



TEAM TALK



117th Air Refueling Wing
Birmingham, Alabama



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117 Air Refueling Wing

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A Day of History and Education

*By Airman Wes Jones
117 Public Affairs*

MONTGOMERY, Ala. –The Student Flight of the 117th Air Refueling Wing traveled to Maxwell Air Force Base, Gunter Annex in Montgomery in July to learn about the history of the Air Force.

Brig. Gen. Steven Berryhill, commander of the Alabama National Guard, invited the new recruits to an education day at the Enlisted Heritage Research Institute.

The Enlisted Heritage Research Institute is dedicated to preserving the history and tradition of the Air Force enlisted corps. The new recruits were able to tour many displays of the American heroes who bravely laid down their lives for their country. They also participated in a competition among each other to see who could answer the most questions about the history of the Air Force.

“The Air Guard plays a vital role in the over-all mission of the United States Air Force,” said Berryhill. He also talked about his current position and the future of the Air National Guard.

The Student Flight returned to the 117th Air Refueling Wing having more knowledge about the Air National Guard and its vital role to our nation. Many said this is a great learning process that all of the new recruits should do.





117ARW
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Mission

Provide quality worldwide air refueling, airlift, support, logistics, intelligence, and medical services in support of our community, state, and nation.

Vision

A world-class team of empowered men & women committed to continuous improvement and excellence, operating as the model Air National Guard unit into the twenty-first century.

Leadership

FORGING LEADERS THROUGH DEVELOPMENT * LEADERSHIP CHALLENGE PROGRAM *

By Chief Master Sgt. Dave Peterson
Human Resource Advisor

Sixty members of the 117th ARW were enrolled in two sessions of the Leadership Challenge Program (LCP I and II) held recently in Hoover. NGB HRA-Office of Diversity Operations funded the training that featured several assessment tools and dynamic training blocks from facilitators Pete Ellum and Doc Murdock of the TSM Corporation. Many who attended said this was the best training they have ever received, Guard or civilian, and it landed in Birmingham because of prompt action by Col James securing one of the limited and highly coveted slots available.

The Program is designed to work from the inside out, taking results from multiple assessments to enhance self awareness and work towards blending diverse qualities to achieve Organizational goals. In the "Change Style Indicator," we got a visual of how Conservers, Pragmatists, and Originators create a spectrum of useful perspectives to improve decision making, problem solving, and other challenges in our rapidly changing world of work and life. From Mike T. to Trent M., "Smooth Jazz" to rocking Darin, and all in between, the 117th is blessed with a wide range of collaboration styles. Other tools used in the process were the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator, the FIRO-B, the TKI for Conflict Management, and in LCP II, the CLI 360, where your personal assessment was compared to what others who know you perceive about you as a leader.

There is a possibility our Unit will be invited to participate in another LCP in FY13. If that happens and you are selected to participate, don't hesitate to seize the opportunity and take advantage of this life and career enhancing experience. Maybe you'll get it before having to say like many in this 1st group, "wish I would've had this much earlier in my career!"

T.R.U.E. = Trigger-Reaction – II - (Pause!) Understand-Execute

VIRTUAL DIVERSITY UPDATE

The 2nd Virtual Diversity Conference is now available for viewing online at www.nationalguard.mil/features/vdc/default.aspx. This update provides best practices, tools, and ways-ahead as NG members adapt Diversity practices in their respective States. If time is limited, skip to the video, "VDC 2.3, Round Table," to hear Senior Leadership's discussion.



TEAM TALK

In Memory of

The 117th Air Refueling Wing lost one of our members, Master Sgt. John Rodgers of the 117th Medical Group. Our thoughts and prayers go out to John's family, friends and co-workers.



RODGERS, JOHN ANTHONY Age 48, of Riverside, AL passed away July 23, 2012. Surviving are his wife, Gloria Amaya Rodgers; son, John Paul Rodgers; daughter, Natalie Alcira Rodgers; parents, Sherman Rodgers & Alice Rodgers; sister, Ramona Rodgers Hernandez; nephew, John Daniel Nickolson & his wife, Megan; and great-nephews, Brody & Conner. In lieu of flowers or food please make donations in John's name to Ann's New Life Center, 602 Hardwick Lane, Pell City, AL 35128. Condolences may be offered online at: www.kilgroefh.com

Chief's Forum

VOTE - It's Your Responsibility!

By Chief Master Sgt. Danny Prince
117 Communications Flight

The U.S. Constitution places the power to govern our country in the hands of our elected representatives. But this power is temporarily returned to us, the people, at regular intervals – each Election Day. Our Constitution discusses the election process at least nine times, and its authors set the electoral responsibility squarely on the shoulders of each citizen. Our founding fathers clearly intended that we should accept this responsibility without hesitation and dutifully exercise it by electing suitable representatives and officers. To ignore this responsibility is to declare to our founding fathers that they should not have been so foolish as to entrust us with the maintenance of our freedoms. Ignoring our responsibility to vote is, by default, to vote for tyranny.

November the 6th is the day this year that you get to fulfill that responsibility. While all elections are important this year is the presidential election. Choices you make will affect the future of our country directly for the next four years and indirectly for decades to come. Whatever your political views are I encourage you to vote them on November the 6th.

Here are some important dates to remember:

General Election - November 6, 2012

October 26 - Voter registration deadline.

November 1 - Last day for voter to make application for an absentee ballot.

November 5 - Last day for voter to hand-deliver or postmark an absentee ballot.

To register to vote in the State of Alabama, an individual must meet the following qualifications:

Be a United States Citizen

Reside in Alabama

Be at least 18 years old

Have not been convicted of a disqualifying felony (or have rights restored)

Have not been legally declared "mentally incompetent" by a court

<http://www.alabamavotes.gov>

This web site has all the information you need to get the forms to register and just about everything you would ever want to know about voting in Alabama.

If you are already a registered voter, then at <https://myinfo.alabamavotes.gov/> you can find all your personal voter information including your polling place.

The identification you will need to bring with you to vote is one of the following:

Government-issued photo identifications (current and valid)

Employee identification for employee with photo of employee produced by the employer

Photo identification card issued by Alabama college or university

Photo identification issued from Alabama technical or professional school (current and valid). Cont'd.

Chief's Forum cont'd

The website lists about 30 more items that you can use in case you don't have the more common forms of identification, like your driver's license.

I know a lot of our people are very mobile and may not be able to vote locally if they are deployed at the time of the election. Again, the website has a ton of information on absentee voting, how to get the forms, etc.

From the web site: "Please visit our online Military & Overseas Voting Services website, <http://alabama.overseasvotefoundation.org>, where you can register to vote, apply for an absentee ballot, and get answers to frequently asked voting questions.

Military and other overseas citizens are welcome to use the standard procedure for absentee voting by mail. However, there are also special provisions for members of the U.S. Armed Forces and merchant marine, commissioned corps of the Public Health Service and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, along with family members of all these groups, and other citizens who reside outside the United States. Check the Federal Voting Assistance Program, www.fvap.gov"

Please vote. There really is no good excuse to miss out on your right to vote and besides it gives you a voice in your future and the future of our great country. If you need more motivation, when Election Day arrives, think of all the old patriots and founding fathers who risked everything they owned, their very life, imprisonment and many gave all to secure your right to do so. Even though we are separated by many decades they are still our brothers-in-arms.



Diamond Cutter

Honesty

By Master Sgt Orvie Mattson
117 CEF/CEF

Good day to all. For this month, I would like to take a little time during my miscellaneous ramblings to talk about HONESTY. In the 1919 World Series, the American League Champion Chicago White Sox played the National League Champion Cincinnati Reds. During the series a group of players from the Sox conspired to, and succeed in, throwing the series with the Reds taking five of eight games. The conspiracy was discovered and in 1921, eight players from the Sox, including then Baseball Superstar Shoeless Joe Jackson, were banned from organized baseball.

It has been said that this damaged the reputation of professional sports and the faith of the public for decades to come. Of course very few of us are professional baseball players; however, every time we deploy or perform active duty, we don't represent a sport—we represent an entire nation.

Of course, honesty is a pretty general term. It can mean anything from being truthful about your taxi tips on a travel voucher to something far more serious such as taking someone's property without their permission. This leads me to my main point. Many years ago when I was a new police officer, I had a crusty old field training officer tell me there are essentially two types of mistakes that folks make in regard to honesty—a mistake of the brain and a mistake of the heart.

A mistake of the brain is pretty simple. You made an error in judgment. You forgot to shine your boots or shave before work. A mistake of the heart is far more serious because it is done deliberately. It is the little devil on your shoulder that tells you it is okay to call in sick and take the day off because the leave book was full or to tap in to your neighbor's cable TV instead of paying for it.

I, of course would be remiss in my responsibilities if I did not include a police related example. Many years ago during the first Clinton Term, I was working as an evening shift patrol officer in a large Midwestern city. One summer evening another officer initiated a police chase. Soon several other officers joined in. When the evening shift supervisor determined that the chase had been initiated for traffic charges only, he ordered the chase terminated. For some reason, the officers involved continued the chase for several additional minutes until the suspect crossed the state line in to Kansas. Unfortunately for the involved officers, someone called the police department to complain about the chase. An internal investigation was initiated and all the involved officers were called in and questioned. The officer that initiated the chase was honest and upfront about continuing the chase without permission. He received a letter of reprimand for disobeying the order of a superior. The other officers decided that they would deny continuing the chase. Once it was determined that they had lied during the investigation they all received multiple suspension days which, in the private sector, would be days off without pay.

The moral of the story is that we all make mistakes and it is always better to admit that they were made and ensure that it does not happen again. The punishment for lying is almost always more severe than what you get for the initial mistake.

It is all about HONESTY!!!



TEAM TALK

Farewell Message

Message from a Prince

By Chief Master Sgt. Danny Prince
117 Communications Flight

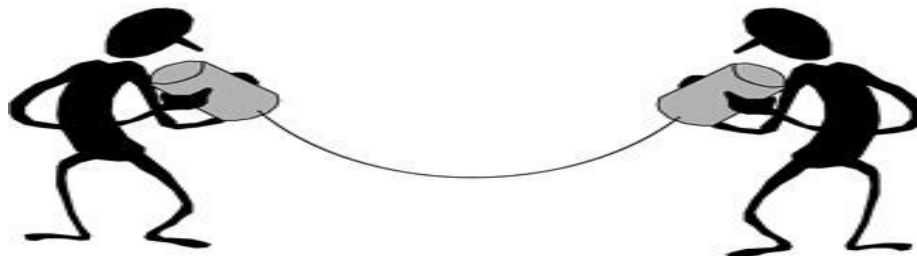
This will be my final Team Talk contribution as this chapter of my life comes to a close. I am extremely proud to be a member of the 117th. I applaud what the wing stands for and the mission it is able to accomplish. This doesn't happen magically. It happens because of strong, knowledgeable leadership at all levels and a lot of hard work by many people. It happens because we are one very big family. I truly appreciate each and every one of you, the members of the 117th. Thank you for making my time here enjoyable.

The job has been challenging at times but it has always been rewarding. I will be forever appreciative of the opportunities I have been given and the trust that has been placed in me. Just some of the rewards of working for the 117th have been the friendships, the challenging missions and jobs, the satisfaction of a job-well-done, the knowledge and training gained, and the opportunities to travel all over the world.

I have been a part of the Air Force since 1972, a military member of the 117th since 1984, and a technician since 1991. I could write a book about the changes I have seen in the Air Force since 1973.

My personal goal when I first started working here in the Communications Flight was to make everything I worked on better than it was than when I came here. If it had my name associated with it, I wanted it to be the best it could be since each job was a signature piece that reflected my efforts and abilities. This has served me well over the years. I didn't always succeed, but without a goal to strive for I had no benchmark to judge myself by. My suggestion to you is to be like a craftsman of ancient times. Like a silversmith, when you do a job, sign it and be proud of what you can accomplish. Let your fine work speak for itself and you!

Chief Prince, over and out!



TEAM TALK

Chaplain's Corner

Be an Encourager

By Chaplain Debra Berry

The journey of life is full of occurrences that will cause us to despair and become discouraged. Our burdens are lighter and the way is brighter when we encounter persons who are encouragers. We are told in the scripture to be encouragers.

Hebrews 10:24 (RSV) states, "Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works." "Stir up" translates "to move, to excite, to agitate." We should be cheerleaders for one another.

1. Husbands and wives should encourage one another as they seek a strong and viable marriage.
2. Parents should encourage their children through words of appreciation.
3. Children can encourage their parents by their choices and conduct.
4. Employers and employees should support and hearten each other.
5. All believers should be cheerleaders for other believers.
6. When life tries to kick you to the curb, you should encourage yourself.

Barnabas was a missionary companion of the Apostle Paul. He was described as an encourager.

Would anyone call you an encourager?

When life strikes out at an individual you know do you take time to give a word of cheer?

Do you pause long enough to offer a prayer, scripture, send a card, give him or a hug or pat on the back?

As you seek to keep the faith, take time to cheer another fellow traveler on the road of life.

Be an encourager!



Announcements

13th Annual Whaley Memorial Golf Tournament

1300 Ballantrae Club Drive, Pelham, Alabama 35124

Monday, October 8, 2012

9:00 a.m. Shotgun Start

Entry fee is \$100.00

(Includes Catered Lunch)

Corporate Hole Sponsorship is \$250.00

Proceeds go to the Whaley Football Scholarship Fund at Samford University and
The Susan G. Komen for the Cure North Central Alabama Foundation.

Closest to Pin—Longest Drive—Door Prizes

Chance to Win Vacations/Car with Hole-in-One

For more information contact:

Col Cliff James 714-2201 ♦ Col Jeff Newton 714-2206

Maj Allison Miller 714-2422 ♦ Maj Jim Whaley 714-2122

MSgt Shane Rogers 714-2395



117th ARW Social Media Corner



<https://www.facebook.com/117thAirRefuelingWingPublicAffairs>

<http://twitter.com/117ARWPA>

<http://www.youtube.com/user/117thARW>

UPAR

The 117th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs office is looking for service members who are interested in working with the media, photography, videography or writing. If you are interested in learning more about the Unit Public Affairs Representative program, please e-mail

Jonathan.Russell@ang.af.mil

** Government Travel Card **

As you may or may not know, our current CSA cards will be migrating back to the GTC card. All CSA cardholders are required to take the cardholder training (Travel Card 101) prior to migration. The updated Travel Card 101 training is now available via the TRAX website. Cardholders must complete this training NLT 15 Jul 2012. Once training is complete, please forward a copy of your training certificate to your APC.

You also need to ensure a Statement of Understanding (SOU) is on file, this is required for all cardholders.

The link below will guide you to an electronic copy of the form, please fill out, print and maintain a copy in the individuals mobility folders. The new form is located at: http://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/Docs/GTC_SoU_SAF.pdf
<http://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/Docs/GTC_SoU_SAF.pdf>

117th FSS CUSTOMER

SERVICE HOURS

TUESDAY	0730-1630
WEDNESDAY	0730-1130
THURSDAY	0730-1630
FRIDAY	0730-1630

Announcements

PROMOTIONS



Master Sergeant
Michael T. Crook
Robert K. Golden
David J. Kirchner
George D. Peoples
Jason A. Smith
Daniel P. Thomas
James L. Thomas

Technical Sergeant
William K. Allen
Chadwick R. Bennett
James V.B. Fitzgerald
John C. Hull
Nathan R. Owens
James W. Parker

Senior Airman
Cody L. Greer

Airman First Class
Charles K. Johnson
Davis C. McCutchin

Congratulations to the newest SSgt selects in the 99th ARS

SSgt (s) Baumann, Roger
SSgt (s) Britt, Thomas
SSgt (s) Daviss, Joseph
SSgt (s) Hollis, Kevin
SSgt (s) Houser, Joseph
SSgt (s) McRae, Damon
SSgt (s) Perkins, Eric
SSgt (s) Taylor, Dennis
SSgt (s) Weaver, Brian

CONGRATULATIONS

Shontae Smith welcomed her new baby boy on July 17. Joshua weighed 8lb. and 4oz.

CONDOLENCES

MSgt John Rodgers
117th Medical Group



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The TEAM TALK is an authorized publication for members of the 117th Air Refueling Wing, Birmingham, Alabama, Air National Guard.

Contents are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or the Department of the Air Force.

All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated. Editorial content is edited, prepared, and provided by the 117th ARW Public Affairs Editorial Staff.

The Team Talk staff continues to take submissions for articles via email and is counting on units to highlight their missions through their stories. Email submissions to our staff at 117ARW.Public.Affairs@ang.af.mil. All submissions are due by COB Sunday UTA for publication.

117th ARW 2012 UTA Schedule											
JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	AUG	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
21-22	11-12	10-11	14-15	19-20	09-10	14-15	04-05	08-09	13-14	10-11	08-09