

Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base, Columbus, Ohio

WING WATCH

Volume 18, Issue 01

121st Air Refueling Wing

March 2012

121st Civil Engineering Homecoming!



Staff Sgt. Matthew McDaniel receives the hometown hero award from State Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Deborah Ashenurst. The 121st Civil Engineering Squadron were honored during the March UTA for their 6 month deployment to Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan.

US Air Force Photo/ Staff Sgt. Zachary Wintgens



Touch-n-go

The Wing Watch to move to quarterly publication

The 121st ARW public affairs office is moving 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 Brig. Gen. Mark Stephens
Vice Cmdr. Col. Jeffrey A. Lewis
PA Officer Capt. Erika Wonn
Superintendent Senior Master Sgt. Kim Frey
Journalist Master Sgt. Bill Pierce
Editor Senior Airman Joel Tilson
Photographer Staff Sgt. James Courtright

Wing Watch submissions

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

Make a strike for your rights! Bowling party sponsored by the ONGEA

There was a great turnout for the Ohio National Guard Enlisted Association sponsored bowling party, Saturday night of March UTA! Thank you to all of the Airmen and their families who participated!



Ohio National Guard Scholarship Program Regulation

Recent amendments to the law governing ONGSP include a modification of the requirement to repay the State of Ohio when the ONGSP recipient does not complete their enlistment obligation. The current language also necessitates the changes to the ONGSP Statement of Understanding (SOU).

RECOUPMENT OF ONGSP TUITION ASSISTANCE - A ONGSP recipient who fails to complete the terms of his/her enlistment is liable to the state for a PRO-RATED amount of all scholarships paid on their behalf, plus 10% interest compounded annually.

Welcome Home Lt. Col. Wagner!

Lt. Col. Kurt Wagner

Chaplain, 121st ARW

For those I haven't met yet, I am the "new" Wing Chaplain at the 121st ARW. However, I am not really new to the 121st since I was here as a chaplain from 1995 to 2006. At that time I went to the 179th to become the Wing Chaplain where I served until last December. I am excited to be back and I have really appreciated the great reception I have received from many people in coming back to the 121st. There are MANY familiar faces of people who are still here!

It is also extra special for me to be here since two of my sons are in the 121st as well; Bryan in Services and Scott in Security Forces. My youngest son Kyle was in the 121st in Life Support, but has accepted a pilot position in the Martinsburg, WV unit and is now in pilot training at Laughlin AFB. There was two months before I went to the 179th where all four of us were in the 121st.

For all of the time I was with the 121st before, I was a senior pastor of a church in Mansfield and it was difficult to find time to deploy. I retired from my church in 2009 and went on a four month deployment to the hospital in Landstuhl, Germany where all the injured soldiers, airmen, and marines are brought from down range. I was assigned to the Psych Ward at the hospital and dealt with many people who were suffering from depression, suicidal thoughts, and severe Post Traumatic Stress. I learned a lot about dealing with people in those situations from my time there.

Currently I am a part-time pastor at a church in Mansfield called Mosaic where I oversee and train leaders for our small group ministry, oversee our adult Sunday School program, and work with the other staff of the church.

This allowed me to go on a six month deployment last year to the Air Force Mortuary Affairs Operations at Dover AFB where the remains of fallen heroes are brought back to the United States. My role was to work with the families who were brought to Dover AFB to view the Dignified Transfer of their family members back to American soil. A Dignified Transfer is a brief, honorable ceremony where the family members witness the flag draped transfer case being taken off of a plane and taken to the mortuary. It is a very important part of dealing with the sudden loss of their family member and I was privileged to help families go through one of the most difficult times of their lives. The biggest lesson I learned was that everyone grieves over a loss in a different way. There is no "right" or "wrong" way to grieve.

That is a little bit about myself that will hopefully allow you to get to know me a little better. What I would really like for you to know is that our whole Chaplain Team is here to serve you. We provide a wide range of services from Bible Studies and Worship Services on drill weekends, marriage, spiritual, crisis, and other types of counseling, advice on issues of morality and ethics, information on religious backgrounds of countries where we deploy, funeral and memorial services, hospital visitation and most importantly, an encouraging word as we visit around in your work sections. We also major on helping relationships grow with our teaching in the Strong Bonds program that provides encouragement for marriages as well as for singles. We also provide support for the difficult time of deployments, especially with the reunion and reintegration after a deployment. It is also important to remember that we are the only ones that can offer complete confidentiality when you talk to one of our chaplains. We are here to serve you and encourage you, so please let us know if there is anything we can do or if you have any ideas we can implement.

Thanks for a warm welcome. I will see you as we visit around in your work section.



Chaplain's Corner



121st First Sergeant Newsletter

Master Sgt. Edward N. Taylor III

Wing First Sergeant

Many of us are finding it harder than ever to cope with stress in the workplace. Regardless of rank, time in service, or occupation, we're spending more and more of our work days feeling frazzled. Are we losing 6 aircraft? One squadron or two? Support functions, manning, retire early. With all of this we are feeling anxious and out of control, instead of alert and relaxed.

Regardless of the emotions and distractions that come from this, our nation still depends on us to professionally and effectively execute our mission.

The ability to manage stress in the workplace can not only improve your physical and emotional health, it can also make the difference between our success OR failure of the mission. Your emotions are contagious, and stress has an impact on the quality of your interactions with others. The better you are at managing your own stress, the more you'll positively affect those around you, and the less other people's stress will negatively affect you.

There are gobs of information on how to manage stress at work. Here are a few tips that stuck with me.

- Taking responsibility for improving your physical and emotional well-being.
- Avoiding pitfalls by identifying knee jerk habits and negative attitudes that add to the stress you experience at work.
- Learning better communication skills to ease and improve your relationships with management and coworkers.
- Don't over-commit yourself. Avoid scheduling things back-to-back or trying to fit too much into one day. All too often, we underestimate how long things will take. If you've got too much on your plate, distinguish between the "shoulds" and the "musts." Drop tasks that aren't adding value or truly necessary to the bottom of the list or eliminate them entirely.
- Become your Brother/Sister's keeper and look out for one another. Pay attention to those doing something out of character. Getting angry when they are usually laid back, or are being very quiet when normally they have a lot to say.

I know we feel like a "hanging chad". Not sure what's being said and therefore no answers to give. But it ain't over. We must stick together during this time and maintain the integrity of the unit. After all, we're family, albeit dysfunctional and crazy at times, but together we stand and divided we fall. We are the 121st!

The best angle from which to approach any problem is the TRY-angle.

Unknown Author

121st Civil Engineering Squadron celebrates return from six month Afghanistan deployment

Senior Airman Joel Tilson

121st Public Affairs

The Ohio Air National Guard welcomed home 43 Airmen of the 121st Civil Engineering Squadron during a ceremony at Rickenbacker Air National Guard base March 2012.

Maj. Gen. Deborah A. Ashenhurst, Ohio adjutant general, recognized the men and women along with their families for their contributions made to our nation's defense during their six month deployment to Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan. The members will receive various medals and the Hometown Hero award.

"I can't begin to say how proud I am of the service and the superior performance that was provided by our civil engineering squadron here," said Maj. Gen. Deborah Ashenhurst, State Adjutant General of the Ohio National Guard.

"It truly epitomizes the module of the Ohio National Guard, that when called, we respond with ready units," said Ashenhurst.

All deployed members returning home were awarded a Hometown Hero salute.

"The Hometown Hero Salute campaign is one of the Air National Guard's largest recognition programs. The purpose of the program is to honor Airmen, their families and others who do not wear the uniform but make a sacrifice to our country," said Brig. Gen. Mark Stephens, commander of the 121st ARW.

"Our Hometown Hero members will be receiving an encased letter of appreciation and commemorative con from General Craig R. McKinley, Chief of the Nation Guard Bureau," said Stephens.

During the deployment, Staff Sgt. Timothy Mahon responded to a joint emergency operation center call for heavy equipment operators to report to a 5.5 acre fire at the United Arab Emirates special operations command that resulted from an enemy insurgent 107mm rocket attack. Sgt. Mahon's actions during his five-hour contribution were paramount to preventing the spread of the fire to the surrounding facilities. For his actions, Staff Sgt. Mahon was awarded the Air Force Commendation Medal.

While deployed, the Airmen provided base support in engineering, heavy equipment, structures, utilities, electrical, heating and cooling, fire fighting, personnel and air base operability teams. Within 30 days of their deployment, the 121st CE squadron planned and erected an office and maintenance space for four Marine E06 Bravo Aircrafts. They also planned an expansion with coalition forces for an expansion of the runway for our UAV fleet.



Above: Staff Sgt. Timothy Mahon receives the Air Force Commendation medal with valor from Brig. Gen. Mark Bartman, Ohio Assistant Adjutant General, Air, for his actions in preventing the spread of a 5 acre fire from the result of a rocket attack.

Below: Airmen of the 121st Civil Engineering Squadron receive awards for their recent deployment to Afghanistan
US Air Force Photo/ Staff Sgt. Zachary Wintgens



Command Chief Master Sgt. Eric Wallace embraces his son Senior Airman Jordi Wallace of the 121st CES.



2011 Ohio Latino Military Service of Distinction Award

Senior Airman Joel Tilson

121st Public Affairs

In 1980, in fulfillment of the mandate to “secure appropriate recognition of the accomplishments of Hispanic/Latino people to this state,” Ohio Revised Code 121.32 (B), the Ohio Commission on Hispanic and Latino Affairs began presenting Hispanic Service Awards, which later became the Distinguished Hispanic Ohioan Award.

Every year, Latino community leaders, friends and family gather from all around to meet in Ohio’s capital city to celebrate the annual Distinguished Hispanic Ohioans Awards Gala, along with legislators, and other representatives of state government, including the Office of the Governor.

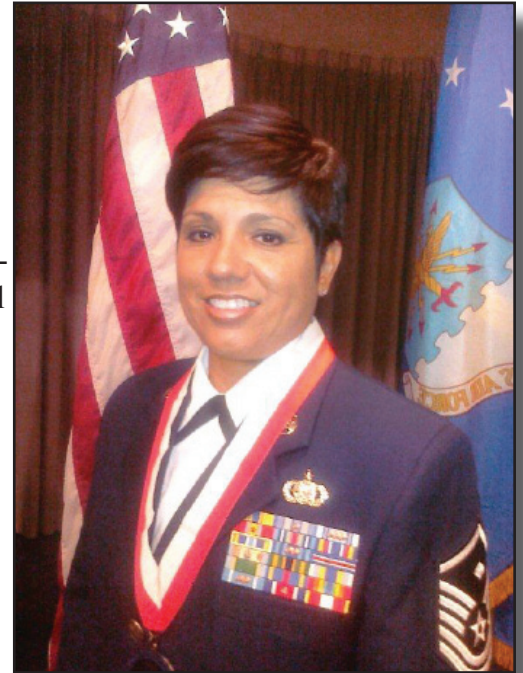
In 2011, Master Sgt. Tamara Gonzales, First Sgt. to the 121st Logistics Readiness Squadron, received the Latino military service of distinction award for her contributions and effort through her work with the 121st. It was the first time in history that a female has been presented with the award.

“I was a great honor to be selected by the Ohio Commission on Hispanic/Latino Affairs. I was one of four recipients who received this award and in 2011 and it was the first time a female received this award. Myself and a retired Lt. Col. from the Air Force were the two females receiving this award,” said Gonzales. This award for her service is not the only place she has received recognition.

“On March 22, 2012 I was given the honor of being selected as the cover feature for this year’s publication of the Who’s Who in Latino Columbus. It is a publication that recognizes professional and talented Latinos in the city of Columbus. To be in the on the cover of the book was another huge honor.”

“Within the publication is over a hundred outstanding Latino professionals. It publishes significant accomplishments and outstanding achievements of Latino citizens in the city of Columbus.”

Her meritorious service to our nation deserves special recognition on a statewide level as a fitting expression of our gratitude and admiration.





The Ohio Air National Guard:

When called, we respond with ready units

Always ready, always there, Ohio Air National Guard service members support domestic operations, protect America's air space, conduct counter drug operations, build partnership capacity, and respond to any manmade or natural disaster...saving lives, easing human suffering, and protecting property

Our People: 4,700 Airmen on call at four wings and seven support units throughout the state

Geographically dispersed throughout several Ohio communities, an ANG service member can be found in nearly every zip code

- Cost-effective**
- 6% = Amount of USAF budget the ANG uses while providing 35% of USAF capabilities
 - 90% less = Reserve component retirement costs compared to active duty costs
 - 28% = Average Reserve component member's pay compared to active duty

- Contribution**
- In 2010, Ohio ANG members deployed nearly 200,000 days around the world
 - Every day 1,392 Ohio Airmen protect our homeland through such missions as the Aerospace Control Alert and National Air & Space Intelligence Center operations

- Accessible**
- Libya: Just days after a no-fly resolution was ratified, Ohio ANG tankers were supporting airborne refueling efforts
 - Within minutes of the 9-11 attacks, ANG aircraft from Ohio were airborne protecting America's skies

Our Infrastructure: Cost effective capabilities across the state- in your community

For 6% of the AF budget, the ANG provides 19% of the AF total personnel and 35% of the AF fighter, tanker, and airlift capacity

- Community Contributor**
- \$394M = Ohio ANG financial impact on Ohio communities in 2010
 - \$151k = Amount contributed in 2010 by Ohio Airmen for community causes

- Efficient**
- For the cost of one active duty service member, our Nation can train, retain, and deploy three Ohio ANG Airmen
 - The ANG operates at less than 2 cents of every dollar spent on defense

- Homeland Defenders**
- The Ohio ANG operates 1 of only 18 US air defense alert sites
 - The Ohio ANG is part of the first validated Homeland Response Forces in the nation- 1 of only 10 in the US

179th Airlift Wing works to educate about benefits of C-27J Spartan aircraft program

Staff Sgt. Nicholas Pavlik

Ohio Adjutant General's Department Public Affairs

For more than five years, the C-27J Spartan aircraft has soared high above the sky, proving itself as a critical tool for delivering supplies and troops here at home and overseas.

On March 19 the 179th Airlift Wing hosted a media day to rally support to save the C-27J Spartan aircraft program from the Department of Defense's recently proposed budget cuts. Congress has tasked the DOD with cutting nearly \$500 billion from its budget over the next decade.

As part of a broader effort to control defense spending, the Air Force's fiscal year 2013 budget request includes the elimination of the C-27J Spartan aircraft program and mission at the Mansfield Air National Guard Base, home of the 179th Airlift Wing, which would result in the elimination of 794 Ohio Air National Guard jobs. Of that, 309 are full-time positions and 485 are part-time positions.

Attending the event were U.S. Sens. Sherrod Brown and Rob Portman, and U.S. Reps. Jim Jordan, Pat Tiberi and Bob Gibbs. All vowed to work in a bipartisan manner to petition the Air Force's recommendation.

Portman said the base is critical for the Mansfield economy, and the C-27J aircraft is more cost effective than the C-130 Hercules, a larger cargo transport aircraft that the 179th previously flew.

"This plane operates at about \$2,100 an hour," Portman said. "The larger C-130 aircraft that the Air Force is proposing to have replace the C-27J operates between \$6,000 and \$7,000 an hour."

Members of the Ohio delegation said they're working with their colleagues in Congress to inform them about the mission and capabilities of the C-27J aircraft, and the importance of reducing the Defense budget in a sensible way.

Proving its worth overseas last year in Afghanistan, the C-27J Spartan aircraft also is an important tool in accomplishing the Homeland Defense mission.

"The C-27J can land in places after natural disasters in the United States such as in the case of the awful tornado that just occurred in southern Ohio," Brown said. "It is more environmentally sound."

Brown said the delegation plans to build bipartisan support around the country for the National Guard.

The community of Mansfield has also taken a strong interest in the fate of the C-27J aircraft and mission. John A. Brown, chair of the Richland Community Development Group, said the future of the of Mansfield's local Guard members is a very personal matter.

"These 179th Guard members are our neighbors and friends — it would be devastating," Chairman Brown said. "We're talking about a loss of jobs in an area that has already been hit hard by the recent recession. It would be a huge hit on Lahm Airport, one of our community's greatest resources. Without the 179th, its future is in jeopardy as well — it all interconnects."

Maj. Jeff Capretto, a C-27J pilot who returned in November from a deployment to Afghanistan, said the aircraft serves an invaluable purpose.

"We cover what's called the 'last tactical mile,' where we take everything from water to blood to bullets to our troops located in remote areas, and now to be in the situation for it to be taken away, and lose the mission we have supporting the Army (with) — it's very disheartening," Capretto said.

The Ohio National Guard’s senior leadership has taken Capretto’s and other 179th AW members’ conviction to heart, and is working with the Ohio delegation to keep the C-27J and the Mansfield base operational. Maj. Gen. Deborah A. Ashenhurst, Ohio adjutant general, says she is focused on the mission at hand.

“We’re going to keep this aircraft,” Ashenhurst said. “I’m sensitive to what happens in Mansfield because they represent a large portion of what the Ohio National Guard contributes. What’s right for Mansfield is right for our nation.”



Dave Ramsey Financial Peace classes available to members

Carolyn J. Ebert

121st Airman and Family Program Manager

Dave Ramsey Financial Peace classes will start March 13 2012- ending June 5 2012, Tuesday evenings, 7:00-9:00pm

Financial Peace is an intensive, 13 week course w/amazing results. It provides the financial training and experience to resist marketers, it has the potential to improve relationships, provides for family security by giving you the knowledge and an opportunity to align your financial behaviors.

Below is the topics that will be covered:

1. Super Saving
2. Relating to Money
3. Cash Flow Planning
4. Dumping Debt
5. Credit Sharks in Suits
6. Buyer Beware
7. Clause and Effect
8. That's Not Good Enough
9. Of Mice and Mutual Funds
10. Fruition to Tuition
11. Working in Your Strengths
12. Real Estate and Mortgage
13. The Great Misunderstanding

What are the benefits for you?

- Can reduce your stress around finances
- Online support – any change in status of any type, married, divorced, children, etc.
- Supports wingman program / Quality of Life for airman

Attendance in Financial Peace also benefits the 121st ARW.

- Provides you with the knowledge to get your financial plan in order prior to deployment
- Allows for increased effectiveness and improved focus on the mission

Although it normally costs \$100 per person to attend this seminar, we are able to offer this for \$25.00 with a personal commitment to attend all classes

Classes will be held at Rickenbacker (classroom TBD) from 7:00-9:00pm

Babysitting will be provided. However, if you have a child 14 years or older who you believe will benefit from this training, they are welcome to attend with you.

If you are interested in attending or have any questions, please contact your Mrs. Ebert in the Airman and Family Readiness office 492-4417.

The target class size is 10 unit members and a designated support person to attend with you. (spouse, parent, friend, etc.)



Ohio National Guard Airmen of the year awards!

On behalf of Brig. Gen. Mark Stephens, please join us in congratulating Tech. Sgt. Rich Turner from the 121MXG and Senior Master Sgt. Chuck Rudy from the 121SFS for being selected as **OUTSTANDING AIRMEN OF THE YEAR** for the state of Ohio in their respective categories:

THE RECIPIENT OF THE HONOR GUARD MEMBER OF THE YEAR AWARD IS:

TECHNICAL SERGEANT RICHARD TURNER II FROM THE 121ST AIR REFUELING WING

THE RECIPIENT OF THE OHIO AIR NATIONAL GUARD FIRST SERGEANT OF THE YEAR AWARD IS:

SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT CHARLES RUDY FROM THE 121ST AIR REFUELING WING



facebook®

facebook.com/121ARW

follow us on
twitter

twitter.com/121ARW



Public Web Site: 121arw.ang.af.mil

·Wing Watch·