

BUCKEYE AIRLIFTER

SEPTEMBER 2009

WWW.179AW.ANG.AF.M



179th PAmedia

Reflection from the Chaplain Section



You know the sayings, “What happens TDY stays TDY!” or “What happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas!” I’m sure many would like to think this is true. BUT! You and I both know we can go just about anywhere in the world and look up and see someone who knows us. That’s the tricky part.

We don’t always remember them but they have us pegged. Since being in Germany, I have met at least six people that know me. One even comes from the town I grew up in and knows all the people I went to church with. What’s the point? We often think it’s okay to let our hair down. We

have the work hard play hard mentality. This is fine within reason.

However, many of us take our down time to a place it was never meant to be. Good judgment is sometimes sacrificed for good feelings or so called good times. We do this in many cases believing that we are somehow invisible.

If you have been living long enough, you know there is no such thing. People see us everywhere we go and if we do something extraordinary it is acknowledged and talked about. If we do something contrary to what we say we represent, it is also noted and talked about. You may not say anything



but if what you say or do is worth telling, the story will be told in good fashion. Be sure to maintain your character no matter where you are. Your conduct could cost you more than you ever imagined. We always want to be seen in a positive light; we represent our God, our families, our unit and ourselves.

Be sure you represent well.

SEPTEMBER PROMOTIONS

NEW STAFF SERGEANTS

Kiet M. Chung – 200 RHS Det 1
 Brian D. Stein – 200 RHS
 Daniel J. Karam – 200 RHS
 Keith P. Faron – 179 MXS
 Michael A. Stokes – 200 RHS Det 1

NEW SENIOR AIRMEN

John R. Garner – 179 MXS
 Robert M. Smith – 200 RHS
 Patrick R. McCann – 200 RHS
 Cashay L. Moorer – 200 RHS Det 1
 David A. Weinandy – 200 RHS Det 1
 Jada L. Slayton – 200 RHS Det 1
 Adriann C. Brook – 179 SFS
 Jared M. Lewis – 179 FSS
 Andrew J. Pepin – 179 CES

Moving up the ranks through EPP

By Staff Sgt. Jessica Q. Hill
179th Public Affairs Journalist

Two members of the 179th Airlift Wing recently put on their Senior Master Sergeant rank after they passed the Exceptional Promotion Program (EPP). Jonathan S. King, Communications Flight and Judson M. Shull, Fire Department, were both awarded their new rank effective May 1, 2009.

EPP is designed to provide promotion opportunities for traditional guard members who are in the grade of E-7 and E-8 by allowing exceptional performers to attain a senior NCO rank when Unit Manning Document authorizations do not exist. EPP is a program where candidates take a test and interview in hopes of scoring high enough to earn a promotion. In addition to earning points from test scores, members can earn points for volunteer work and contributions to their bases. Similar to the Airman of the Year program, candidates submit packages which list off their accomplishments and are scored on these submissions.



According to King, who works in Network Infrastructure, the new promotion is a way for him to pursue new jobs opportunities in the 179th AW and other bases. He said that having the SMSgt rank will allow him to look at jobs requiring the SMSgt rank and also positions for candidates who could put on Chief Master Sergeant.

Shull contributes his new stripe to the hard work of the Fire Department. He said, "I wear it, but they earned it." He clarified that in his time with the 179th Fire Department, they have been selected as Outstanding Unit of the Year twice. He believes that the board took note of the great leadership, including Shull, which brought the department to their high level of quality.



Shull was quick to point out that the two 179th AW candidates who went to the state board both were awarded the stripe. He noted that this is a great accomplishment for the 179th and it reflects how well the base prepares its people compete at state level and excel. "Seven people applied for three available stripes, and the 179th walked away with two of those," said Shull.

In continuing with their track record of excellence, both King and Shull are hard at work again in their respective jobs. Neither NCO has allowed themselves time to sit around and enjoy their new rank. Instead, they are tackling major tasks to help keep the 179th AW in good standing.

King is currently working with his team in Communications to relocate the base servers. This is a painstaking process that requires a great deal of diagramming and planning. This will ensure each of the hundreds of wires feeding to and from the servers is properly hooked back up after the move so the base maintains its internet access.

Shull is also hard at work, but it is harder to see his work from the 179th. He is currently on a tour of duty with his fellow firefighters in Iraq as part of the 179th AW's current AEF rotation.

Members interested in learning more about the EPP should contact their Unit Career Advisor.

Ohio National Guard participates in Indy 200

Story & Photos By Staff Sgt. Robert J. Koehler
179th Public Affairs Photographer

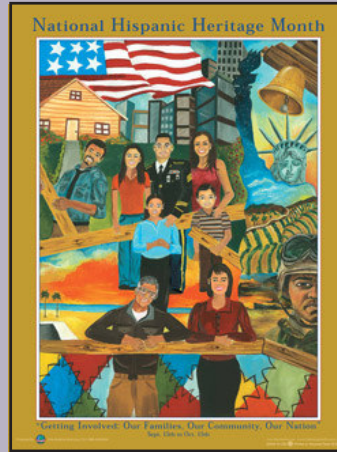
It was an exciting weekend for the Ohio National Guard as the Indy Racing League rolled into Lexington, Ohio for the Indy 200. The Panther Racing Team, sponsored by the National Guard, accommodated around fifty members of the Ohio Air and Army National Guard, including civilian guests for the running of the race and pre-race events.

Spanning four days there were autograph sessions signed hats from Dan Wheldon, the National Guard Indy car driver, lunches, tokens of appreciation changed hands and genuine camaraderie was shared between the Panther Racing Team and the Ohio National Guard. Panther Racing Team Owner

John Barnes spoke with the guests delivering a solemn recollection of his past experience with a hometown hero as he thanked Hometown Hero honoree, Army Specialist Zachary Fehrman for his service. Barnes also presented Fehrman with a framed picture signed by Wheldon and an exquisite model depicting the National Guard Indy car, in appreciation for his service to the country and Ohio.

Ohio Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Gregory L. Wayt, commented that this “was a great team building event” as Barnes guided the Ohio Guardsmen and women through the paddock area on the way to the pre-race ceremony. They stopped by the National Guard car’s meeting room, in which discussions of race strategy and fuel conservation filled the air in the tight quarters. Wayt, Assistant Adjutant General – Air Maj. Gen. Harry “A.J.” Fuecht, Jr., and crew listened intently to the talk of fuel mixtures and pit stops being key elements to winning the race. Offering a few last words of encouragement and thanks to driver Dan Wheldon, the entourage headed to the pit area, stopping at the garage briefly before Wayt and Fehrman stepped onto the opening ceremony stage to meet the drivers of the Indy 200.





SEPTEMBER IS HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

In honor of this Spanish ancestry, the U.S. has celebrated Hispanic Heritage month from **15 September to 15 October** every year since 1988. This is the fastest growing population as the Census 2000 indicated that Hispanics have become the largest minority group in the United States including Puerto Rico. The word Hispanic comes from Espana, Spain, the country that led the conquest of the New World. Hispanic ancestry is rich and consists of anyone who descended from the mother country. Hispanic or Latino Americans share a common language and heritage. Because of this commonality, they are often lumped together despite their many differences. The Hispanic experience varies greatly, depending on the particular ethnic group, area of the country, and period of immigration. The backgrounds of Hispanics are diverse with a focus on Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, and other Hispanics such as Central and South America and the Dominican Republic.

As the 2000 Census indicates, Mexican Americans comprise the largest number of Hispanic Americans in the United States. Most Mexican Americans or Chicanos are Mestizo, i.e., of mixed Native American and Caucasian descent. Puerto Ricans are descendents from the native Taino Amerindians, the African people brought to the island as slaves, and the Spanish who conquered the island and interbred and intermarried with both groups. Puerto Ricans comprise the second largest group of Hispanics and are also the most socially and economically disadvantaged Latino group. Puerto Rico received its name from Juan Ponce de Leon when he explored the island and upon the arrival at the bay San Juan exclaimed "Ay que puerto rico!" ("Oh what a rich port!") The island became known as Puerto Rico from that moment on. Cubans came to the U.S. as a result of the many waves of political unrest that occurred in Cuba prior to the Spanish-American War in 1898. During the late 18th century, a large Cuban colony blossomed in Tampa, Florida.

When it comes to serving the United States, Hispanic Americans have risen to the occasion. As far back as the American Revolution, Spaniards and people of Hispanic descent provided significant military assistance. Hispanic Americans have served proudly in all U.S. wars and their presence in the ranks has increased since WWII. Interestingly, Hispanics, both women and men, tend to choose to enlist and receive commissions in the Marine Corps compared with the other services. The reasoning may be steeped in the deep tradition of Hispanic Americans serving with valor in the military in combat units in the Marines and the Army.

Those of Latino descent have and will continue to have an enduring impact on mainstream American culture. Americans should embrace this culture, for it is a part of our history and it will become a part of our future.

Excerpts from Observance 07 Pamphlet 01-4

Red Horse members make a difference in Serbia

Story and Photos By 1st Lt. Nicole L. Ashcroft
179th Chief of Public Affairs

Recently, 200th RED HORSE members deployed on a month long humanitarian mission where they worked with their Serbian Armed Forces counterparts to remodel an elementary school in Prokuplje, Serbia. The project began on August 5, 2009 and was completed on September 1, 2009; the total project was split between two rotations containing approximately 16 members in each rotation.

RED HORSE members completed work on one of the three schools being renovated in Serbia as part of the Ohio National Guards State Partnership Program with Serbia which began in September, 2006. This was a joint mission of the Ohio Air National Guard's 200th RED HORSE (Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy Operational Repair Squadron Engineers) and Ohio Army National Guard's 1194th Engineer Company.



PROKUPLJE AND SOKO BANJA, Serbia—Hundreds of civilians, along with Serbian government officials and Serbian and Ohio National Guard troops gathered to greet Serbian Defense Minister Dragan Sutanovac and U.S. Charge d' Affaires Jennifer Brush Aug. 24, 2009, as they visited schoolhouses in Prokuplje and Soko Banja, Serbia. The schools are being renovated by the joint militaries via the National Guard Bureau State Partnership Program; Ohio and Serbia have been partnered since 2006.

The Ohio National Guard deployed 39 Soldiers and Airmen from Army and Air engineer units to three locations in Serbia to complete the humanitarian assistance projects. The troops have been working side-by-side with their Serbian counterparts at all three sites since early August.

"Cooperation between Serbian military officials and the Ohio National Guard is important," Sutanovac said.

The day began with a visit to Neven, an elementary school in Prokuplje, where Sutanovac and Brush observed renovations underway including repairs to exterior walls, a new entrance with columns and canopy, installing new toilets, windows and tile flooring, rebuilding interior walls of two basement rooms and various other interior projects. This project, which is being completed by Airmen from the 200th RED HORSE (Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy



Operational Repair Squadron Engineers) and Serbian troops, will serve about 250 children from Prokuplje and nearby villages.

Pavlovic Dusanva, the school principal at Neven, said he is very happy with the work and wanted to thank the U.S. troops, government and entire country, as well as everyone else who helped rebuild the facility because it will make it so much better for the children.

“The joint effort by the Serbian Army and Ohio Guardmembers on the reconstruction of these institutions is a big step for the children, as the conditions in these facilities have been inadequate so far,” Sutanovac said.

Afterward, Sutanovac and Brush traveled to Mitropolit Mihailo, an elementary school in Soko Banja, where Soldiers from the Ohio Army National Guard’s 1194th Engineering Company, along with Serbian troops and contractors were reconstructing walls, replacing the water drainage system, replacing and insulating ceilings, recovering floors with wood laminate, insulating the basement against moisture and repainting the entire interior and exterior. Throughout the project, local children have visited the work sites daily and have come to call the Soldiers their friends.

“The work carried out on the schools and kindergartens is of exceptional importance not only because of the children, but also because of the parents and the entire community,” Brush said.

She thanked the members of the Ohio National Guard for coming to Serbia, and the Serbian troops for the hospitality shown toward their Ohio colleagues. Work on the three schools is scheduled for completion by Sept. 1, when the Serbian children return to school.

“Serbia wishes to take advantage of this experience and to continue building a partnership with the Ohio National Guard,” Sutanovac said.



*Upcoming Fun Events -
Hosted by Family Programs*

Summer Fun in the Sun Day

at

**The Infield and
Buck's Bar & Grill**

176 E. Main

Lexington, OH

Saturday,

September 12th

5:30-8:30 pm

(right after drill)

Food, drinks, and fun, fun, fun

And, it's free, free, free



Family Readiness Information

OPERATIONS SECURITY FOR FAMILY MEMBERS AND FRIENDS



As a member of the military community, you are a vital player in service member and unit success; they couldn't do their job without your support. You may not know it, but you play a crucial role in ensuring their safety just by what you know of the military's day-to-day operations. You can protect them by protecting the information that you know. This is known in the military as Operations Security or, OPSEC.

In today's society, everyone seems to have a MySpace, facebook, or twitter account. These accounts are great for keeping in touch with people. However, we need to be cautious when posting things about the military community. Here are some safety tips on how to keep our military safe:

Limit what you say about

- Military movements (deployment/redeployment dates, dates of field exercises, flight information etc.)... next Tuesday IS a specific date
- Any issues with the unit
- Anything concerning security
- Equipment issues (what, no flak vests?)
- Locations of units (it's OK to say they're in Iraq, but not to say that your spouses battalion is at 14th and Ramadan in Kadamiyah)

Don't discuss

- Detailed information about missions of assigned units
- Details concerning locations and times of unit deployments
- Personal transactions that occur in large numbers (pay information, powers of attorney, wills and deployment information)
- References to trend in unit morale
- Personnel problems
- Details concerning security procedures

Operations Security not only protects service members and units, but it protects you the family member, the rest of your family and friends on the home front by denying phishers, scammers, id thieves and others the personal or operational information they need to work their schemes.

AIRMAN SPOTLIGHT

By Staff Sgt. Jessica Q. Cauvel
179th Public Affairs Journalist



Tucked away in the Aircraft Structural Maintenance shop of the Maintenance Squadron is Airman First Class Nathan C. Gross. December will mark the third year that Gross has been in the 179th Airlift Wing.

According to Gross, he entered the military to get his college paid for. He said he choose the 179th AW because it is near where he had grown up in Mansfield. “The stars aligned and here I am,” he said jokingly about the decision.

Gross is a traditional member, however, he served a 6-month temporary technician tour. During this time, he assisted the Aerospace Ground Equip-

ment (AGE) shop is attempting to refurbish some of their equipment.

Gross is currently enrolled at The Ohio State University-Mansfield with a major in Environmental Science. After graduation, he said he plans to focus on habitat restoration.

When he is not busy with the Guard or school, Gross can usually be found working with his brother on a property they own. The brothers are trying to start a garden and tend a few chickens on the property.

Gross said he is “heavy into recycling.” He said he often scavenges for materials he can reuse for building materials. He is also interested in permaculture, which is sustainable agriculture.

A fun fact Gross was willing to share with fellow Guard members was that he owns a 1973 Volkswagon bus that he bought days after graduating high school. He has plans to eventually turn the bus into an electric vehicle.

Micheal J. Welch, Gross’s supervisor at the 179th AW, said, “Gross has become a very valuable asset to this shop. He has great attention to detail.”

This funded Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Military Services. Contents of the Buckeye Airlifter 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. The editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Public Affairs Office of the 179th Airlift Wing, 1947 Harrington Memorial Road, Mansfield, OH 44903-0179.

Stories or story ideas may be submitted to the Public Affairs Office for publication consideration in the Buckeye Airlifter. Information should be emailed to nicole.ashcroft@ohmans.ang.af.mil. The Buckeye Airlifter is a monthly publication.

OCTOBER 09 DEADLINE: Sunday 13 Sept 09

Commander.....Col. Mark Stephens
Chief of Public Affairs.....1st. Lt. Nicole Ashcroft
Multimedia Manager.....Master Sgt. Lisa Haun
Public Affairs Journalist.....Staff Sgt. Jessica Hill
Public Affairs Photographer.....Staff Sgt. Rob Koehler
Public Affairs Photographer.....Senior Airman Joe Harwood

Public Affairs Broadcaster.....Master Sgt. Bob Jones
Public Affairs Broadcaster.....Tech. Sgt. Joe Stepp
Public Affairs KM.....Senior Airman Dustin Edgell
Family Readiness Manager.....Ms. Faline Rowland
Reporters.....Unit Public Affairs Representatives