

Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base, Columbus, Ohio

WING WATCH

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121st Air Refueling Wing

Dec 2012

Colonel Jones accepts 121st command



Col Jim Jones (center), accepts command of the 121st Air Refueling Wing from Brig. Gen. Mark Bartman (left), assistant adjutant general for air and commander of the Ohio Air National Guard Oct. 27, 2012. He is succeeding Brig. Gen. Mark Stephens (right), and is the 13th commander in the history of the 121st ARW. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Zachary Wintgens)



Touch-n-go

The Wing Watch moves to quarterly publication

The 121st ARW public affairs office has moved the Wing Watch into a quarterly publication. Rather than having six issues a year, as we did in 2010 and 2011, we will now have four issues a year. You can always find an electronic copy on our base homepage, under the link "Wing Watch."



This funded Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for the personnel of the 121st Air Refueling Wing, Rickenbacker International Airport, Ohio. Contents of the Wing Watch are not necessarily the official view of, or endorsed by, the Department of the Air Force or the Ohio National Guard. The editorial content is prepared, edited and provided by the Public Affairs Office of the 121st ARW, Rickenbacker IAP, 7370 Minuteman Way, Columbus, OH 43217-5875. All photographs are property of the U.S. Air Force unless otherwise indicated.

Commander Col. Jim Jones
Vice Cmdr. Col. Jeffrey A. Lewis
PA Officer Capt. Erika Wonn
Superintendent Senior Master Sgt. Kim Frey
Journalist/Editor Master Sgt. Bill Pierce
Photographer Staff Sgt. Zach Wintgens

Wing Watch submissions

Articles, photos, announcements and other useful information should be submitted to the PA office by 12 p.m. Friday of Feb., May, Aug., and Nov. UTAs for print in the next issue. Material can be e-mailed to: 121ARW.WingWatch@ang.af.mil

Holiday message from the commander

Col. Jim Jones
Wing Commander, 121st ARW

As we approach year-end, I ask every one of you to consider the extraordinary accomplishments of the 121st over the last year. You have defended America's interests from every corner of the world, meeting incredible challenges. All of you have been a part of this success. This is an incredible unit to be a part of, not because of the mission, but because of the people that make the mission.

It is your energy, strength and resilience that will take the Air National Guard and Air Force to the next level in terms of combat effectiveness, efficiency and capability. Please keep yourself safe through the holiday season and New Year. Your family, wingman and country deserve this commitment. Losing an Airman to a preventable accident is one of the most tragic events any unit can endure.

Make responsible choices and be proactive when it comes to safety. Practice risk management in everyday decision making and remember to check your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors. Avoid carelessness that could jeopardize your safety or that of others. Travel and celebrate with care.

Whether you are deployed or serving at home, your dedication and sacrifice are greatly appreciated. I wish you and your family a holiday season filled with wonderful memories.

Annual OAY State Award winners

Master Sgt. Eli Keyser, 121 FSS
 Ohio ANG Honor Guard Program Manager of the Year

Capt. Robert Krooner, 121 SFS
 Ohio ANG Company Grade Officer of the Year

Staff Sgt. Brian Raines, 121MXS (formerly 178th FW)
 Ohio ANG Honor Guard Member of the Year

Commander's Column

Col. Jim Jones

Wing Commander, 121st ARW

Rickenbacker has always been a big part of my life. The first time I stepped on this base was in 1961. I was three years old and at that time it was called Lockbourne AFB. I graduated from nearby Hamilton Twp. High School, which was a great mix of students from the base and local farm community. While working full time, I attended Park College in the evenings here at Rickenbacker. I started my military career 28 years ago right here with the 160th Air Refueling Group, which later combined with the 121st.

It's an honor and privilege to have this opportunity to work with each and every one of you. As I look back on my career, the flying has been great, but it's truly been the folks that I've had the opportunity to work with that has made my military experience fulfilling. Throughout these many bonding relationships is one common thread - positive attitudes.



I love this picture from undergraduate pilot training (UPT) in 1985, not because at the time I had hair and thought I was cool, but what's written on the hangar in the background. Attitude is what got me through the challenging year of UPT, as well as my entire military career. In turn, various individuals have inspired me with their positive attitudes in the face of adversity. The most poignant examples are the wounded warriors who have returned home and persevered.

The last sentence to the airman's creed states "and I will not fail." It's no secret that we have all failed in something throughout life and will continue to experience failures to various extents; we would not be human if that was not the case. That's life. It's what we do after we fail that shapes us and determines who we are and where we are going. We will always experience setbacks and adversity. We may have no control over the situation, but it is our decision how we react. Attitude is our choice.

Our perspective determines our attitude. Trial and error is an important teacher. To quote our greatest innovator in history, Thomas Edison: "I have not failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work." Confucius said: "Our greatest glory is not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall." I am inspired by many of you who have picked yourselves up and persevered through adversity. It is an inspiration to me as well as others.

As we look to the future there will be many challenges. They will range from fiscal and operational challenges to the continued GWOT, deployments and ORI's. It will be important for us to stay focused on the mission. Our perspective and attitude will ultimately determine how we persevere. When the chips are down, our attitude may be the only thing available in the tool bag. Only we can determine how to use it to our advantage. Perhaps a more appropriate ending to the Airman's Creed is "and I will never give up."

'Filled with Joy'

Maj. Michael Cassidy
Chaplain, 121st ARW



The Psalmist said, "The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy." Faith celebrations have something to say about God's actions catching us unaware for what God is doing. It's natural. In December we are in the Advent and Christmas seasons in the Christian faith, celebrating Hanukkah in the Jewish faith, Kwanzaa, and for us all, there is the approach of New Year's and the turn into 2013. That's why for us all the best word of advice would be "Slow down. Recall. Prepare." The gifting in that counsel prepares us to receive the joys that come in the celebrations.



As I type this, this date has two things going on, one monumental; the other less so. The less monumental occurrence is that the radio is playing a "Where to eat at an 'open' restaurant in Columbus, Ohio, on Christmas Day." The other more monumental occurrence is the 71st anniversary of Pearl Harbor Day. It's too early to be thinking about Christmas Day plans, and I believe that it's entirely appropriate to be thinking and reflecting on the holidays.

There will be plenty of folks who have trouble with "joy" during the season. People are missed, families are separated. That's why airmen need their families, and to make sure we care for the wingman needing the joy that we can share. It's a time to act out how we are family, and how we care for each other. Thus, if you're not "at joy" just yet, be ready to receive a surprise, a kind action, a gift. Share joy or kindle it in yourself.

In my own tradition, the Advent wreath is lit each Sunday, candle by candle, until on 24 December, the final central candle is lit. We also sing these selected stanzas.

Come quickly, shalom, teach us how to prepare
for a gift that compels us with justice to care.
Our spirits are restless till sin and war cease.
One candle is lit for the reign of God's peace.

Come, festively sing while awaiting the birth,
join angels in dancing from heaven to earth.
Wave banners of good news, lift high thankful praise.
One candle is lit for the joy of these days.

From myself, and the Chaplain's Office, receive our best wishes for blessings, health, and joy, in the holiday season, and throughout the New Year.

Ohio Veterans bonus pays more than \$60,000; Deadlines loom

COLUMBUS – A total of 60,593 Ohio veterans and family members have received payments from the Ohio Veterans Bonus totaling \$50,893,704 – and other eligible veterans are urged to take advantage of this special thank you for their service from Ohio voters.

Action is particularly critical for two groups of veterans – those from the Persian Gulf War and Iraq War eras. The deadline to apply for Persian Gulf veterans is December 31, 2013. Iraq War veterans face a deadline of December 31, 2014 to apply.

The Ohio Veterans Bonus is open to veterans of the Persian Gulf War era as well as the eras of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, regardless of where they served, as well as the next of kin of those who were killed in action or died of disease as a result of in-theater service. The Bonus is not subject to federal or state taxes, and can be used for any purpose.

Source: Ohio Department Veteran Services news release November 2, 2012

Planning your PME early in your career

Master Sgt. Kevin Craig
121st Maintenance Group

There are three Professional Military Education (PME) courses Airmen need to take to advance up the ranks in the enlisted force. They are the Airman Leadership Course (ALS), Non-Commissioned Officer course (NCO), and the Senior Non-Commissioned Officer course (SNCO). I encourage all Airmen to plan how to complete them as early in your career as possible. Doing so will help you achieve your career goals and continue to strengthen our force.

By passing the ALS Course, you are eligible for Staff Sergeant. Senior Airmen with three year's time in service, 6 month's time in grade, and who have a 5 skill level are eligible. You can take it in-residence (five weeks of school at McGhee-Tyson ANG, Tenn.), by satellite (six weekends here at home station and two weeks at McGhee-Tyson), or by the Career Development Course (CDC). You get one year to complete the CDC from home, then you take the final exam at Rickenbacker.

Completing the NCO Course makes you eligible for Master Sergeant. You must be a Technical Sergeant with eight year's time in service, 24 month's time in grade, and awarded a 7 skill level. It can be taken by in-residence (six weeks of school at McGhee-Tyson, Tenn.), by satellite (two nights a week for 12 weeks here at Rickenbacker and two weeks at McGhee-Tyson), or by the CDC.

And finally, by passing the SNCO Course, you are eligible for Senior Master Sergeant. You are ready to take this when you are a Master Sergeant with 11 year's time in service and 20 month's time in grade. It can be taken in-residence (seven weeks of school at Gunter Annex, Alabama) or by the CDC.



THE SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE
 CHIEF OF STAFF, UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
 WASHINGTON DC



MEMORANDUM FOR ALL AIR FORCE PERSONNEL

SUBJECT: 2012 Holiday/Winter Safety Message

Safe-n-Sound, All Year Round is the theme of this year's Holiday/Winter Safety Campaign which runs from November 16, 2012, through January 2, 2013. Whether you are traveling, celebrating, or participating in winter activities, take the time to include sound risk management in all your plans; the time invested up front could save your life.

Across the Air Force, we work very hard throughout the year to reduce mishaps. Regrettably, despite those efforts, we lost six Airmen last year during the holiday season. It is imperative that we step up our efforts. Please pay special attention to your surroundings, the weather, and especially your celebration game plan during this holiday season.

All Airmen, uniformed and civilian, have a responsibility to ensure a safe holiday for themselves, their fellow Airmen, their wingmen, and their families by being alert to safety risks on- and off-duty. We urge you to use common sense and keep your focus on risk management as we strive to enjoy a mishap-free season.

Happy holidays to you and your families. Whether you are deployed or serving at home, your dedication and sacrifice are profoundly appreciated. Travel and celebrate wisely, take care of each other, and return to duty *Safe-n-Sound*.

Michael B. Donley
 Michael B. Donley
 Secretary of the Air Force

Mark A. Welsh III
 Mark A. Welsh III
 General, USAF
 Chief of Staff

James A. Roy
 James A. Roy
 Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force

Off he goes.... into the Wild Blue Yonder

Master Sgt. Bill Pierce
121st Public Affairs

Col. Lewis has spent over 35 years in the United States Air National Guard, all of it taking place while a member of the Ohio National Guard. It's no wonder that the National Guard Bureau has decided to take him away from Ohio again. He previously held the position of NGB/A1, Director of Manpower, Personnel and Services for the National Guard Bureau at the Pentagon from 2007 - 2009.



He began his career as an enlisted member of the 220th Engineering Installation Squadron, Zanesville, Ohio. He quickly worked his way up to officer rank and was promoted to commander of the 220th in 2003. In June 2004, he transferred to the 179th Airlift Wing in Mansfield, where he held the position of Mission Support Group Commander.



Five years later, he returned to the 179th AW as Vice Wing Commander. In 2011, Col. Lewis made his way to the 121st ARW where he has held the position of Vice Wing Commander ever since.

Col. Lewis will be working at the Pentagon as the Air National Guard advisor to the Air Force A1. "Serving at the national level, I will be able to bring the ANG issues to the forefront instead of having them insterted as an afterthought," said Lewis, "I feel that with my background I will be a perfect fit to advise about the issues that are most important to the ANG."

If his advice is as structured as it has been for the past 1.5 years at the 121st, I am sure he will fit into his new job nicely.

Farewell & Good Luck!



E5 - E6 Vacancy Listings

<u>Close</u>	<u>Duty AFSC</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Duty Title</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Special Instructions</u>
11 Dec	3E9x1	220 EIS	Emergency Mgt.	MSgt	
11 Dec	3P0x1	SFS	Security Forces	MSgt	
11 Dec	5J0x1	ARW	Paralegal	TSgt	
11 Dec	8F000	MDG	First Sergeant	MSgt	Open to MSgts and promotable TSgts.
11 Dec	47G3	MDG	Dentist	2Lt	Commissioning Opportunity
11 Dec	52R3	ARW	Chaplain	2Lt	Commissioning Opportunity
11 Dec	42E3	MDG	Optometrist	2Lt	Commissioning Opportunity
18 Dec	3D0x1	CES	Knowledge Operations	SSgt	
18 Dec	5R0x1	ARW	Chaplain	SSgt	
02 Jan	2A5x4	MXS	Aerospace Maintenance Craftsman R&R	TSgt	
02 Jan	3S0x1	FSS	Personnel	TSgt	Open to SSgts who are not immediately promotable
02 Jan	3E9x1	CES	Emergency Mgt.	TSgt	
02 Jan	8F000	220 EIS	First Sergeant	MSgt	
02 Jan	4A0x1	MDG	Medical Admin	TSgt	
02 Jan	CC Position	145 ARW	Commander, Traditional	Lt Col	All Rated Pilots
02 Jan	32E4	State HQ	Director, Engineering and Installations	Lt Col	Additional Position Req's.
02 Jan	4Y0x1	MDG	Dental Assistant	TSgt	
22 Jan	3D1x7	220 EIS	Cable and Antenna Sys	TSgt	3 positions open to fully qualified and promotable members
22 Jan	2T2x1	LRS	Air Transportation	MSgt	
22 Jan	2A600	MXS	Systems Manager	CMSgt	Open to promotable MSgts
22 Jan	2T0x1	LRS	Traffic Mgmt Craftsman	MSgt	Open to promotable members
22 Jan	2T2x1	LRS	Air Transportation Craftsman	TSgt	3 positions to non-promotable members

CMSAF James A. Roy Retires after 30 years of Service

To the Airmen of the United States Air Force

After over 30 years of service to our great nation, Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force James A. Roy has announced he will retire at the end of January. During their tenure, CMSAF Roy and his wife Ms. Paula teamed to tackle our biggest challenges and cheered our greatest accomplishments. We owe them a huge thank you. I hope you will join Betty and me in wishing them “blue skies” as they begin the next chapter in their lives.



Being CMSAF is a big deal, and finding the right Airmen to be our next one was a little bit intimidating. It's also the most important decision I'll make as your Chief of Staff...and probably the hardest. I reached out to our former CMSAFs for guidance and took nominations from senior leaders throughout the Total Force. I reviewed the records of the best and brightest CMSgt's in our Air Force and personally interviewed five of them here in the Pentagon. I'm very comfortable that I've made the right choice.

I'm pleased to announce CMSgt James A. Cody as our Service's 17th Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force, effective 1 Feb 2013. CMSgt Cody and his wife Athena, a retired CMSgt herself, have a very unique understanding of the Air Force family and they share a passion for Airmen—their son also happens to be one. If you know Chief Cody, you'll be excited about this selection. If you don't know him, you'll get excited as soon as you do meet him. He's smart, talented, engaged and driven to make our Air Force a better place to live and work...and I'll be proud to have him as my partner in this job.

Please join Betty and me in welcoming CMSgt Cody and Athena to their new roles. They're eager to represent you and to better understand those things you care most about. I look forward to introducing them to you in just a couple of months. You're gonna love 'em!



MARK A. WELSH, III
General, USAF
20th Chief of Staff

Source: Air Force Portal

Cody named next Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force

11/9/2012 - WASHINGTON (AFNS) -- Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III has named Chief Master Sgt. James A. Cody to serve as the 17th chief master sergeant of the Air Force.

Cody will assume his new position on Feb. 1, following the Jan. 31 retirement of current Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James Roy. Roy's retirement will culminate more than 30 years of service to the Air Force.

"Chief Roy and his wife, Paula, have been a blessing for our Air Force. They have worked tirelessly for the past three-plus years as phenomenal advocates for our Airmen and families. Betty and I wish them all the best as they prepare for the next chapter in their lives," Welsh said.



"The quality and professionalism of our enlisted force is unrivaled due in great part to the remarkable commitment and dedication of Chief Roy and Paula to take care of Airmen and their families," said Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley. "The Air Force must continue to develop the quality Airmen the service needs and we look forward to the experience that Chief Cody and his wife, Athena, herself a retired chief master sergeant, will bring to this effort."

Cody, who joined the Air Force in 1984, is currently the command chief master sergeant for Air Education and Training Command. His career includes various assignments in air traffic control and as the command chief master sergeant, 15th Expeditionary Mobility Task Force, Travis Air Force Base, Calif.; 6th Air Mobility Wing, MacDill Air Force Base, Fla.; and 18th Air Force, Scott Air Force Base, Ill.

"We are excited to welcome Chief Cody and Athena to the team as they take the baton from the Roys," Welsh said. "The next few years will be filled with many opportunities and challenges and our Air Force will greatly benefit from the leadership, experience and wisdom they bring."

"Chief Cody will do a fantastic job of representing the enlisted force," said Roy. "I have every confidence that he and Athena are prepared to handle the challenges that face our Airmen and their families in the years to come."

The office of the chief master sergeant of the Air Force represents the highest enlisted level of leadership, provides direction for the enlisted corps and represents their interests to the American public and all levels of government. The CMSAF serves as a personal advisor to the Air Force Chief of Staff and Secretary of the Air Force on all issues regarding the welfare, readiness, proper utilization, and progress of the enlisted force and their families.

2012...The Year in Review



Former 121SFS Airmen make smooth transition as Fire Academy honor graduates

Master Sgt. Bill Pierce
121st Public Affairs

Staff Sgt. Dan Fowler and Staff Sgt. Jonathan Walker, both former 121 SFS Airmen, graduated earlier this year from the Louis F. Garland DoD Fire Academy at Goodfellow AFB, San Angelo, Texas at the top of their class earlier this year.

Both SSgt's Fowler and Walker received honor graduate recognition for averaging 97% or higher throughout the course.

Some of the training consisted of Emergency Medical response, HAZMAT Operations and Awareness, and Aircraft Rescue.



Staff Sgt. Jonathan Walker is congratulated by the commander of the Fire Academy for earning honor graduate status while attending Fire Academy Training earlier this year. (U.S. Air Force courtesy photo)



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