Contrail

November 2011, Vol. 45, No. 11

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NOVEMBER 2011, VOL. 45, NO. 11

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COVER: EYES ON TARGET

Staff Sgt. Kevin Allmann, back, 177th Security Forces Squadron, assists Tech. Sgt. Michele Graiff, front, 177th Maintenance Squadron, during weapons qualification for the upcoming Air Expeditionary Force deployment on Oct. 23. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen, 177FW/PA)

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

REASONS TO SAY THANKS

By Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Dean Wentzien

Psalm 107:1-15

Did you ever find yourself staring at the words Thanksgiving Day on the calendar and wondering what in the world you had to be thankful for?

It could happen if a job loss makes you wonder how you will ever get enough money to survive. Or if you have recently heard nothing but bad news from the doctor. Or if someone you had entrusted with your heart has broken it and run away.

The reasons we may find it hard to give thanks are as many as the troubles us each day. Difficulties do not pause for a Thanksgiving break.

There is a way, however, to find reasons to be thankful even during the darkest episodes of life. When the curtain of struggles seems to block out all joy, we can choose to be thankful.

One way is to look into Scripture to see all the things we have to be thankful for, which have nothing to do with circumstances. Despite our trials, we can give thanks for God's unfailing goodness (Psalm 106:1); for God's holy name (Psalm 30:4); for deliverance from sin (Romans 7:24-25); for victory over death (1 Corinthians 15:56-57); for God's nearness (Hebrews 13:5).

When all joy seems gone, we can still find reasons to thank God - even if it means thanking Him, that our difficulties will one day be replaced by the joys of heaven.

What brings an attitude of gratitude? True thanksgiving, from the heart. It comes from the presence and working of God in our heart, as every moment of our lives He leads us to experience the love, mercy and forgiveness; as He feeds and supplies our inner natures with the riches of God's grace in the love of the Savior.

A seventeenth-century German pastor names Martin Rinkhart is said to have buried 5,000 of his parishioners in one year - an average of fourteen a day. By all rights, an unrelieved disgust of gloom should have enveloped the life and household of Pastor Rinkhart during 1636 in the heart of the Thirty Years' War. After all, his parish was being ruined by war and disease. But instead, out of a heart "trained" in thanksgiving for God's goodness and love, he penned this simple table grace for his children.

"Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices; Who wondrous things hath done, in whom his world rejoices. Who, from our mother's arms, hath blest us on our way. With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today!"

This prayer has become one of the most loved hymns of the Christian church. May it remind us this Thanksgiving Day of the one to whom we give thanks, "Always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ..." (Ephesians 5:20)

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 Vice Wing Commander

Fellow Warriors

This should be my final contribution to the Contrail on behalf of Col Bolton; I'll give up the stick after Veteran's Day. It's been very rewarding to fill-in for the boss since October, but I must admit, I'm ready for the "regular crew chief" to come back to run the wing! I thought I was busy when I was a full-timer, but this traditional juggling act has proven to be quite a challenge! One weekend per month? Yeah, right…

I wanted to publicly recognize the extraordinary efforts of many wing members last week, both full time and traditional, in support of two significant events in our state.

The first event was the New Jersey Volunteer Recognition Ceremony, hosted by Governor Christie on Oct. 26, to honor those individuals and organizations which played a significant role in disaster preparedness and relief, saving lives and protecting property in the wake of Hurricane Irene last August. Nearly fifty wing members attended the ceremony with very little advance notice. The Patriots Theater at the Trenton War Memorial was filled to standing room only, including a large contingent of Airmen and Soldiers of the New Jersey Air and Army National Guard. It was a magnificent display of solidarity with the Adjutant General, and our presence in numbers certainly impressed Governor Christie and the numerous distinguished attendees. The National Guard is both a vital and vibrant force within the State of New Jersey, and we demonstrated that quite clearly, once again, last Wednesday.

The second major event was the funeral for Staff Sgt. Jorge Miguel Oliveira of the New Jersey Army National Guard, killed in action in Afghanistan on October 20, 2011. The funeral Mass, held on Oct. 28 at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark, featured an unprecedented, solemn outpouring of New Jersey Guardsmen, standing by the hundreds with the bereaved family and friends of Sergeant Oliveira. While the day was indeed long for the more than one hundred members of the 177th Fighter Wing who attended the funeral, with many enduring the cold outside for nearly two hours as the cathedral was filled beyond capacity, the family of Staff Sgt. Oliveira was deeply moved by the military presence and exceedingly grateful for such a profound display of compassion. For those who attended from the 177th, thank you for honoring this fallen hero by your sacrifice of time and energy; you acquitted yourselves perfectly as Airmen in keeping with the finest traditions of the military service.

The focus of this UTA is fulfilling the myriad mobility requirements to get the Air Expeditionary Force deployers out the door and to the fight over the next month. I'm asking you all to be patient; there will certainly be plenty of opportunity for frustration, but please do your best to cooperate fully with those involved with your mobility processing.

One more item of extreme interest this UTA for the traditional and full-time force is the compliance with the annual CEI (Civilian Employment Information) reporting requirement. As a minimum, we will set up extra computers in the dining facility for you to log on and get it done. Please take care of this requirement ASAP. Detailed instructions for compliance will follow in a base wide email.

Have a safe and productive drill, and thanks for the privilege of serving with you as your vice commander.

MARCUS QUINT
Colonel, NJANG
Vice Commander

MAINTENANCE ON TARGET

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

The 177th Combat Arms Training Maintenance instructors trained more than 100 Maintenance Squadron Airman for the upcoming Air Expeditionary Force deployment—a record according to CATM instructor Master Sgt. Dave Kovak on the M16-A2 rifle Oct. 22-23. With a 95 percent pass rate, another record for the 177th CATM troops. This weekend, CATM will be training another 54.

Airman 1st Class Ashley Kline gets help from CATM instructor Staff Sgt. Richard Elliot Jr. during the classroom portion of the training.

CATM instructor Master Sgt. Dave Kovak demonstrates the kneeling position during the dry-firing portion of the class.

CATM TRAINS MAINTAINERS FOR AEF

CATM instructor Staff Sgt. David Pabon, left, explains the sighting process to Master Sgt. Michael Quigley. Below, left, firing standing; bottom right: firing prone.

Jersey Devils in the News

An Honor

Airmen from 177th Fighter Wing, the 108th Wing and Soldiers from New Jersey Army National Guard Recruiting and Retention Command listen to Medal of Honor recipient retired Army Col. Jack Jacobs at the Birdies for the Brave event at TCP Jasna Polana on Oct. 24. Jacobs received the award for service in Vietnam. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen)

Rising 6 Council to restart

Rising 6 is a private organization designed to promote professional development, welfare, and morale of junior enlisted members.

The Rising 6 also looks to encourage an attitude of unified purpose and affect positive change on base and in the community. The Rising 6 represents all junior enlisted rank Airmen from E-1 through E-6. A meeting for new and returning members will be held in the family support center on Nov. 6 at 11 a.m. All those interested are encouraged to attend. Contact Tech. Sgt. Justin Kelley at 761-6001 or Senior Airmen Colleen Shea at 761-6073 with any questions.

Uniform changes!

After Nov. 1, 2011, Battle Dress Uniform- (BDU's), Desert Camouflage Uniform (DCU's) will no longer be worn. Tan boots) are no longer authorized at home station.

Wear of the Airman Battle Uniform and ABU items will be mandatory as of Nov. 1, 2011.

Please see the following web site for all of your uniform questions. http://www.afpc.af.mil/dress/index.asp

Vacancies at the 177th

From the 177th Force Support Squadron

The 177th Fighter Wing has four first sergeant vacancies—227th Air Support Operations Squadron, 177th Headquarters Element, 177th Medical Group and 177th Maintenance Group. Contact Command Chief Master Sgt. Raynaldo Morales at 761-6218 for more details.

There are several full-time enlisted openings including sheet metal mechanic, electronics mechanic supervisor, aircraft mechanic leader, electronics mechanic supervisor, aircraft mechanic, management analyst, production controller, budget analyst and an explosive ordnance disposal technician.

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 aircraft maintenance, aircraft fuel systems, special purpose vehicle operations, knowledge operations management andfire protection. Contact Master Sgt. Christina Vidro at extension 6217 for information about any of these positions.

Jersey Devils in the News

Same duties, different location

Master Sgt. Gary Parker, an Avionics technician deployed from the 177th Fighter Wing, works on an F-16C Fighting Falcon at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, on Oct 30. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Matt Hecht)

Governor praises Guard

Gov. Chris Christie praises the New Jersey National Guard who helped New Jerseyans during Hurricane Irene and its aftermath at the New Jersey State Volunteer Recognition Ceremony at the War Memorial in Trenton on Oct. 26. (DMAVA photo by Mark C. Olsen)

A mentor by any other name...

Commentary by Chief Master Sgt. Steve McDonald, Chief of Enlisted Force Development

WASHINGTON (AFNS) -- A new assignment. A new project. An unexpected or planned change in your life. The need for a decision in a situation you haven't faced before. These are all times when it is great to have someone to give you advice and counsel. Naturally, you want someone who has been through the experience and dealt with it successfully.

When most people think of mentoring, they generally conjure up a picture of the elder statesman or the very successful person who is older and of a higher professional status. How else can they help you unless they have seen it all, experienced it all, and overcome it all?

The Air Force fosters a mentoring culture expecting Airmen to be both mentors and mentees. The Air Force mentoring program recognizes and supports both formal and informal mentoring relationships. A formal relationship is one established almost through an agreement. Will you be my mentor? Yes, I will be your mentor. Short of signing a contract, it's a relationship both parties enter knowingly and with expectations. The most basic formal mentoring relationship is between a supervisor and subordinate.

Aircraft Electrician Staff Sgt. Joseph M. Bartlett provides illumination while Senior Airman Henry C. Lanier II, left, works on an F-16C Fighting Falcon. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen)

An informal relationship, on the other hand, is one often occurring out of the normal course of events; when two people realize they have something in common and one can help the other because of a shared experience. The interesting thing about the informal mentor is that you never know who that person is going to be. It can easily break the stereotypes of the older, wiser, seen-it-all, and done-it-all model.

The important thing about being a mentor is a willingness to help. It's having a vested interest in someone else's success. This is easy to see from a supervisor-subordinate relationship. Of course, supervisors have a vested interest in the success of their subordinates. But it should also be easy to see how a person can also have a vested interest in the success of a co-worker or peer.

In both the informal or formal mentoring relationships, it doesn't have to be a co-worker or supervisor. It can be anyone who has experienced the situation and wants to help. My previous tenure as the Command Chief Master Sergeant for the 86th Airlift Wing, Ramstein Air Base, Germany, is a good illustration of how different types of mentoring relationships exist. This was my first command chief position, so there were a lot of unknowns on my part and any advice I received was very welcome.

My commander was an officer I had known from a previous assignment. He was (and is still) a remarkable officer and provided very sage advice and insightful guidance. I learned a great deal from him. This was more of a formal mentoring relationship, and is one I look back on with fond memories. To this day, I know I can still call him and receive guidance and advice at any time.

In addition to my commander, the other chiefs in the wing were crucial to the overall success of our mission and our Airmen. I counted on them for guidance and blatant honesty as we worked together. We didn't always agree, but the input I received was invaluable. This was more of an informal mentoring relationship, and I probably never told those chiefs how much I appreciated their advice or how much they helped me grow professionally.

The final mentoring relationship I would like to discuss, from my time at Ramstein, was with my executive assistant. He was a technical sergeant. We would have frequent discussions about the Air Force, the mission, and what was required to be successful.

From the outside, this would appear as a chief master sergeant mentoring a technical sergeant, and I hope there was some of that going on. What others did not see was the volume of sage advice I received as we talked. He had a perspective on the enlisted force I did not have. After all, it had been more than 10 years since I was at his level. I needed his viewpoint, and I trusted his input. I think I was mentored, in many ways, just as much as he was.

I understand there is a difference between mentoring and just giving advice. I also understand the importance of having formal and informal mentors in your life.

The point I would like to make is that there are people all around you who can provide mentoring, and you shouldn't dismiss the opportunity to learn from them. Effective mentoring relationships can come from many different sources.

I would not dare try to define an exact formula for a successful mentoring relationship; however, Air Force officials are in the process of publishing a mentoring manual to provide concrete examples of the different mentoring relationships, best practices to be instilled in a mentoring program, expectations of mentors and mentees, and training resources.

NOMINATE YOUR SUPPORTIVE EMPLOYER

2012 SECRETARY OF DEFENSE EMPLOYER SUPPORT FREEDOM AWARD

Attention Guard and Reserve Service Members

Nominate your supportive employer for the
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for exceptional support of Guard and Reserve employees.

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THE MILITARY SERVICE OF THEIR EMPLOYEES.

www.ESGR.mil ★ 1-800-336-4590

News Airmen Can Use

Photocopying of Military Identification Cards

Recent incidents regarding the photocopying of military identification cards and common access cards (CAC), by commercial establishments to verify military affiliation or provide government rates for service, have been reported.

Personnel are reminded that the photocopying of US Government Identification is a violation of **Title 18, US Code Part I, Chapter 33, Section 701** and punishable by both fine and/or imprisonment.

Many military members, family members and DoD employees are unaware of this law. Please pass to the lowest level and include in training for force protection, information security and OPSEC.

FPO COMMENTS: *Criminal elements and terrorist organizations place U.S. government identifications as a high value logistical element when planning acts against the U.S. military. Although commercial establishments are not prohibited from asking for military/government identification, many government personnel and commercial establishments are unaware of the prohibition on duplication of government identification. Unfortunately, there are no safeguards in place to ensure a government identification card won't be counterfeited or "cloned" based on a photocopy by a commercial establishment.*

It is recommended that military/DoD personnel provide a state drivers license or other form of photo identification to be photocopied if an establishment insists on a photocopy of the traveler's identification.

****NOTE:*** *This does not apply to medical establishments (i.e. doctor's office, hospitals, etc…) who are allowed take a copy for the purpose of filing insurance claims; and other government agencies in the performance of official government business.*

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.

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) 761-6248.

Contrail Photos

Contrail photos are at the Y Drive; copy and paste this address in your browser: Y:_177 FW HEADQUATERS ELECTRONIC FILE PLANS\177FW PA ELECTRONIC FILE PLAN\00 - Items to be filed\PA\2011 Images - Items to be filed\PA\2011 Images. Photos are categorized by month in side the folder. Older images can be found in in the file 2002 -2010 images.

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

NOVEMBER 2010

Be thankful for the diverse contributions of the National Guard.

- ✓ *Observe National American Indian Heritage Month*
- ✓ *Highlight achievements with your community*
- ✓ *Sponsor a youth event in your community*
- ✓ *Volunteer to help the needy in your community*

In minor ways we differ, in major we're the same.

- Maya Angelou

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

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**