Michael Valiante
177th Maintenance Operations Flight:
Tech. Sgt. John Cobleigh
177th Logistics Readiness Squadron:
Master Sgt. Anthony Henchinski
177th Civil Engineering Squadron:
Master Sgt. Robert Mick
177th Security Forces Squadron:
Pete Hecht
177th Communications Squadron:
Staff Sgt. Stephen Hillman
177th Force Support Squadron:
Tech. Sgt. Dorothy Lanthier
227th Air Support Operations Squadron:
Tech. Sgt. Patrick Donohoe
Creativity Award:
Master Sgt. Samual Arlia
Customer Service Award:
Tech. Sgt. Angela Ward
Volunteer/Community Services Award:
Senior Airman Rebecca Patterson
Human Relations Award:
Jean Perry

Warren Grove Range Team Award
Master Sgt. Anthony Boccelli
Tech. Sgt. Todd Butcher
Tech. Sgt. Ryan Butcher
Airman 1st Class David Ringer

2010 NGB Media Contest
Master Sgt. Andrew Moseley, First place, Television Spot Production, Third Place Air Force Media Contest Staff Sgt. Matthew Hecht, Second Place, Art/Graphics Entry, Womens History Month 2010; Third Place, Combat Documentation Photo, Incoming; Third Place, Video Field Production

Chiefs Award
Master Sgt. Michael Valiante

2011 Willey Award
Senior Master Sgt. James McClosky

Open Sky

By Senior Airman Andrew DeMartini, 177/FWAMS