

Contrail

JANUARY 2012, Vol. 46, No. 1



Yesterday and tomorrow

By Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Dean Wentzien

JANUARY 2012, VOL. 46, No. 1

FEATURES

Pg. 4: Snow day

Pg. 5: Maintainers keep up the pressure

Pg. 6: Wing deploys to Afghanistan

Pg. 7: Around the Wing

Pg. 8: Honoring our Heroes

Pg. 9: Wings visit Vineland Home

Pg. 10: Celebrating the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. ...And more

DEPARTMENTS

WING COMMANDER'S COLUMN (PAGE 3)

NEWS AIRMEN CAN USE (PAGE 12)

COVER: TIE DOWN

Flightline mechanic Staff Sgt. Carlo Q. Lat ties down an F-16C Fighting Falcon at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, Jan. 15. Lat is assigned to the 455th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron and is deployed from the 177th Fighter Wing. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Matt Hecht, 177th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)

Isaiah 52:7-15

On New Year's Eve 1916, a chaplain spoke to a gathering of British Commonwealth soldiers in Cairo, Egypt. Standing before men whose lives had been turned upside down by World War I, Oswald Chambers talked to them about yesterday and tomorrow.

Chambers said, "At the end of the year we turn with eagerness to all that God has for the future, and yet anxiety is apt to arise from remembering the yesterdays. Our present enjoyment of God's grace is apt to be checked by the memory of yesterday's sins and blunders. But God is the God of our yesterdays, and He allows the memory of them in order to turn the past into ministry of spiritual culture for

the future. God reminds us of the past lest we get into a shallow security in the present...Let the past sleep, but let it sleep on the bosom of Christ. Leave the irreparable past in His hands, and step out into the irresistible future with Him" (My Utmost For His Highest).

God promised Israel, "The Lord will go before you, and the God of Israel will be your rear guard" (Isaiah 52:12). We too can take comfort in knowing that our God will never leave us nor forsake us (Hebrews 13:5).

As we begin a new year, we can place ourselves - and all our yesterdays and tomorrows - safely in His care.

If you walk with God today, you can be confident about tomorrow.



BUONACUORE CAUGHT BY A CHIEF

Chief Master Sgt. Pedro Indio, right, presents Senior Airman Ava M. Buonacuore, computer assistant, 177th Communications Flight, with a "Caught by a Chief" coin on Dec. 22, 2011. Buonacuore has been praised for how she responds to her customers during the course of

performing her duties. Her strong commitment to help and support others is exceeded only by her exemplary attitude and for setting high standards for both herself and her peers. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Veronika Y. Sheldon)

This funded newspaper is an authorized monthly publication for members of the U.S. Military Services. Contents of the Contrail are not necessarily the official view 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 177th Fighter Wing. All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.

177FW EDITORIAL STAFF

Col. Robert C. Bolton, Commander

2nd Lt. Amanda Batiz, Public Affairs Officer

Master Sgt. Mark Olsen: Editor, Layout, Writer, Photographer

Master Sgt. Andrew Moseley: Multimedia Manager, Photographer

Master Sgt. Shawn Mildren: Photographer

Tech. Sgt. Matt Hecht: Layout, Photographer, Editorial Cartoonist, Writer

Tech. Sgt. Andrew Merlock Jr.: Photographer

177FW/PA

400 Langley Road, Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08234-9500

(609) 761-6005; (609) 677-6741 (FAX)

E-mail: 177fw.pa@ang.af.mil



A MESSAGE FROM THE WING COMMANDER



Hello All,

Funny when you think about how much snow we had at this time last year and now there's been nothing. I think some of that may be due to my recent purchase of a snow blower, which is fine by me. On the one hand it seems pretty quiet around here, yet there sure are some big things going on...let's not forget to keep our fellow members, in harm's way, in our thoughts and prayers as they have been extremely busy bringing the fight to the enemy. And they have had to do that braving the cold and more than their share of snow! I'm happy to report that they are doing an outstanding job and, once again, giving the Guard a great name.

This past week, I got to spend some time with the new acting adjutant general and I'm really excited about our future having an Air TAG. As the former 108th Wing Commander, Brig. Gen. Cunniff certainly understands the daily challenges Airmen face. I look forward to working closely with him to help secure our future. Speaking of that future, the 2012 Defense authorization bill President Obama signed New Year's Eve made Gen. Craig R. McKinley, Chief of the National Guard Bureau, a full member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. This despite the objections of the existing members of the JCS, each of whom advised lawmakers against making the change. The Guard will now have a full voice in advising the nation's national security leadership which will be critical as the cuts to the force take place.

Closer to home, this will be my last full drill as a 177th member. I'm sure most of you know this by now, but I will be moving up to Joint Force Headquarters at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst to represent the New Jersey Air

National Guard under the Adjutant General. Hard to believe, but I've been in our unit for more than 21 years. I have enjoyed every year, but the last three were certainly the best. I've seen many changes over the years, but the past decade saw the biggest change in the Guard as we went from a strategic reserve to an operational force. In the last 10 years, the demands on all of you have only increased. Yet each and every time you have been tasked, you have always exceeded expectations! Neither I, nor the local community, nor the country, can ever thank you enough for all of your hard work, sacrifice and dedication! You have positioned the 177th well for the future and I promise to always have your best interests at heart. I look forward to visiting the base at frequent intervals and keeping in touch with the new leadership to be on top of the unit's needs and concerns.

On a closing note, I was glad to see we got through the holidays without any major incidents. But we still have a long ways to go to before winter is over, so please keep safety in mind in all you do. We had a member in the area of responsibility slip on a patch of ice and get injured. So be careful if you're out in bad conditions whether it's at work or traveling. Have a great drill!

ROBERT C. BOLTON
Colonel, NJANG
Commander



Capt. Jessica A. Pritchard, left, 177th Maintenance Operations Officer, gives Col. Robert C. Bolton, Commander, 177th Fighter Wing, a block of instruction on how to properly distribute sauce on pasta during the Wing's holiday meal at the dining hall on Dec. 4, 2011. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen, 177th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)



Col. Robert C. Bolton, right, thanks Student Flight members after the second Hometown Heroes Salute at the Dr. Adam C. Pfeffer Performing Arts Center at the Cedar Creek High School in Egg Harbor City, N.J. on Dec. 4, 2011. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen, 177th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)

SNOW DAY

Photos by Tech. Sgt. Matt Hecht, 177th Fighter Wing Public Affairs



The phrase “snow day” conjures memories of days off from school.

As adults, the phrase means clearing the driveway before going to work. That is certainly the case at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, as deployed 177th Fighter Wing Airmen assigned to the 455th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron cleared aircraft and the revetments on Jan. 5 to ensure the aircraft would be ready for the next mission.

Photo above: Crew chief Senior Airman Joseph Rice operates a snowblower next to an F-16C Fighting Falcon. Bottom right: Crew chief Staff Sgt. Matt Wolf brushes snow off of an F-16C Fighting Falcon while weapons loader Tech. Sgt. Lauren Humphrey sweeps snow away from a 119th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron F-16C Fighting Falcon.



Maintainers keep up the pressure

Photos by Tech. Sgt. Matt Hecht, 177th Fighter Wing Public Affairs



Photos clockwise starting at top: Engine mechanics Master Sgt. Christian Skierski goes over forms with Airman First Class Edward Park at Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan, Dec 25, 2011. Crew chiefs Senior Airman Cody Passaro and Airman 1st Class Jordan Deangelis inspect the wing of an F-16C Fighting Falcon. Close quarters for crew chief Staff Sgt. Nathan Hollander checks the inside of an F-16C Fighting Falcon intake while crew chief Tech. Sgt. Sean Latimer makes some last minute checks.

Wing deploys to Afghanistan

Photos by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen, 177th Fighter Wing Public Affairs



Photos clockwise starting at top: Col. Robert C. Bolton, commander, 177th Fighter Wing, New Jersey Air National Guard, addresses family and friends who come to say good-bye to 177th Airmen deploying to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom on Dec. 7, 2011. Information manager Senior Airman Marie E. Madara poses for a photo with her deployment buddy; aircraft electrician Staff Sgt. Kurtis A. Kuhle gets in one last hug and Col. Robert C. Bolton, right, shakes hands with the daughter of avionics technician Staff Sgt. Jason M. Wagner.



AROUND THE WING



December was a busy month; photo top left: Col. Marcus Quint, seated, gets hosed down by wing commander Col. Robert C. Bolton, left, Maj. Jason R. Halvorsen and a host of other well-wishers after his final flight on Dec. 15, 2011. Photo bottom left: Once again, Captain Visual, left, astounds the multitudes during the 177th Fighter Wing's Annual Children's Holiday Party at the dining hall on Dec. 17. The children were treated to face painting, crafts, lunch and a special visit by Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus who distributed presents. Special thanks to all who volunteered and we'll see you again next year. Photo top right: Retired Col. Robert Familetti, left, President of the South Jersey Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America presented awards for Officer of the Year to Maj. Matthew T. Crill and 1st Lt. Brian S. Bradke, Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year to Master Sgt. Michael J. Chaney, third from left, and Airman of the Year to Jonathan J. Dambrosio, third from right on Dec. 14, 2011. Also pictured Lt. Col. Thomas M. Cleary, second from left, Maj. James T.

Layton, right, and Lt. Col. Thor O. Himley, second from right. (U.S. Air Force photos by Master Sgt. Andrew Moseley, 177th Fighter Wing Public Affairs) Photo middle right: Maj. James R. Conant and his daughters check on the status of the turkey at the 177th aerospace control alert facility Dec. 25, 2011. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen, 177th Fighter Wing Public Affairs) Photo bottom right: This & That Uniforms of Pleasantville, N.J. donated toys for deployed unit members' families to the Airmen and Family Program Manager at the 177th Fighter Wing on Dec. 16, 2011. Pictured, left to right, are Holli Nixon and Rick Zelig, both of This & That Uniforms; Staff Sgt. Michelle Herman, Tom Licata, N.J. Transit Police; Jeannie Perry, 177th Fighter Wing Airman and Family Programs and John McElhenny, This & That Uniforms. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Andrew J. Moseley, 177th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)

Honoring our heroes

Photos by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen, 177th Fighter Wing Public Affairs



Above: Maj. Gen. Maria Falca-Dodson, commander, New Jersey Air National Guard, addresses Airmen, family members, friends, veterans' group leaders and public officials during the second Hometown Heroes Salute at the Dr. Adam C. Pfeffer Performing Arts Center at the Cedar Creek High School in Egg Harbor City, N.J. on Dec. 4, 2011. Nearly 100 Airmen from the 177th Fighter Wing were honored at the ceremony. The purpose of this program is to celebrate and honor the significant contributions of Airmen, their families, communities and those special supporters to the mission of the United States Air Force and the Air National



Guard. The Airmen recognized in this ceremony included those who have deployed for more than 30 consecutive days in support of Operations' Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom, Noble Eagle and other peacekeeping operations across the globe since 9-11 2001. Bottom left: U.S. Rep. Frank A. LoBiondo (R- 2nd Dist.) thanks the daughter of Tech. Sgt. Michael A. Costello, an engineering craftsman with the 177th Civil Engineering Squadron for her support of her father. Bottom right: Senior Airman Kevin A. Kelley's family crowds around to admire his awards following the Hometown Heroes Salute. 🇺🇸





Wings visit Vineland Home

Photos by Master Sgt. Mark Olsen, 177th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Airmen from the 177th Fighter Wing and the 108th Wing were joined by fourth graders from the Seaview School in Linwood, N.J. for the 11th Annual Holiday "Songfest" at the Vineland Veterans Memorial Home on Dec. 14, 2011. Upon arrival, Airmen and fourth graders were issued candy canes and holiday greeting cards, assigned to groups and sent out to spread cheer among the residents. The carolers congregated in cafeterias, day rooms, as well as serenading individuals in their rooms (those residents that are bed-ridden), as well as chatted with the residents. Photo right: Staff Sgt. Vanessa L. Torres-Pagan, presents resident George Welch a candy cane. Bottom right: Staff Sgt. Dominic Francesco, left, shakes hands with the oldest resident of the Vineland Home 103-year-old Frank Cuccia. Bottom left: Left to right, Master Sgt. Jill Kovak, Staff Sgt. Dominic Francesco, 177th Fighter Wing; Tech. Sgt. Debra Zygmunt, 108th Wing; Senior Master Sgt. Freddie Lavan Jr. and Staff Sgt. Vanessa L. Torres-Pagan, both with the 177th, pose for a photo with Vito Ferrone, center, a tank commander and recipient of five Bronze Stars during World War II.



Celebrating the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

By retired Tech. Sgt. Paul Connors

His name was Dr. (Reverend) Martin Luther King Jr. and he died in the cause of civil rights. Born when many of the states in the Union were still legally and officially segregated, his name became synonymous with equal rights for all in the United States during the latter decades of the 20th century.

Born in Atlanta in 1929, Martin Luther King Jr. the son of a pastor graduated from Morehouse College there in 1948 earned his Bachelor of Divinity degree from Crozer Theological Seminary in 1951 and his doctorate from Boston University in 1955. His first pulpit was as the pastor of a Baptist church in Montgomery, Ala., ironically located one block away from the first capital of the Confederate States of America. In 1955 and 1956, Dr. King led the African-American boycott of the segregated city bus lines in Alabama's capital city. Shortly thereafter, the city desegregated public transportation and Dr. King earned a high level of recognition and prestige as a leader of the burgeoning civil rights movement.

Dr. King then went on to help found the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and this organization enabled him to develop a base for further civil-rights activities locally and somewhat later, throughout the rest of the United States. Much like Mahatma Gandhi in India, he espoused a philosophy of non-violence and his passive resistance to civil authority in the Deep South led to numerous arrests in the 1950s and 60s. While more than a few of his early campaigns against institutionalized segregation met with limited degrees of success, the protest he led in Birmingham, Ala., in 1963 brought him international attention and prestige.

Continuing to defy state and local authorities, King then spearheaded the August 1963 "March on Washington" that brought more than 200,000 of all races together to demand the end of discrimination in the United States. It was on August 28, 1963, during this event in Washington, D.C., that Dr. King delivered his now famous and historic "I Have A Dream" speech. While the title itself is well known, it is the less well-known contents that delivered the powerful message that Dr. King hoped to impart. The stanzas of his speech resonated with a message of hope and reconciliation and perhaps more importantly, an overt attempt to begin the healing of a nation that heretofore had been divided along racial lines. Some of the more famous lines of the speech included: "I have a dream that one day my four little children will live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.

He continued: "I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will they be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood." Studied for years by religious leaders, Dr. King's acclaimed speech has been recognized as emblematic of his training as a clergyman. It holds appeal for students of the Bible and political activists. It invokes the United States Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the Emancipation Proclamation issued by President Abraham Lincoln. During the delivery of the speech Dr. King laid a firm foundation for the battle for equality of all who lived within the United

States.

The leadership exhibited by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and his passionate pleas for true justice for all, regardless of race, creed or origin also served to place pressure on the Kennedy Administration in its final months before JFK's assassination in November 1963. After that tragic event, the Civil Rights Movement with Dr. King in the vanguard pressed for additional reforms from President Lyndon Johnson. Ultimately, President Johnson pushed for federal laws and these became reality after the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

For his leadership in the Civil Rights movement, TIME magazine named Dr. King the 1963 Man of the Year and in 1964, he became the youngest person to ever be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

Sadly, the early potential for national leadership in the arena of Civil Rights ended all too soon when Dr. King was struck down by an assassin's bullet on April 4, 1968 at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tenn. Martyred at the age of 39, others, including King's widow, Coretta Scott King took up the banner of the movement he helped found. His legacy lives on today in the progress that has been made through legislation and societal transformation. 🇺🇸

Register and request your ballot now

Primary elections have started, and you can vote in them.

If you or your family members have not submitted a registration or absentee ballot request – Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) – to your home state, you should do so. Even if you have voted absentee in a recent election, you should submit an FPCA again this year as many states require annual submission – don't assume your registration or absentee ballot request from the 2010 election is still valid.

Everything you need is on the Federal Voting Assistance Program web portal at www.fvap.gov/map.html. State registration requirements vary greatly so click on your state on the map and follow the instructions to register and request an absentee ballot. Some states allow submitting the FPCA by e-mail or fax in lieu of regular mail.

Help spread the word - pass this on to spouses, voting age dependents, other military voters and overseas voters. Sign up for state-specific election information at www.fvap.gov/contact/subscription.html.

If you've submitted an absentee ballot request, but still have not received that ballot at least 30 days before the election, go to the FVAP.gov's online back-up ballot system to find out your federal candidates, fill out the back-up ballot and get complete submission instructions. You can access this online back-up ballot system at www.fvap.gov/map.html, and then select, "Get My Ballot Now".

If you're still having problems, FVAP's call center is available at 1-800-438-8683, DSN 425-1584, or at vote@fvap.gov.

WwW (Who was Willey?)

By Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen, 177FW/PA

Who was Master Sgt. William G. Willey?

If you had asked me that question before I wrote this article, the most I could've told you was that in the display case outside the dining hall there is a ginormous trophy named after him that gets awarded each year to a unit member.

That insignificant fact barely scratches the surface I was soon to find out.

Back when the 177th Fighter Wing was called the 177th Fighter Interceptor Group, several 177th Airmen were honored at the Brig. Gen. Chester A. Charles Competition Formation and Awards Ceremony on June 13, 1982.

One of the awardees was Tech. Sgt. Bill Willey who worked in the Engine Shop and volunteered with the Base Honor Guard.

At the ceremony he was dressed up in the uniform of a Minuteman - the first American Soldier and the ancestor of the National Guard - and he was being presented with, of all things, the Minuteman Statue Award. He was receiving the statue for leading the 177th's Annual Toys for Tots drive, which he organized in 1979.

Willey's involvement with the drive started when he was cleaning out a closet, discovered a bunch of old toys and donated them to an area hospital. By the time he received the award, Toys for Tots had become a yearly tradition at the 177th.

Four years and six days after receiving the Minuteman statue, Master Sgt. William G. Willey died at the age of 44 on June 19, 1986.

Five months later, Honor Guard member and now retired Tech. Sgt. Skip Watson took over the Toys for Tots program to ensure that it didn't fade away.

That year, more than 3,000 toys were collected and distributed to various organizations and area families. When asked about the program's success, Watson attributed it to Willey's memory and said: "...it will always be Master Sgt. Bill Willey's Toys for Tots campaign."

In 1987, the 177th Chief's Council created the Master Sgt. William G. Willey Award to honor his memory by selecting a Senior Non-Commissioned Officer that demonstrated the same qualities Willey exemplified.



Tech. Sgt. William G. Willey delivering donated toys during one of the 177th Toys for Tots drives. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Terry Young, 177th Fighter Interceptor Group Visual Information)

The Council meets each December, examines the year's nominees and selects the recipient, which is presented during the January Promotions and Awards Ceremony.

The criteria are daunting: the individual is judged based on superior performance, community service, professionalism and leadership.

A difficult award to receive – certainly; yet, when you think about its standards, this award is really is what being a member of the Guard is all about.

While describing his motivation behind the Toys for Tots drive, Willey also helped define the motivation behind the award.

"Seeing the smiles on (the) children's faces makes me feel like I've accomplished everything I could possibly want to." 🇺🇸



Chief catches Kane

Airman 1st Class Jonathan D. Kane, left, an Aircraft Electrician from the Maintenance Squadron, was presented a "Caught by a Chief" coin by Chief Master Sgt. Martin W. Schellhas on Dec. 2, 2011. Kane was awarded the coin for his keen eye and attention-to-detail which prevented a possible cockpit pressurization failure. While performing aircraft operational checks with two other aircraft electricians on Nov. 3, Kane noticed damage to the canopy seal retainer. He immediately reported the damage to his trainer and then the Quality Assurance office. The "Caught by a Chief" program recognizes outstanding Airmen throughout the Wing that go above and beyond their normal duties. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Frank Spano, 177th Fighter Wing Maintenance Squadron)



NEWS AIRMEN CAN USE



Annual dental exam

The annual dental exam will be completed by your civilian dentist.

Get a DD Form 2813 and have your dentist complete the form and return it to the clinic. Questions call 761-6240.

Contrail Photos

Contrail photos are at the Y Drive.

You can copy them by either typing or copying and pasting the following link:

Y:_177 FW HEADQUATERS ELECTRONIC FILE PLANS\177FW PA ELECTRONIC FILE PLAN\00 - Items to be filed\PA\2012 Images.

Photos are categorized by month and date.



Warrior of the Week: Senior Airman Ashley Daraklis

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan—Senior Airman Ashley Daraklis of the 177th Fighter Wing, organizes paperwork at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, Jan. 15. Daraklis is an aviation resource manager with the 119th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron. The Warrior of the Week is an award designed to recognize hard-working Airmen for their integrity and commitment to excellence. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Ericka Engblom)



CLEANING UP

Engine mechanic Master Sgt. Chris Skierski sweeps the flight line for foreign objects and debris at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, Jan. 15. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Matt Hecht, 177th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)

The dos and don'ts of the political season

Commentary by 2nd Lt. Abraham J. Raymond, 71st Flying Training Wing Legal Office

VANCE AIR FORCE BASE, Okla. (AFNS) -- With the excitement of the presidential primaries lurking around the corner, there are a few things Airmen must remember during this upcoming political season.

When you joined the military or became a federal employee, you did so with the knowledge that this decision came with some sacrifice.

Everyone is encouraged to register to vote research candidates and vote for the candidates. However, in order for this representative democracy to function properly, civil servants and military professionals cannot be seen as partisans. Both military members and federal employees work for the government and in doing so they must support elected officials regardless of whether or not they voted for, or against, particular candidates. For this reason, among others, getting a paycheck directly from the federal government necessarily limits a person's ability to participate in some aspects of the political process.

Department of Defense Directive 1344.10, "Political Activities by Members of the Armed Forces on Active Duty," and Air Force Instruction 51-902, "Political Activities by Members of the U.S. Air Force," outline permitted and restricted political actions for active military members.

Military members who violate these rules may face punishment under the Uniform Code of Military Justice. There are some reoccurring issues surrounding prohibited political activities. A frequent issue concerns whether or not an individual can display a large political sign on his or her car or truck. Displaying a large political sign on your automobile is prohibited; however, members are allowed to display a political bumper sticker on his or her car or truck.

Military members are prohibited from using official authority to influence an election or solicit votes for a specific candidate or issue.

Military members are limited in their involvement in the political process off duty as well. This includes being a candidate for, or holding, political office, except in those circumstances authorized by the AFI.

Speaking at any partisan political gathering, including a radio or television program, and advocating for a parti-

san political candidate or party is also prohibited.


Military members should reference AFI 51-902 when they have any questions regarding the legality of their political activities.

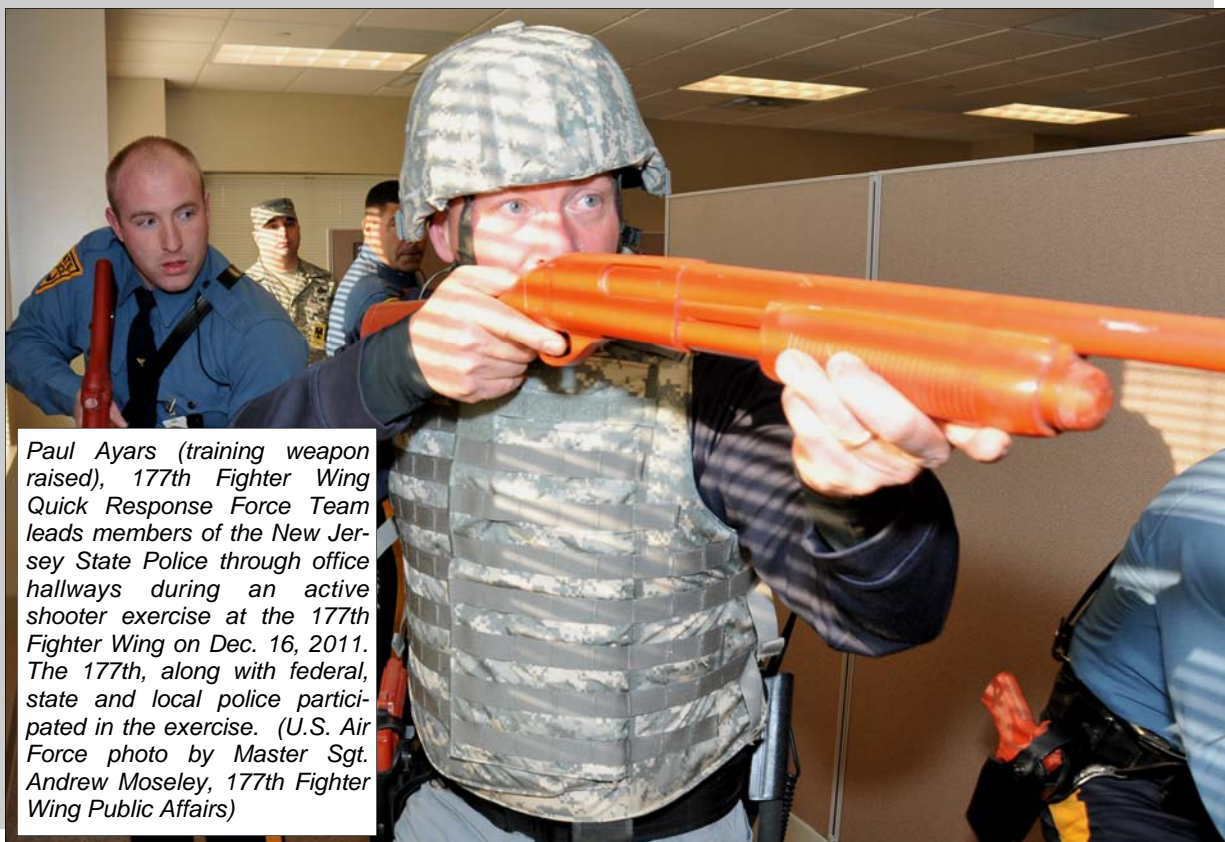
Rules governing political activities by government civilians are found in a federal law known as the Hatch Act. DOD civilians who violate the Hatch Act face adverse personnel actions, including suspensions and employment termination.

Most restrictions surrounding the Hatch Act are centered on the prevention of supervisors influencing subordinates to participate in or contribute to partisan groups or candidates. Federal employees may not display partisan political campaign materials in the workplace.

While federal employees may express opinions about candidates and issues when off duty, when on duty, in uniform, in a federal building, or in a federally owned or leased vehicle, federal employees may not express opinions directed at the success or failure of a political party, candidate for partisan political office or partisan political group. There are three important things to remember during the upcoming political season. First, regardless of status, using command influence to sway subordinates to vote for a particular party, candidate or issue is prohibited by law or directive.

Second, when you receive a paycheck from the federal government, some aspects of your political freedom are limited.

Third, if you are unsure whether or not a political activity is approved, reference AFI 51-902 or contact your legal office. 



Paul Ayars (training weapon raised), 177th Fighter Wing Quick Response Force Team leads members of the New Jersey State Police through office hallways during an active shooter exercise at the 177th Fighter Wing on Dec. 16, 2011. The 177th, along with federal, state and local police participated in the exercise. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Andrew Moseley, 177th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)

PUTTING BOMBS ON TARGET



Above: Ammo specialist Staff Sgt. David Sigwart, 177th Fighter Wing, straps down munitions at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, Dec. 21, 2011. Sigwart is assigned to the 455th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Matt Hecht, 177th Fighter Wing Public Affairs) Photo left: Airman 1st Class Joe LaGreca, left, 177th Fighter Wing, detaches the tail of a bomb undergoing a semi-annual compliance inspection on Dec. 28. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Vernon Cunningham) Below: A 177th Fighter Wing F-16C Fighting Falcon proudly displays its nose art depicting the number of bombs dropped in combat operations while based at Bagram on Dec. 27. The 177th is deployed to Afghanistan to provide close air support for coalition forces. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Matt Hecht, 177th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)

