

BUCKEYE

AIRLIFTER



SEPTEMBER 2010

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Are you ready?

O.R.I

OPERATIONAL READINESS INSPECTION



Countdown to the Levy Drop

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

The levy for the Operational Readiness Inspection (ORI) is slated to drop in approximately 35 days. This will be the chance for members of the 179th Airlift Wing to prove that they are among the best that the Air National Guard has to offer.

For this upcoming inspection, the 179AW is partnering with units from Scott AFB, Ill., Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Mich., and Little Rock AFB, Ark., to pull off the four-day war. As the lead unit, the 179AW has taken a great deal of the organizational burden on its shoulders.

"We are very well prepared," said 179AW Vice Commander Col. Jeffery A. Lewis. "We have all the big things done and are now working on the small things that can add up to big things."

Lewis noted that the 179AW and the other supporting units have been working towards the ORI steadily since November 2009. Several practice runs and simulations have been accomplished to ensure members from all involved units feel confident before the inspectors arrive.

"The best thing individuals can do now is to ensure they are personally ready," Lewis said. He noted that individuals need to ensure they have the proper computer based training (CBTs) completed as well as being medically and physically prepared. "Ensure you are well rested and have the stamina necessary for four days of the ORI," he added.

Base Commander Col. Gary A. McCue noted that he has seen a positive attitude throughout the 179AW in regards to the ORI. "We are going into

this with a 'can do' positive attitude prepared for success," McCue noted.

Tech. Sgt. Melissa A. Sullivan, NCO-IC 179AW Emergency Management, advised base personnel to review and become familiar with their Airman's Manuals. She said they should also review their Ability To Survive and Operate (ATSO) training. "Also, ATSO-U will alleviate any questions individuals may have," she said.

With the ORI kicking off on October 17, Lt. Col. Jeffery McQuillen, ORI warlord, cautioned members that the September Unit Training Assembly (UTA) is the last chance for getting equipment out and cleaned. He noted that comfortable clothing that fits properly will be very important during the grueling ORI week.

MXG Commander, Col. Lindsey A. Whitehead, encouraged members

to watch their stress levels in the weeks leading up to the ORI as well as during the actual ORI. "Also, be sure families are aware of what is happening that week," he suggested. This will help families feel more at ease and cause less unnecessary stress for the members during the simulated war.

As the remaining days before the ORI tick by, remember personal readiness and a level head will keep everyone in the best possible spirits, which will in turn set the 179AW up for "Excellent" grades during the ORI.



Reflection from the Chaplain Section

By Chaplain, Lt. Col. Curtiss H. Wagner
179th Chaplains Office

Are you facing situations in your life that seem hopeless? Maybe it has to do with your job, your marriage, a relationship with someone, or your financial situation. Maybe it seems like nothing will ever change and you will never overcome the frustration of where you are.

I was prompted to think about this after our recent conversion ceremony from the C-130's to the C-27's. We certainly faced a situation in 2005 that looked very bleak for the future of our base. As a result of BRAC, we were told that our base would close. All people could see at that time was uncertainty and doubt.

However, refusing to accept the ruling of BRAC, many people worked hard to bring us to where we are today. Not only do we have a new plane that is first of its kind in the Air Force, but we have the opportunity of becoming a training base. That is a huge turn around that I'm sure all of us realize.

But what about our personal lives? Can we learn from what happened in our unit and apply it to our own lives? We can learn that no situation is really hopeless unless we just give up and go along with the circumstances. No marriage is hopeless if there are two people who are willing to work on their rela-

tionship to make it better. It may take time, but there is hope. No financial situation is hopeless no matter how much you may be in debt if you are willing to make the sacrifices to get out of debt. It will take time and it will be difficult, but there are ways out of debt. If you long to be married but can't seem to find the right person, you can just give up or you can persevere and find that right person. It may take time and a lot of effort, but there is hope. If you are out of work or hate your job, with the right amount of perseverance, your situation can change. It may take some time, it may take some further education, it may take gaining some experience, but it is not hopeless.

The most important thing to understand is that when life becomes difficult, we can't just give up and surrender, but we need to make a plan, get input from other people, and continue on, looking forward to how things can change. Our attitude can make a huge difference.

In addition, there are some other factors that can really help. Having a support group of people we trust, people we can talk to, people who love us enough to accept us but also to tell us where we are wrong or need to change, can be a huge asset. Another asset can



be gaining insight from people who are wiser and more experienced than us. We have to be willing to seek out that counsel, but it is a wise and mature person who is willing to learn from others.

For many people, their faith is also an important factor in providing hope. To be able to trust in a God who is greater than we are, who is all powerful, and who has a great love for us can provide hope in the most bleak circumstances. I encourage you to consider this resource as an important tool for facing the challenges of life.

If you are feeling overwhelmed by circumstances in your life, we want to encourage you that there is always hope. Don't give up; hold on; there is a way out. Your Chaplain Team is always ready to make time for you, but you must do your part and take the first step.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Robert J. Koehler



Col. McCue holds first Commander's Call

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

September 8, 2010 marked the first Commander's Call for Col. Gary A. McCue, Commander 179 Airlift Wing. The event was held in the Dining Facility in Building 420 for full-time employees.

Master Sgt. John C. Willis started off the morning with announcements of upcoming changes to the federal technicians' benefits. He noted the shift to more online options for appraisals and benefits elections. He also informed technicians that left over sick leave will now be calculated into retirement benefits.

Technician service awards were handed out to individuals for service ranging from 10 years as a federal technician to 30 years. Fourteen individuals were recognized for these awards.

Following Willis' presentation, McCue addressed the crowd. He noted that the first C-27J should be arriv-



Photo by SrA Joseph D. Harwood

ing in Mansfield within the next few weeks. The exact date of the delivery is not known yet.

McCue noted that he is already receiving pressure from Air Mobility Command (AMC) as to when the 179AW will be able to deploy with the

new aircraft. McCue assured the full-time staff that he would not deploy the unit until it can be done safely.

With the thought of a lengthy deployment with the new aircraft looming in the future, as well as the normal pressures of being in the military, McCue cautioned his audience to watch how they handle stress.

There have been a number of alcohol related accidents involving airmen from the 179AW in the last year and McCue is joining with wing leadership to embark on a campaign to end the poor decisions. "We have to begin to address a change in our culture," he said.

To wrap up his first Commander's Call, McCue gave a "thank you" to Chief Master Sgt. Mark A. Dyer and his Services team for the breakfast they prepared.

A Commander's Call for the entire 179AW was held Saturday, 11 September, 2010 at 8:20 a.m. in Hangar 409.



Photo by SrA Joseph D. Harwood

Mansfield's first C-27J Spartan gets a bath before its journey



Photo by SrA Joseph D. Harwood

This Spartan is all washed up...but its mission is only beginning. Members of the 179th Airlift Wing curiously watched as the C27J Spartan received its first bath here in Mansfield. It needed to look it's best for an Air Show in Cleveland the following day. Then it is taking a short trip overseas for our Mansfield Crews OT&E (Operational Test & Evaluation) which we are confident will go well. We are all looking forward to having the new aircraft, our boys and the new mission back at its new home, right here in sunny Mansfield!

National Guard Indy Car 2-Seat Experience

By Master Sgt. Robert C. Jones
179 AW Public Affairs Office

The National Guard sponsors an Indy Racing League Car owned by Panther Racing and driven by Dan Wheldon. This effort to support recruiting and projecting a positive image of the Guard reaches thousands of people each week on racetracks around the country. This weekend the National Guard car is racing at Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course located in Lexington, Ohio.

Rides in specially built two seat IndyCars were held on the course Thursday, August 5th as part of the Employer Outreach Program and to honor the efforts of National Guard members. Those invited had the opportunity to take two sizzling fast laps on the 2.4 mile course.

Taking turns, employers and guard members felt the rush of speed and experienced the incredible skill and physical endurance necessary to compete in IndyCar racing. Riding just behind the driver, passengers in full race gear, experienced a small slice of race day.

As each participant waited for their turn they saw the smiling faces of those who had just completed their ride. Anticipation was high and the ride did not disappoint. It was a day that will not be soon forgotten.

Wheldon, earlier in the day, addressed the gathering and expressed his appreciation for the work done by the guard and for the employers who also were making a sacrifice in support of the nation. He signed autographs and took pictures in the Panther Racing Team tent.

179AW First Sergeant named as ANG First Sgt. of the Year

By Staff Sgt. Jessica Q. Hill
Public Affairs Journalist

Master Sgt. Heidi A. Bunker, 179th Airlift Wing Logistics Readiness Squadron First Sergeant, was recently named as First Sergeant of the Year for the entire Air National Guard. Bunker will be making a trip to Washington D.C. in June to be presented with her award.

The Galion native has been a member of the 179th AW since 1991 and a First Sergeant since March 2007. She had been assigned to the Aerial Port Squadron from the time she enlisted in the guard until it merged with LRS. Her current command staff has credited her with being an instrumental part of the merger.

Bunker's assignment include temporary duty assignments to Mission of Love, Joint Forge in Germany, and Operation Hurricane Katrina at both her home station in Mansfield and forward deployed to New Orleans. She was most recently deployed with exceptional service as First Sergeant to the 379 EAMXS/746 AMU in southwest Asia.

Bunker has received numerous Letters of Excellence as well as commendation from her commander for her "professionalism and excellence."

"We have a common set of goals," LRS Commander Lt. Col. Douglas A. Green stated in regard to Bunker's help in running the squadron. "I do not need to tell her my goals because she anticipates my needs."

Bunker has been credited with won-

derful attention to details on behalf of the Airmen in her charge. In cases such as numerous emergency leave situations and a special court-martial, she has personally ensured the integrity of the justice system.

"I believe having out First Sergeant

now?"

When not serving at the 179th AW, Bunker has been employed by Children's Home of Cincinnati. She is currently residing in Cincinnati where she is active in her community garden club. She spends her free time volunteering with elderly community members.

"This is an aspect of what makes MSgt. Bunker so great," Green said. "She has accomplished so much in her civilian life while excelling in the Air Force. She has essentially been on three back to back TDYs while completing some major courses toward her civilian goals."

During Bunker's trip to the Capital to receive her ANG level award, she was treated to various dinners and meetings with lawmakers and other dignitaries. She was invited to the 180th Fighter Wing in Toledo, Ohio to enjoy a ride in one of their F-16 Fighter Jets. She also participated in a two-seat Indy race at Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course in the National Guard sponsored car.

In addition to being named as the ANG's First Sergeant of the Year, Bunker has also

been named First Sergeant of the Year for both the 179th AW and the state of Ohio. Bunker previously held the distinction of being the Noncommissioned Officer of the Year for the 179th Airlift Wing from July 1, 1997 until June 30, 1998.



selected for this honor reflects very highly on the unit," Green boasted. "I can't help but brag to everyone that the First Sergeant of the entire Air Guard is my First Sergeant. I point her photo on the wall out to all of the visitors and tell them how she will be competing against the (Active Duty) Air Force

Treating the Invisible Wounds of War

Over 1.6 million men and women have served in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF/OIF) to date. Half of deployed Service Members are Reservist and National Guardsmen, they are married, and almost half have dependent children--the majority 5 years old and younger. Army OneSource is proud to announce a community outreach and education program developed to raise awareness about the unique challenges of military life while also addressing the growing demand for Behavioral Health services.

We have learned the following:

- * Mental health is one of the three most common health issues reported by our returning Service Members.

- * Over half of all Service Members seeking care from the VA have reported possible mental health concerns.

- * Mental health issues that the VA is seeing include post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, psychoses, neurotic disorders, and drug and alcohol dependence and abuse.

- * Reservist and National Guards-

men return home without the infrastructure and support that is provided to Veterans living in close proximity to military installations.

- * A silent majority of our Veterans (about 55%) are either not getting needed services or are getting them from community sources.

Our Service Members and their Families have answered the call. Now, we are asking you to do the same by helping us link Veterans and their Families to the behavioral health services they so desperately need.

Army OneSource has launched a formal campaign to encourage professionals, particularly health care professionals to complete FREE online courses in the series entitled, "Treating the Invisible Wounds of War." This series of courses was developed by the Citizen Soldier Support Program, in collaboration with the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to help health care professionals, case workers, mental health providers, and other professionals, who may see a veteran or family member on an unrelated issue, develop a better understand-

ing of the culture in which Service Members as well as their Families, live and work. The courses also provide best practices for identifying, assessing, and treating Behavioral Health problems that result from the trauma of war.

COURSE ACCESS INSTRUCTIONS:

From your browser, go to www.aheconnect.com/citizensoldier

Step 1: Click on New Users tab at the top of the screen

Step 2: Create a personal user account following the instructions on the screen

*NOTE: When prompted to enter the Army OneSource Referral Code, enter AOSOH

Step 3: Login to the system using your new ID and password

Step 4: Click on Courses tab at the top of the screen

Step 5: Select a course you wish to complete.

Please feel free to pass this information to your colleagues and let them know that the course is FREE for a limited time and will improve their understanding of military culture and the challenges faced by our Service Members and their families.

SEPTEMBER PROMOTIONS

TO BE SENIOR AIRMAN

MARCUS A. ADAMS	179 FSS
HAYLEY M. SCHERER	200 RHS DET1
JUAN G. GALE	200 RHS DET1
PATRICK D. GREENE	200 RHS DET1
KYLE A. GRASSEL	200 RHS
KENNETH W. VANCE	200 RHS

TO BE STAFF SERGEANT

JASON E. NIEDERMIER	179 FSS
ANGELA R. DIFEO	179 FSS
ALEX M. GALAT	164 AS

BRITTANY L. COMPTON	179 MDG
STEPHEN R. PYCRAFT	200 RHS
BRETT A. HUSS	200 RHS
REGINALD D. CLARK JR	200 RHS
MITCHELL A. SAMPSON JR	200 RHS DET1

TO BE MASTER SERGEANT

JACLYN A. NEWBERT	179 MDG
REBECCA L. ENGLISH	179 MDG

TO BE SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT

TODD D. FRITZ	200 RHS
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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 descendants 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.

Governor, State Leaders Launch Ohio Veterans Bonus Program

Columbus, Ohio – Ohio Governor Ted Strickland, Ohio Attorney General Richard Cordray, Ohio Treasurer Kevin Boyce and Ohio Department of Veterans Services Director Bill Hartnett today launched the Ohio Veterans Bonus program in Columbus.

An estimated 200,000 Ohio residents are eligible for the Ohio Veterans Bonus.

“In November, the voters of Ohio resoundingly supported Issue 1,” Strickland said. “Ohioans wanted to extend a small measure of our thanks and offer a tangible sign of our profound respect for our veterans of recent conflicts and their survivors. Today we are asking all eligible veterans and their survivors to apply for this special payment from the state.”

“Of course no payment is adequate reward for the sacrifices made on our behalf,” Strickland added. “But these checks will help make a mortgage payment, or put food on the table, or start a savings account. And what’s more, these payments will say something clearly and directly to our veterans: thank you.”

All Ohio veterans could be eligible for a bonus if they served on active duty with U.S. armed forces, including the Ohio National Guard, anywhere in the world during specified periods of time. The active duty must be for purposes other than training. Applicants must have been legal residents of Ohio when they went on active duty and also must be Ohio residents when they apply for a bonus.

“The process of providing these bonuses began a few years ago in Iraq, when an Ohioan serving as an Army captain there wrote to my office on behalf of the servicemen and women in his unit,” said Cordray. “Working together, Ohioans responded in a big way, bringing these bonuses to fruition. It truly is a story of democracy at its finest. My office will continue to work to support our Veterans through the application process, to make it as simple as possible.”

The estimated processing time for bonus applications is approximately eight weeks,

depending on the volume of applications initially received.

To apply for the bonus, applicants should go to www.veteransbonus.ohio.gov, and complete the online application. Ohio’s public libraries are prepared to assist with the online application if applicants do not have Internet access. In addition, staff at Ohio’s County Veterans Service Offices is available to assist in the application process.

Ohio Department of Veterans Services Director Bill Hartnett said eligible veterans must satisfy three basic requirements.

“We want to know about residency, geography and time,” Hartnett said. “The Veterans must be Ohio residents now and must have been an Ohio resident when they were called to active duty. Next, we have to know where they served and finally we have to know when they served.”

Eligible veterans may receive \$100 for each month of active duty service in the following locations during these specified dates:

* Persian Gulf: Between August 2, 1990 and March 3, 1991, the date when Iraq accepted the conditions for a permanent cease fire. Eligible veterans can apply for a bonus until December 31, 2013.

* Afghanistan: Since October 7, 2001. Eligible veterans can apply for a bonus for up to three years after the President declares an end to U.S. involvement in Afghanistan.

* Iraq: Since March 19, 2003. Eligible veterans can apply for a bonus for up to three years after the president declares an end to U.S. involvement in Iraq.

* The maximum benefit for service in those three areas is \$1,000.

Eligible veterans serving on active duty (except active duty for training) anywhere else in the world during the specified dates, may receive \$50 a month up to a maximum bonus of \$500. An eligible veteran may combine their service bonuses for a maximum payment of \$1,500.

To be eligible for a bonus:

* The veteran must have been separated from the armed forces under honorable conditions.

* The veteran remains on active duty service.

* After active duty service, the veteran remains in any reserve component of the armed forces, including the Ohio National Guard.

Veterans’ applications are not complete until they are printed, signed and mailed to: Ohio Veterans Bonus, P.O. Box 373 Sandusky, Ohio 44871. The final application cannot be submitted on the Internet because the signed application must be notarized or acknowledged.

Public notaries can notarize the applicant’s signature or any of Ohio’s 88 county common pleas court clerks are prepared to “acknowledge” the signature. In addition, the assistant attorneys general in the Ohio Attorney General’s regional offices in Columbus, Cleveland, Cincinnati, Youngstown and Toledo will notarize the applicant’s signature free of cost. A list of free notaries can be found at: www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/VeteransBonus.

There also are other bonuses available to eligible veterans or the families of deceased veterans. For these eligibility details and specifications, please visit: https://veteransbonus.ohio.gov/odvs_web/Eligibility_Requirements.aspx

“Ohio has a long history of rewarding military service that stretches back to World War I,” said Treasurer Boyce. “Although we can never repay those who risked their lives and left their families, this gesture speaks volumes about the great respect our State has for its veterans. I am proud to stand with Ohioans to honor the sacrifices of so many servicemen and women.”

Applicants with specific questions can call 1 -877-OHIO-VET or go online at: www.veteransbonus.ohio.gov.

The Ohio Veterans Bonus is not financed with taxes. Last year, Ohio voters approved a constitutional amendment allowing the state to sell \$200 million worth of bonds to provide a special payment from the Ohio Honors Veterans Fund to servicemen and women.



NEWS RELEASE

United States Air Force

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July 29, 2010

Air Force selects candidate bases for C-27J aircraft operations and training

WASHINGTON – Today the Air Force released its candidate basing decision for the C-27J operations and training aircraft.

The Secretary and Chief of Staff of the Air Force approved C-27J operations and training candidate bases. Training candidates are: Key Field Air Guard Station, Miss; Mansfield Lahm Regional Airport, Ohio. Operations candidates are: Boise Air Terminal AGS, Idaho; and Great Falls International Airport, Mont. The Air Force will conduct site surveys at the candidate locations and initiate the environmental impact analysis process in preparation for a final selection.

The C-27J is a twin turboprop engine aircraft designed to meet an Air Force requirement for a rugged, medium size airland transport. The C-27J gives US military troops a unique, short-take-off-and-landing capability, providing access to airstrips otherwise unusable by fixed-wing aircraft.

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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.af.mil. The Buckeye Airlifter is a monthly publication.

OCTOBER 10 DEADLINE: Sunday 12 September 10

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 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