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OHIO

AIR NATIONAL GUARD

DEFENDING FREEDOM

Airlifter

THE 179TH AIRLIFT WING, OHIO AIR NATIONAL GUARD, MANSFIELD OH.



179TH RECEIVES

A

LIFE RAFT!!

NEW MISSION DETAILS - PG 2

MDS humanitarian mission - p7
"Boots in Theater" - p6
179th now a joint base - p3



Hang this poster in...

City rally June 22.

179th receives new missions

On Monday, July 28, 2008 the U.S. Air Force sent out a Congressional Notification that the 179th Airlift Wing would be receiving the C-27B in the 2012 to 2013 timeframe and that we would also be receiving the C-21 Lear Jet as our bridge mission to fly while our C27's are being manufactured. In addition, the 179th is also being considered for a mission as a Formal Training Unit for the C27B. There could be no better news in this, the 179th's 60th anniversary year, than to have the dark cloud of BRAC finally lifted as we receive these exciting new missions that will carry us into the bright... joint Air-Army... and ever-growing future here at the 179th Airlift Wing.

During August UTA, Col. Mark L. Stephens, 179th Base Commander, will be delivering a mandatory message for all unit members regarding this remarkable news. This message will be available for viewing on the *Commanders Channel* (Channel 9) every 15 minutes, beginning at the top of the hour. It will also be available as the opener of our current Wingman Video footage on the *Wingman Channel* (Channel 10) at the top and bottom of every hour.

Throughout the BRAC process, members of the 179th have kept faith in their leadership and wingmen. Because of that faith along with the superior work and dedication of the 179th members,

these new mission have been received. With the outstanding ratings received in recent inspections, impressive work during the ISO process and all the deployments in which 179th members deliver successful results on a regular basis, the local community and leaders had faith in our mission and were committed to doing the things on their part to keeping the 179th Airlift Wing in Mansfield. A lesser unit would not have fared so well.

All members are excited about these new missions and what the C-21 is like, as well as a C-27B. The C-21, our bridge-mission aircraft, is a twin turboprop engine aircraft. It looks like a traditional, two-engine, small business jet which we can arrange to hold six to eight passengers. The C-27B is actually quite similar to the

current C-130 in that it can perform operational missions involving movement of troops, medevac, airdrop or cargo. The main difference however is its size; it is smaller and has two engines instead of four like the current C-130's.

179th leadership is excited to receive these remarkable new missions and are confident that members of the 179th will smoothly transition into with their expertise, knowledge and dedication, which will make our leaders, Ohio Air National Guard and the USAF proud.



C-21



Photo from Air Force Link and C27J.com

C-27

Does anyone need a chaplain?

By Chaplain David W. Shirley

The chaplain is in place to help the Wing commander carry out the constitutional requirements to provide for the free exercise of religion. This is our primary role but it's certainly not our only responsibility.

When you see us walking through your work center we are doing more than just passing through. We are coming to see about you.

We genuinely want to know how you and your loved ones are doing. We also see this time as an opportunity to say something to encourage you.

Sometimes we come by and find the need to stay awhile in order for you to share an important issue of life. We have the occasion to shake your hand, pat you on the shoulder, have a laugh with you, give you a hug or even pray with you.

Our mission is to see to it that you are as well spiritually and emotionally as can be in order to achieve the objectives set out for you in your job.

You are never obligated to stop your work for us. We just

want you to know that we are around.

This is what we call the ministry of presence. Sometimes when we see you are hard at work we peak our heads in the door and give a wave to you just to let you know we are here and care about you.

Visitation is essential to our ability to provide other services to you. It helps us to get a sense of the overall climate of morale on base.

In addition, when you experience a time when you need to reach out we want you to know that you can rely on us to counsel with you or help you sort out a good path to resolving your problem. One of our biggest challenges is getting people to see us before the major issue hits.

You see the signs and you feel the tension and tell yourself that you can handle things or you believe have everything under control. Before you know it, the bottom falls out.

That's when the chaplain is called on to get involved. It's like Humpty Dumpty.

When he was on the wall I'm sure he had some idea that he was losing balance.

At that time it would have been nice if he had called out for help. Since he didn't, he fell and was broken to pieces.

The hope for Humpty Dumpty was All the Kings Horses and All the King Men. You know they couldn't put Humpty together again.

We chaplains sometimes feel like the Kings Horses and His Men. We are often brought some seemingly impossible circumstances to address.

We are sometimes successful as we look to God to perform a miracle but this is not always the case.

We don't claim to know everything but we know enough to get you going in the right direction before you take the life

shattering fall.

This is our vocation and we take it seriously. Your life is important to us.

If you need prayer, if you need counseling, if you need advice, if you want to get married, if you want to be baptized, if you are having relationship problems, if you need some insights on raising your children or improving your relationship, if you have made a huge error and need help, if you need spiritual direction, if you or a loved one is struggling with a transition in life, if you or a loved one is sick, if you just have something you need to get of your chest, see the chaplain.

We are here to serve you and your families. You do not have to be religious to reach out to us for assistance.

We are here for everyone.

Wing Chaplain Curt Wagner	419-571-1172
Protestant Chaplain David Shirley	419-571-2523
Protestant Chaplain Troy Deirsing	419-631-5828
Chaplains Office	419-520-6376

Army fire station begins new 179th era

By SSgt Jessica Cauvel
Public Affairs Journalist

On May 30th, the 179th Airlift Wing became a joint base upon the opening of a brand new Army Fire Station, built adjacent to the current 179th Airlift Wing Fire Station.



Military officials and other distinguished visitors, such as Congressman Jim Jordan and Ohio State Representative Jay Goyal, used the Jaws of Life to cut the ceremonial ribbon.

The \$1.2 million facility is the first step in creating a joint hub where Army and Air Force counterparts can work closely to create a stronger fighting force. According to Ohio's Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Greg Wayt, "Not only is combined training much more

effective, there will be significant savings in facility costs. This is just the beginning."

"The next five years will see construction of a large Army Reserve Center that will be home to the 1486th Transportation Company, the Army Reserve's 983rd Engineer Detachment and two Ohio Army National Guard Fire Fighting Teams," Wayt continued. "Mansfield Lahm will be a model Joint National Guard facility."



Photos by A1C Joe Harwood



ABU FITTING THIS WEEKEND!!!!

A reminder that Clothing Issue will be fitting members for ABU's in building 203. The August UTA Schedule is noted below. Be sure you arrive ON TIME for your scheduled briefing/fitting time. Call ext. 181 w/ additional questions.

August 9:

- 0900: Traditional guardsmen Grubbs-Hempfield
- 1000: Traditional guardsmen Hensley-Jones, James
- 1300: Traditional guardsmen Jones, Jason-Kolar
- 1400: Traditional guardsmen Koltas-Loucks

August 10:

- 0900: Traditional guardsmen Love-Miller
- 1000: Traditional guardsmen Milligan-O'Neil
- 1400: Traditional guardsmen Oprean-Porter

Colonel promotions mark date in history

By Staff Sgt. Jessica Cauvel
Public Relations Journalist



The 179th Airlift Wing made history by promoting four members to the rank of Colonel in a single day on Saturday, July 12th.

The rank of Colonel is the highest attainable rank at the 179 AW. To advance beyond this rank, O-6, one must pursue a position at another base or a state headquarters unit.

The first two members who received the promotion over the July UTA were Col. Daniel Clark and Col. Eric Ostrem both of the Medical Squadron. These promotions



were followed by an afternoon ceremony in the Aircrew Briefing Room to honor the promotions of Col. Gary McCue and Col. Michael Howard.

At the afternoon ceremony, Senior Master Sgt. Daniel Peters, Master of Ceremonies, expressed how proud the day was for the 179th to be welcoming four members into the rank of Colonel in a single day.

Col. Mark Stephens, Base Commander, spoke at the ceremony of the first men in US history to attain the rank of colonel during the Revolutionary War. He noted, "These men were respected men who had ties to the local community."

They had to raise funds to buy their commissions. To obtain these funds they had to earn the trust and support of their communities. In the same respect, Col. Stephens said the men at the 179th who were being promoted were respectable men who were an asset to the community and the 179th Airlift Wing.

"I want to thank all the families for all of their support," Col. Stephens added, as family support is essential to all military members careers.

Howard noted his family has always been there for him and their support has been essential to encouraging his success. "It's hard to get anywhere without support," he added.

In speaking of his new fellow colonel, Col. McCue said, "Mike and I have been in competition for a long time."

Then Howard added, "We were at ACSC



(Air Command and Staff College) together. I couldn't ask for more than to be up here with Col. McCue."

Howard also helped to mark history by becoming the first African American to obtain the rank of colonel at the 179th Airlift Wing. "I don't really care that I am the first," Col. Howard said. "I hope I am around to see the fourth and fifth people reach this point also. I want people to see that it can be done and follow my lead."



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Lisa Haun

179th AW members step up to help Mansfield celebrate 200th birthday

By SSgt Jessica Cauvel
Public Affairs Journalist

On June 28th, members of the 179th Airlift Wing helped the city of Mansfield celebrate its 200th birthday by participating in the Mansfield Bicentennial parade.

Twenty members were marched along the parade route by Master Sgt. Bill Bringman. The members

were accompanied by several vehicles from the 179th, including a fire truck and a Humvee.

The 179th was also represented by the base color guard, which led the parade. The color guard was comprised of Staff Sgt. Mike Swick,

Senior Airman Michael Chase, Master Sgt. Roger Williams and Senior Master Sgt. Thomas Musille.

Also in the parade, Chief Master Sgt. Michael Stichler drove a horse-drawn wagon filled with members of the historic baseball team, Mansfield Independents. The team is comprised primarily of 179th members.



Photo by SSgt Robert Koehler



Photo by A1C Joseph Harwood



Photo by A1C Joseph Harwood



Photo by A1C Joseph Harwood

Retirees, others benefit from new law providing tax relief

Governor Ted Strickland has signed into law relief from taxes for military members, including retirees, whose home of residence is in the state of Ohio.

Effective for taxable years beginning after Dec. 31, 2007, military retired pay from the active or reserve components of the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, and the National Guard, and Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) benefits are exempt from state income tax and school district income tax.

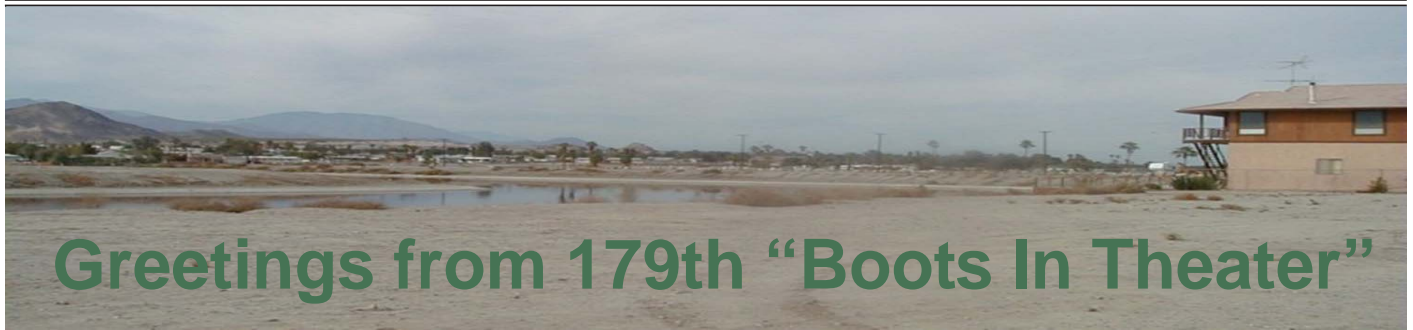
Federal civil service retirees who received federal service credit for military service are allowed to deduct only that portion of their pension attributable to military service.

DFAS cannot arbitrarily stop your state tax withholding, however, you can use myPay (<https://mypay.dfas.mil>) to stop the withholding or send a letter requesting termination of your state income tax withheld (SITW).

AFI 36-2618 encourages enlisted members to become active supporters of professional organizations.

For more information regarding military service and Ohio taxes, see "Military" under "Ohio Taxes-Individual Income" at <http://tax.ohio.gov/>.

Professional organizations, like the Ohio National Guard Enlisted Association and the Air Force Sergeants Association worked with legislators and other government officials to help push the law through the statehouse. AFI 36-2618 instructs enlisted members to support these, and many other, professional organizations.



Greetings from 179th "Boots In Theater"

Below you'll find a letter for one of our many troops in theater...Lt. Col. Len Sipe. He has done an excellent job writing those of us back here at the 179th about his activities in theater. It is a tremendous pleasure to hear from our members serving over seas; enjoy the attached update "Desert Letter #23" that he sent us mid-June. If you'd like to send him a letter of well-wishes, his email address is: Leonard.Sipe@asab.afcent.af.mil.

Good Morning from Southwest Asia where the sun always shines and the wind is often at your back...whether you like it or not.

Weather this week has ranged from being tolerable to down right awful. Mostly the highs have hovered around 105 degrees, but the dust has been "choking." Here's a picture of an American BBQ modified for desert conditions. Goggles and dusk masks at points during the day are essential. Actually on the lee ward side of the building it wasn't too awful bad.

Kind of like the book "Where's Waldo," here's one for you to play. In the JSDF

Embassy2 photo, can you guess who is Japanese? I have to say my deployment has been for the most part very good and very rewarding.

Susan and my boys sent a nice Father's Day care package to me full of good things. Naturally I put the candy out on the shelf in the outer office. Gone in a day. However all of the fathers on the group staff did receive a surprise from the front office. Just to keep it real, I have to mention they are all females gave each of the men, Col W, Chief W and myself pictures and father's day cards. It was a very nice and much appreciated gesture.

It's been a very busy week with aircraft issues. Our depot engineer is working with Ops group to have a repeater screen for Combat Tracker II installed on the aircraft. It's not happening nearly at the speed that Ops wants it done (yesterday), but unfortunately after some not so nice discussions it is considered a modification of intended use by the Configuration Review Board and is directed by AMC A3/A4 for approval before flown. I don't know if that will be followed or not. But progress is being made. It's a very long story.

With the reorganization, new leadership and complete change out of the people I had been working with, it makes these last two weeks mentally tough to stay focused. All in all it makes for a short letter this week as I am truly at a loss for what to say - so I won't say anymore.



Next week will be pictures from today's Change of Command.

Your return emails are always welcomed and most appreciated.

That's it from Camel Central — where the girls are strong — the camels are good looking — and all the airmen are above average.

Len



MDS lends a helping hand

Homeless get boost from 179th medical team

By Staff Sgt Jessica Cauvel
Public Affairs Journalist

When one pictures Hawaii, most often a vision of a lush tropic vacation and sunbathing on the beaches comes to mind.

Travel an hour from the busy hub of Honolulu and those pristine beaches are replaced with ones occupied by tent cities. On each of these “tent city” beaches, roughly 1000 people live in makeshift tent shelters because they cannot afford to live in a home. Many of these homeless dwellers are military veterans and most aren’t receiving adequate health care.

This is where the 179th Medical Squadron stepped in this past April. In conjunction with the Hawaii State Department of Health and the Hawaii Air National Guard, 36 members of the 179th Medical Squadron (MDS) offered free health services for two weeks to Hawaii’s poor and homeless populations. This work was completed as part of Hawaii Innovative Readiness Training.

They were the first unit to deploy to Hawaii as part of the new program. Units from New Jersey and Texas were expected to follow in their footsteps later this year as part of a five-year initiative.

Hosted by the Hawaii Air National Guard 154th MDG, the members provided vision, dental, and physical screenings. They offered these screenings in public schools where the poor population attends and also on the beaches where the homeless had set up their tent cities.

While they were in the schools, Col. Eric D. Ostrem, 179th MDS Commander, said they were treated almost as if they were celebrities. He said one child was overheard boasting to his friends he “got to touch one of them”.

CMSgt Bryan “Kelly” Ruff, 179th MDS NCOIC, added that many of the children showed up in white t-shirts when they knew the military members would be there in hopes of getting their shirts autographed by the members.



In between signing autographs, the 36 members screened more than 750 children each day. They also assisted the low income schools with screenings for student athletes.

Ruff shared an experience of diagnosing a medical issue in a homeless man on the beach; a diagnosis that normally requires an X-Ray in a hospital setting. Members of the 179th diagnosed the patient who was then taken to a nearby hospital where the diagnosis was confirmed and re received treatment.

It was these people and children who made the trip worthwhile, according to Ruff. He said the trip had its challenges, like any deployment, but it was a very satisfying experience.

Ostrem said the highlight for him was letting people see his members as doctors, nurses and medical technicians. Instead of only viewing military members as being wartime trained killers, Ostrem said this experience let the people of Hawaii see them as humans with real life jobs and a deep desire to help others.

Ruff said the people they assisted were so grateful for the help, that they gave thank you cards to the members before they left.



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Lisa Haun

Due to the tremendous success of this humanitarian mission, the 154th asked when the 179th would be able and willing to come down and help next year. Ostrem and Ruff both agreed based on the success of this year’s trip they are looking forward to returning next year in order to support this vital and rewarding mission.

SFS & Family Readiness lend a helping hand

By Tech. Sgt Eric Meister
Security Forces

On April 22nd, Major Cecil Cauley and his spouse, Laura, met with Security Forces.

Major Cauley and Laura wanted to express their gratitude to the 179th SFS, for their customer service and dedication with the morale lines.

Major Cauley has been with the Florida National Army Guard for 21 years.

Prior to Cauley being deployed in December 2007, to the Paktika Providence in Iraq,

triplets were born. Cauley and Laura decided it would be best for Laura and the babies move to Mansfield, with Laura's family.

Cauley expressed admiration for Staff Sgt. Jamie Bishop, Security Forces, for going above and beyond and Bishop's professionalism. Cauley and Laura stated they were deeply grateful for the Morale and Welfare DSN line, and job that the 179th Security Forces Squadron do everyday.

Laura stated that the help and support

she received from the Family Support group was immeasurable.



A memorial display of Lt. Col. Sonnenberg's restored Pontiac Trans-Am (from left), John Deere tractors, classic Ford F-100 pick-up truck and a mini F-16 fighter aircraft from the 180th Fighter Wing stand on his parents' farm.



SRA MATTHEW KING / 180TH COMMUNICATIONS FLIGHT

Sonny Smiles prepares members

By SSgt Jessica Cauvel &
1st. Lt. Nicole Ashcroft
Public Affairs Staff

Recently, Lorin Sonnenburg, widow of Lt. Col. Kevin "Sonny" Sonnenburg, and Sonny's sister, Jennifer Miller, briefed 179th members about the importance of having a clear plan in place in the event of a servicemember's death.

Lorin and Sonny were married for 10 months when Sonny's plane crashed shortly after takeoff from his deployed base at Balad Air Base, Iraq on June 15, 2007. Although Sonny had a plan in place, the details were sometimes murky and answers she needed were often hard to find.

Because of the struggles she was facing in the midst of her grief, Lorin decided to establish the "Sonny Smiles Foundation" to teach military members the importance of developing "care kits"

for their loved ones in case they don't return home from deployment. If Sonny had created a thorough care kit, things would have gone much smoother for her and been so much less stressful after his passing. By building a proper care kit, servicemembers can provide a multitude of help and guidance for loved ones in their time of need. It is Lorin's mission to build this "legacy of love" by providing military members and their families with organizational care kits and seminars.

Lorin provided this presentation and "final wishes" binders that were packed with valuable information to 179th members. These binders were procured through the 179th Family Readiness Coordinator, Faline Rowland.

The black binders allowed easy access to wills, bank information, medical information, business details, social security numbers,

and other valuable information.

Lorin also shared with members ways to effectively communicate with someone who is grieving. She shared phrases which can be helpful in getting someone to open up about their feelings. In addition, she gave a list of books which she said greatly eased her grieving after the loss of her husband.

This volunteer-based organization, founded by Lorin and Miller also provides the information at their website: www.sonnysmiles.com. Here one can find the background information on the Sonny Smiles Foundation, care kit details, contact information and much more.

Lorin and the 179th leadership highly encourage all military members to visit this site and develop a "legacy of love after death" for their families and loved ones.

CONGRATULATIONS to this year's MLMF Scholarship winners!!

The following individuals have been selected as this year's recipients of the \$500.00 MLMF Scholarships.

1. Ms. Maureen Heacock - Maureen is the daughter of retired TSgt Mark Heacock. She is a Senior at Wynford High School and looks forward to attending college at Ashland University and majoring in Environmental Science.

2. Ms. Laura Gibson - Laura is the wife of SMSgt John Gibson. She is a Junior at the Ohio State University at Mansfield and is majoring in Education.

3. Ms. Erin Washington - Erin is the daughter of retired MSgt (1st Sgt) Margaret Washington. She is a Senior at Mansfield Christian High School and is planning on attending Mount Vernon Nazarene University and majoring in Physical Therapy.

4. Ms. Melissa Evans - Melissa is the daughter of MSgt Jerry Nulk. She is a

Freshman at North Central State College and is pursuing a degree in Nursing.

5. Mr. Kevin Wright - Kevin is the son of CMSgt Gary Wright. He is a Senior at Crestview High School and is

planning on attending the University of Toledo and majoring in Construction Engineering.

Congratulations to these very deserving students!!!



TEC celebrates 40th anniversary

by Master Sgt. Mike R. Smith

National Guard Bureau / Courtesy of *OnGuard*

7/31/2008 - **ARLINGTON, Va.** — The Air National Guard celebrated the 40th anniversary of its Training and Education Center (TEC) at McGhee Tyson Air National Guard Base, Tenn., July 30-31 with several events that honored the installation where men and women earn officers commissions and Airmen learn to be noncommissioned officers.

The celebrations, attended by Lt. Gen. Craig R. McKinley, Air Guard director, and the first faculty members of what is now called the I.G. Brown Training and Education Center, included a State's Night July 30 and a morning ceremony July 31 with a parade of academy students.

In July 1968, the TEC's first faculty and students started the Air Guard's six-week Noncommissioned Officer Academy (NCOA) in a gymnasium at McGhee Tyson. The school expanded rapidly and added NCO Leadership School - precursor to today's Airman Leadership School

(ALS) - in 1970 and an officer preparatory academy. The NCO school was the first of its kind to be accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools for credit toward an associate degree. The preparatory academy, today's Academy of Military Science (AMS), became the Air Force's fourth commissioning center in 1971.

Significantly, AMS was the first Air Force commissioning school to fully integrate male and female students into the same flights.

"Today it's referred to as the 'crown jewel' of the Air National Guard," said retired Air Force Col. Edmund Morrissey, commandant of the first NCOA class and the center's first commander.

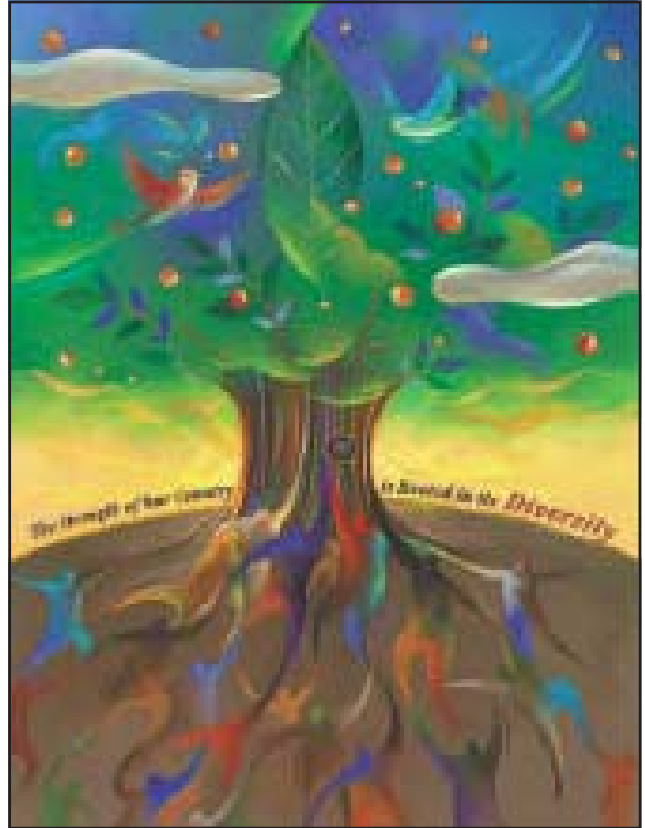
Today, the center runs an average of 18 professional military education courses throughout the year. Its flagship schools are the Academy of Military Science, the NCO Academy, which is one of the nation's largest, and the Airman

Leadership School, which accounts for nearly 80 percent of all Air Guard ALS students. In addition, the center holds more than 20 skills enhancement classes in subjects ranging from explosives ordnance disposal to services, recruiting, retention and management.

At least 44,000 students have graduated from the center's programs. Forty-three academy graduates have become general officers, and at least two serve today as state adjutants general: Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, Kansas, and Maj. Gen. Cindy Kirkland, Nevada. The late Dean Martin Jr., son of the famed entertainer, was also commissioned there before becoming a California Air Guard fighter



*The Strength
of our
Country is
Rooted in its
Diversity*



Diversity has two meanings. The concept embodies differences which individual Guard members bring to each Unit by virtue of their membership in ethnic/racial heritage groups, religious beliefs, age, gender, educational background, physical abilities, marital status, rank and so on. The idea that the differences in people must be valued and treated as a plus, instead of a negative, in the workplace is an essential feature of the concept of diversity. Secondly, diversity is a mission readiness imperative. As an essential strategy, diversity inessential strategy, diversity initiatives are introduced in organizations through training programs, policies, procedures, which seek changes in the organizational culture. These are designed to unleash the full potential of every Guard member and Unit to better achieve the mission of the Air National Guard.

Workforce Diversity refers to the culture of an organization which is empowered, productive, inclusive and collaborative in nature. It is also one which harnesses the talent and contributions of all members of the workforce. It is a culture which seeks to eliminate the barriers that stand in the way of non-traditional members of the workforce. It is a culture which seeks to eliminate the barriers that stand in the way of nontraditional members of the workforce from making a larger contribution than they would otherwise be allow to make. By identifying, targeting, and eliminating dysfunctional isms – racism, sexism, ageism, etc... — Workforce Diversity seeks to create a level of respect so that all members of the Guard will feel valuable, affirmed and make their Units their employer of choice.



2008 Operation Purple Teen Leadership Camp

This 10-day high adventure camp in the mountains of eastern North Carolina will give teens the tools needed to develop self confidence and the opportunity to test their strengths and abilities. Teens will return home with the skills and desire to impact their communities in a positive way. Teens who excel in the program may be invited to return to an *Operation Purple* Camp in 2009 as a Counselor in Training.

Each teen will be required to write an essay as part of the application process. Selection will be determined largely by the strength of their essay. **These camps are open to all military children age 13-17 years old of both active duty and reserve component service members of all ranks and Services.** Deployment status is NOT a criteria for selection. The OP Teen Leadership camp runs July 10-August 9, 2008. Students will have four sessions to choose from beginning July 10th and ending August 9, 2008. Each session is 10 days in duration. The 10-day camp experience will consist of two phases:

Phase I includes seven days spent at the main base camp, Camp Carmel. Campers will begin with teambuilding exercises on a high-ropes course, participate in recreational activities such as archery, ball sports, paintball, and swimming. Teens will also engage in service projects that help conserve the surrounding natural wilderness and its resources, and receive instruction on outdoor survival skills that will allow them to succeed in the second part of the camp challenge.

Phase 2 will be known as the OP Leadership 'Challenge' and culminates in a three day, overnight backpacking trip up into the surrounding mountains. During this phase teens will be responsible for using their newly acquired skills to properly prepare for the trip, find their way to the destinations, prepare the campsite, and take care of their own basic needs such as pitching tents and making meals. This is all done under the close guidance and supervision of experienced camp counselors, instructors, and outfitters. This phase will also include, rock climbing challenges and white-water rafting excursions. **The sessions are as follows:**

10 July - 19 July

17 July - 26 July

24 July - 2 August

31 July - 9 August

Teens will be allowed to select a first and second choice of camp dates.

This camp is open to ALL military children of current service members from the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, and Air Force, both active duty and National Guard or Reserve, as well as families of the Commissioned Corps of the US Public Health Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. All expenses with the exception of travel to and from the campsite will be covered upon selection.

Note: The demographic information provided on this application is used for research and program development and will in NO WAY influence your child's application for an *Operation Purple* camp. This application must be completed in full for consideration.

As part of the application, the teen interested in attending must write a short essay answering the question below. We strongly advise you to have your child write the essay before beginning the application process. The essay response can be pasted into the text box on the application form.

Essay question: 350-500 words

NMFA understands that children and their family serve along side the parent that wears the uniform. For this reason we often use the catch phrase, "Kids Serve Too!" Discuss what this statement means to you and how does it show in your daily life. Please write your answer in 350-500 words.

To apply go to: http://www.nmfa.org/site/PageServer?pagename=teen_leadership_camp.

Aerial Port stands down

By Tech. Sgt. Joe Stepp
Public Affairs Broadcaster



The 179th Aerial Port Squadron retired its flag on Sunday, July 8, 2008. What this means is the Aerial Port is no longer a squadron. Although their office name has changed to Air Terminal Operations, they will remain as part of the Logistics Readiness Squadron under the command of LtCol Douglas Greene. The ceremony to retire the Aerial Port Squadron flag, also marked an occasion to award the Meritorious Service Award to 15 Aerial Porter members for their deployment to Iraq from September 1, 2007 to January 13, 2008.

Aerial Port's functions had always varied from building pallets, measuring and weighing them to then loading the pallets onto aircraft ranging from our C-130s to the C-5 Galaxy. Aerial Port personnel utilized these pallets to load everything from vehicles, mail, cargo,

food, water and medical supplies in support of any disasters and wartime efforts. They also ran the Air Terminal Operations Center (ATOC) which controlled the flow of onloads/offloads of inbound and outbound aircraft. Aerial Porter members would also be in charge of processing passengers and their luggage as well. Here at the 179th, Aerial Port worked in conjunction with OPS, coordinating practice loads, packing, rigging and retrieving the parachutes and recovering the loads from out in the drop zone. One of the last official events Aerial Port took part in was a competitive exercise termed 'The Rodeo.' Different flight teams would compete on their air drops for accuracy in the drop zone. Aerial Port's responsibility in the Rodeo was loading the aircraft, and retrieving the parachutes and loads from the drop zone. The Rodeo event took place on Saturday of the July UTA.

Aerial Port's Chief, CMSGT. Jeff Saltz, explained how these changes

have affected Aerial Port's personnel. "The downsizing is occurring in two phases. The first phase happened in April and took us from a manning of 94 enlisted and four officers, to 46 enlisted and one officer. Effective October of 2009, the second phase will take us to 33 enlisted and one officer." This meant big changes and decisions for all personnel that were not included in the new manning plan. Some of the personnel opted to cross train to any open areas on base here. Others have transferred to different bases around the state such as Rickenbacker in Columbus and the Air Force Reserve Base in Youngstown. Sadly, a few others either retired from or left the Air National Guard altogether.

Not only do these changes directly affect the personnel but they also have direct impact on the base. Even though Aerial Port is no longer a squadron, they still perform many of the functions as they have before, but now with fewer people and

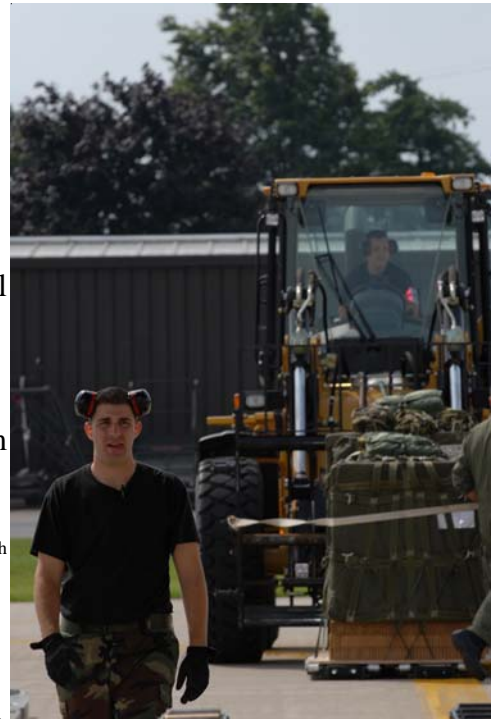


equipment. SMSgt. Robert ‘Buck’ Rogers of the Aerial Delivery section said that they’re down to only two forklifts and a K-Loader for loading and unloading the aircraft; which presented a slight challenge for the Aerial Port team during The Rodeo. “The mission hasn’t changed for us... we still support the air drops.” MSgt. Chad Shifflet, Air Cargo Specialist/Training Manager for Aerial Port said that trying to keep up with the training has been a challenge. “The entire training has been affected by the changes. It’s been chaos.” TSgt. Zak Eggeman, Air Cargo Specialist agrees. Despite these challenges, the Aerial Port team was able to pull off support for the successful Rodeo.

Aerial Port has seen its share of deployments over the years. 24 enlisted and one officer deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom for six months in Ramstien, Germany and six months at McGuire

AFB in New Jersey. Aerial Port was also a vital part of an enclave for Hurricane Katrina, in which individuals deployed to New Orleans in support of relief efforts. Recently in 2007, Aerial Port took part in Vigilant Guard, which combined Air Force and Army Personnel to respond to natural disasters here in the U.S. Deployments abroad have also taken Aerial Porter members to places around the globe from Spain to Antarctica.

Losing the Aerial Port Squadron marks the end of an era for the 179th Airlift Wing. Although we will miss the Aerial Port members who have moved on and left the 179th, we know that they will do well and wish them the very best. We are glad to have the remaining members here on base in either their current positions or in the new roles they’ve cross-trained into during the transition; we know you will have much success through continuing to provide your



Photos by Staff Sgt. Koehler

outstanding service and work. To have you here as part of the 179th Airlift Wing as we transition into a bright future full of growth and “jointness” makes all 179th members proud.



Staff Sgt. Brooke Jones

As a member of the 179th Airlift Wing Aerial Port Squadron, Staff Sergeant Brooke Jones is one of the many people tasked with the essential job of loading necessary supplies for C-130 missions. During her four years with the Aerial Port Squadron, she has been part of a highly committed team, whom are all passionate about the roles they play here at the 179th Airlift Wing.

During the July UTA, the dedicated individuals of the Aerial Port Squadron participated in a Rodeo training event that took place on Saturday. The purpose of this event was to practice dropping “Simulated Supplies” at a pre-determined “Drop Zones” area and ensure that the process is “On Target” from start to finish. Sergeant Jones was part of the starting block when she and her team began building the pallets that would be dropped later that afternoon.

Sergeant Jones and her team were to weigh down their pallets of “Simulated Supplies” to give the pallet a certain weight, similar to that of a regular supply load. This simulated load ensures the pilots have a very realistic look and feel of an actual drop. These “Supplies” were then palletized



onto a roller system that would be used to roll the supplies into the C-130. From there, a forklift transfers the pallet to a nearby cargo truck. The cargo truck was then driven to the aircrafts for the supplies to be unloaded from the truck onto the plane. This is a vital process to any cargo transfer on a C-130 and the 179th; our Aerial Port members are accustomed to handling anywhere from 14 to 16 crates in just one day.



Staff Sergeant Todd Bartley

Staff Sergeant Todd M. Bartley has spent two years with everyone here at the 179th Airlift Wing as a traditional guardsman. He is currently a member of the strong-willed Aerial Port team. After spending a number of years with the Army, Bartley decided to transfer to the Air National Guard because of the great benefits. His choice to join the 179th was because he discovered that it was overall the best ANG base in Ohio, Bartley also liked being at a base close to his family and a short drive too his home.

In the civilian world, he is self-employed and maintains a construction business. Bartley has been in the construction business since 2004. He is currently enrolled in the winter quarter at North Central State College and is looking forward to starting classes.

Outside of work, Bartley enjoys spending time with his children and being involved in all their activities; such as, football and basketball. His hobbies include: spending as much time as he can with his family and relishing his sports enthusiasm. An interesting fact about Bartley that you may not know is that his hometown named a day after him upon his return from an Iraq deployment. The day of his return was dedicated as his officially named day.

If you see Bartley around base, be sure to say hello and let him know how glad we are to have him as a part of the 179th team.



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