



Contrail

FEBRUARY 2012, Vol. 46, No. 2

Black History Month reflections

By Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Floyd L. White, III

FEBRUARY 2012, VOL. 46, NO. 2

FEATURES

Pg. 4: Not business as usual

Pg. 5: No slowdown at night

Pg. 6: Red Tail Angels: The story of the Tuskegee Airmen

Pg. 8: Around the Wing And more...

DEPARTMENTS

WING COMMANDER'S COLUMN (PAGE 3)

NEWS AIRMEN CAN USE (PAGE 10)

PROMOTIONS & AWARDS (PAGE 11)

COVER: FINAL CHECK

Weapons loader Staff Sgt. Jeffrey J. Raine makes final checks on an F-16C Fighting Falcon Jan. 17 at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan. Raine 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)

Black History Month was officially designated in 1986 by Congress, which noted that Feb. 1, 1986, marked "the beginning of the 60th annual public and private salute to Black History."

Sixty years prior, Dr. Carter G. Woodson's Association for the Study of Negro Life and History first designated Negro History Week on Feb. 12, 1926. The date was chosen to acknowledge the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln, the 16th president of the United States who helped abolish slavery, and Frederick Douglass, an abolitionist movement leader.

Today I would like to reflect upon Mary McLeod Bethune.

Mary McLeod Bethune served on presidential commissions under presidents' Calvin Coolidge (child welfare) and Herbert Hoover (child welfare, home building and home ownership) and through her activities, came to the attention of President Franklin D. Roosevelt and his wife Eleanor. She became a personal friend of Eleanor Roosevelt, sometimes speaking on the same platform with her, and consulted with FDR on minority affairs. She played a key role in establishing, in 1936, the Federal Committee on Fair Employment Practice, to help reduce discrimina-

tion or even exclusion of African Americans by the growing defense industry.

During World War II, Bethune pressured the Secretary of War to commission black women as officers in the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (later the Women's Army Corps). She assisted Oveta Culp



Mary McLeod Bethune
Library of Congress photo

Hobby in identifying and selecting such candidates to represent about 10 percent of the total candidates selected. Mary McLeod Bethune was a frontrunner in establishing access to opportunity for African Americans. In 1973, Bethune was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame. Schools are named in her honor in 15 cities across the nation.

Today as a chaplain I am thankful for our command and all of its efforts to

be inclusive of everyone throughout the command. In my three year tenure here I have never met an Airman of this command who is unwilling to help his fellow Airman. As the scripture reveals to us as we continue to do our duty may goodness and mercy follow us all the days of our lives and may we dwell in God's house forever. Psalms 23 Verse 6.

May God continue to bless the United States of America and the 177th Fighter Wing.

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A MESSAGE FROM THE WING COMMANDER



Hello All,

I want to start off by discussing the announcement last week of the Fiscal Year 13 Air Force Budget request. As part of the bigger Department of Defense effort to cut back on forces, the Air Force budget request results in the retiring of over 200 aircraft in FY13! The changes announced will have big impacts on Air Guard units in 33 states and territories over the next few years. The affected states include Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Arizona, California, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Missouri, Mississippi, Montana, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Tennessee, Texas, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

Note that New Jersey is not on that list. Now depending on who you are and whether you in the Guard, a member of the public that we serve and protect, or a civic leader, there are many reasons for this. The list is a long-running one that certainly includes our strategic location; as you know we are capable of responding in minutes to every major northeastern city from Washington, D.C. to Boston. But I believe a big part of it is you, yes you! You put us on the map by doing things like aircraft conversions, successful deployments, outstanding inspections, and just doing our day to day missions safely and effectively. People have taken notice of the 177th. You are a big reason we are not on this list. I am not ignoring all the multitude of factors that relate to the force structure decision, however,

if you had not succeeded at our most critical time and came through on

all we've been asked to do, than all those critical factors wouldn't have made a difference. This is truly your victory. But trust me when I say the fight is far from over...So we must keep focused and keep doing the job at hand. But this is a victory for us and you should be proud of it.

By now most of you have heard the news, however, for those of you who haven't, I am proud to announce that Col. Kerry Gentry from Maintenance will become your new commander this March. The change of command ceremony is scheduled for the March drill so that our returning deployers will have the opportunity to be a part of the ceremony and witness this important event. Col. Gentry comes to this position with almost 24 years of both active-duty and Guard experience and a wealth of knowledge in the Wing's day-to-day operations. This is an important time in the Wing's history and I, as well as the Adjutant General Brig. Gen. Michael L. Cunniff and the New Jersey Air National Guard Commander Maj. Gen. Maria Falca-Dodson have the greatest confidence that Col. Gentry will guide you and this unit in months and years to come.

Have a safe drill.

ROBERT C. BOLTON
Colonel, NJANG
Commander



The 177th Fighter Wing Maintenance Squadron pose for a group photo at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan on Feb. 6. (U.S. Air Force

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

NOT BUSINESS AS USUAL



At Bagram Airfield in Afghanistan there is no such thing as business as usual. No task is too small when it comes to this fight. Top photo: Airman First Class Jeffrey Montemurro does last minute checks on an F-16C Fighting Falcon piloted by Lt. Col. Bradford Everman on Feb. 5. Everman is the commander of the 119th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron and Montemurro 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 right: Electronic countermeasures mechanic Staff Sgt. Stephen W. Gall performs an inventory check on Jan. 28. (U.S. Air Force photo Staff Sgt. Joseph Harwood, 179th Airlift Wing, Ohio Air National Guard) Photo below: Crew chief and quality assurance inspector Staff Sgt. Matthew T. Martino, left, talks to Lt. Col. Aaron Lade, right, commander, 455th Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron prior to a mission on Jan 17. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Matt Hecht, 177th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)



No slowdown at night



Top photo: Maintainers from the 177th Fighter Wing work on an F-16C Fighting Falcon in the early morning of Jan. 28 at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan. (U.S. Air Force photo Staff Sgt. Joseph Harwood, 179th Airlift Wing, Ohio Air National Guard). Photo above: Airman 1st Class Jordan DeAngelis, a 177th crew chief, signals during a power check on an F-16C on Feb 4. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Matt Hecht, 177th Fighter Wing Public Affairs) Photo left: Information manager Senior Airman Marie Madara and personnelist Airman 1st Class Christine L. Fryling perform an inventory check of Viper Support on Jan. 28. (U.S. Air Force photo Staff Sgt. Joseph Harwood, 179th Airlift Wing, Ohio Air National Guard)

RED TAIL ANGELS: THE STORY OF THE TUSKEGEE AIRMEN

By Master Sgt. Mark Olsen, 177th Fighter Wing Public Affairs; photos by Toni Frissell, Library of Congress collection



Prior to World War II, the situation for African-American military aviators was grim.

The Army Air Corps had completely barred blacks from their ranks and the other services had assigned blacks only the most menial of duties. Their reasoning was based on a 1925 Army War College study, which said blacks, by nature, were physically, mentally and psychologically unfit for combat duty.

Civil rights organizations and the black press exerted pressure that, combined with congressional legislation, resulted in the formation of 99th Fighter Squadron based at the Tuskegee Institute in June 1941. The graduates of that program would become known as the Tuskegee Airmen.

Class 42C, the first Tuskegee class, began training on July 19, 1941 and included 12 cadets and one student officer Capt. Benjamin O. Davis Jr.

In 1936, Davis was the first African American to graduate from West Point Military Academy in 47 years and only the fourth to ever graduate from the institute. Davis served as an aide to his father, Brig. Gen. Benjamin O. Davis Sr., at Fort Benning, Ga., before transferring to Tuskegee. He would later retire as an Air Force lieutenant general, the Air Force's first black general and the nation's second African American general officer.



Airmen of the 332nd, from left to right: 1st Lt. Robert W. Williams, 1st Lt. William H. Holloman, 1st Lt. Ronald W. Reeves, Capt. Christopher W. Newman and Capt. Walter M. Downs listen to a briefing in March 1945.



P-51 Mustangs of the 332nd in formation over Ramitelli, Italy, sometime in March 1945.

After completing basic training at nearby Moton Field, the Airmen were sent to the segregated Tuskegee Army Airfield to complete their pilot training.

Class 42C earned their wings in March 1942, becoming the nation's first black military pilots. Between 1941 and 1946, Tuskegee trained 992 aviators for the war effort, 450 would be deployed, 66 were killed in action and 32 were shot down and became prisoners of war.

Despite all the training, the unit did not receive their deployment orders. After months of delays by the War Department, the 99th Fighter Squadron was deployed to North Africa where they joined the 33rd Fighter Group in April 1943. Their first combat mission was to attack the island of Pantelleria, which was located in the Mediterranean Sea. The attack began on May 30 and on June 11, enemy forces surrendered due solely to air power.

For this singular accomplishment, the 99th received a Distinguished Unit Citation. The 99th would go on to be awarded another DUC for successful air strikes against Monte Cassino, Italy during May 12-14, 1944.

In spring 1944, the all-black 332nd Fighter Group was deployed. The 332nd was comprised of the 100th, 301st, and 302nd African-American Fighter Squadrons. The 332nd was initially based at Montecorvino Air Base near Salerno, Italy and then moved to Capodichino Airfield and finally to Ramitelli Airfield near Ancona, where, under Davis' command, flew mis-

Continued on Page 7

RED TAIL ANGELS CONTINUED



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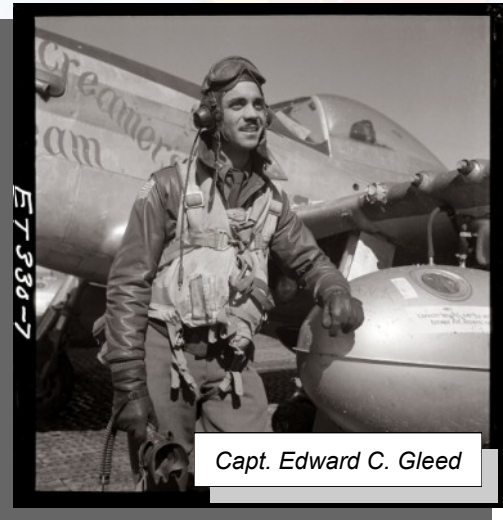
Col. Benjamin O. Davis, right, and Capt. Roscoe C. Brown, left, watch as crew chief Marcellus G. Smith loads .50-caliber ammunition on a P-51 Mustang at Ramitelli, Italy, March 1945. Davis, the first African-American general in the Air Force, flew 60 missions and received both the Silver Star and the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Continued from page 6

sions over Sicily, the Mediterranean and North Africa. The 99th joined the 332nd in July 1944.

American bomber crews nicknamed the 332nd the Red Tails or Red Tail Angels after the distinctive red tail markings on the vertical stabilizers of the unit's fighters. The German pilots called the Tuskegee pilots "Die Schwarze Vogelmenschen", literally the Black Birdmen.

On March 24, 1945, Lt. Col. Davis led the 332nd on a 1,600-mile mission to Berlin where they escorted B-17 bombers whose mission was to level the Daimler-Benz tank works. The 332nd was supposed to be relieved by another fighter unit prior to arriving at the target, so



ET 330-7

Capt. Edward C. Gleed

when the relieving unit failed to show up, the 332nd continued the mission and went on to shoot down numerous enemy fighters including three German Me-262 jet fighters. As a result, the 332nd was awarded a Distinguished Unit Citation for "outstanding performance and extraordinary heroism" for the longest bomber escort mission of World War II.

By war's end, the Tuskegee Airmen had completed 15,553 sorties, 1,578 missions, destroyed 262 enemy aircraft, more than 600 railroad cars, one enemy destroyer and numerous enemy installations. Their awards included three Distinguished Unit Citations, 150 Distinguished Flying Crosses, several Silver Stars, eight Purple Hearts, 14 Bronze Stars, 744 Air Medals, the Croix de Guerre and the Red Star of Yugoslavia.

In 2005, Tuskegee Airmen Lt. Cols. Lee Archer, Robert Ashby, Herbert Carter and Charles

McGee, along with Master Sgt. James Sheppard, Tech. Sgt. George Watson and group historian Ted Johnson flew to Balad, Iraq, to speak to active duty Airmen serving with the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing. Archer was the only Tuskegee ace with five kills to his credit and the only African-American ace of the war. He passed away on Jan. 27, 2010.

During a ceremony at the base, Lt. Gen. Walter E. Buchanan III, Commander of the Ninth Air Force and U.S. Central Command Air Forces, said that: "This group represents the linkage between the greatest generation of Airmen and the latest generation of Airmen."

Archer summed it up in his forthright style: "This is the new Air Force. This is what America is."

The Tuskegee Airmen overcame prejudice and helped pave the way for President Harry S. Truman's Executive Order 9981 in July 1948, which mandated that the "highest standards of democracy" were essential in the armed services, and that "there shall be equality of treatment and opportunity for all persons .. without regard to race, color, religion or national origin." 🇺🇸



Tuskegee Airmen Capt. Roscoe C. Brown watches as crew chief Marcellus G. Smith performs maintenance on Brown's P-51 Mustang at Ramitelli, Italy in March 1945. Brown was one of 15 pilots who shot down the Messerschmitt Me-262 jet fighter.



Homeland Response Force—that's pronounced hurf

Airmen from the 177th Security Forces Squadron assigned to the Homeland Response Force (HRF) underwent hazardous materials and operations training at the 177th Fighter Wing, New Jersey Air National Guard, located in Egg Harbor Twp. N.J. on Jan. 21-22, 2012. There are 10 HRF units, one for each FEMA region, with the 177th and the 108th Wing Security Forces being part of the New Jersey/New York HRF. HRF units are trained to respond to a chemical, radiological, biological, nuclear and explosive (CRBNE) or hazardous events within 12 hours. These Citizen-Airmen are trained and

equipped to integrate into the National Incident Management System to plan and conduct command and control, logistics support, casualty search and extraction, medical triage and treatment, ambulatory and non-ambulatory decontamination. This joint force is available to local, state or the combatant commands to operate across the spectrum of military operations, from major combat and stability operations overseas to strategic deterrence, homeland defense and support to homeland security missions. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen, 177th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)

Giants win

Airmen from the 177th Fighter Wing attached to the 455th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron cheer as they watch Super Bowl XLVI projected onto the interior of an aircraft hangar in the early hours of Feb. 6 at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Matt Hecht, 177th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)





Class done

Senior Master Sgt. John D. Overstreet, right, 177th Security Force Squadron Operations Superintendent, is thanked by Sgt. Maj. Mohammed for instructing Iraqi security forces on the responsibilities of base security prior to the turnover to the Government of Iraq on Nov. 19, 2011. The class consisted of security operations on Sather within their area of responsibility. This included assigned patrol zones, communications, unexploded ordinance procedures, flight line driving responsibilities and logistics needed for support in their AOR. (U.S. Air Force photo)

THE NEW JERSEY AIR NATIONAL GUARD STORY

Brig. Gen. Chester A. Charles

By 1st Lt. Vincent Solomeno, Historian of the New Jersey National Guard

Born in Newark, Brig. Gen. Chester A. Charles was the first commanding officer of the New Jersey Air National Guard.

A veteran combat pilot of World War I, Charles commanded the New Jersey pre-war 119th Observation Squadron and took it into federal service in September 1940.

During World War II, he was promoted to lieutenant colonel and colonel, commanded the Fort Dix Army Air Base and the 59th Observation Group, later re-designated the 377th Bomb Group until its inactivation in December 1942, at which time he was transferred to the General Staff of the 25th Anti-Submarine Wing. In early 1943, he became commanding officer of that wing until August 1943, when the wing was disbanded. Reassigned to the Air Transport Command in the Asiatic-Pacific Theatre he commanded bases in the Fiji Islands and Townsville, Australia. In early 1944, he was selected to organize an Air Transport Command airline, using 105 of the familiar C-47 Douglas transport airplanes. This airline first operated between Australia and New Guinea in support of Gen. Douglas MacArthur's campaign and later was extended to Manila and finally to Japan. After putting the first scheduled flights of this project in actual operation, Charles became Chief of Staff, Central Pacific Wing, Air Transport Command, in Hawaii, and Chief of Staff, West Coast Wing, Air Transport Command in San Francisco.

In August 1946, he was selected to command the 108th Fighter Group Headquarters and took command of the nascent New Jersey Air National Guard. He died April 5, 1979 and is buried in Greenwood Cemetery, Brielle.





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 HEADQUARTERS ELECTRONIC FILE PLANS\177FW PA ELECTRONIC FILE PLAN\00 - Items to be filed\PA\2012 Images.

Photos are categorized by month and date.

Wing gains new Director of Psychological Health

Dr. Andrew Savicky has been selected as the Wing Director of Psychological Health. He will support the 177th's readiness through the promotion of psychological health and resilience.

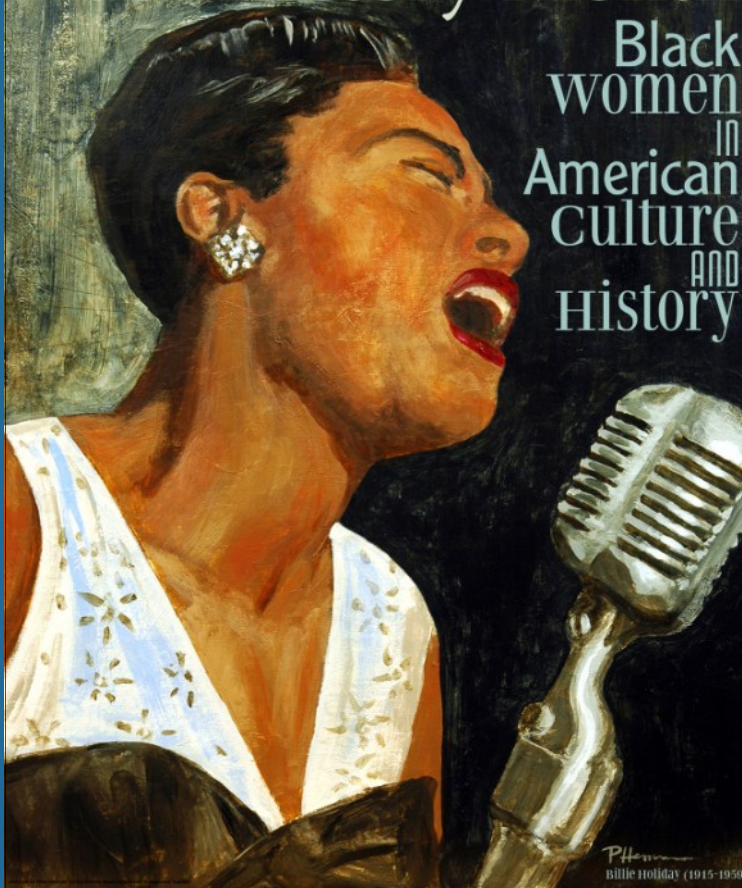
Savicky consults with commanders regarding the psychological health of their Airmen and units. As a member of helping professionals, he supports and provides consultation to resiliency efforts, suicide prevention, traumatic stress response and other programs supporting positive and mission-focused emotional wellbeing.

He is available to provide presentations to units or groups on a variety of topics to enhance wellness such as stress management, communication, conflict resolution, resiliency and relationships.

In addition, Savicky meets with Air Guard members to provide a clinical interviews and referrals to local mental health providers and other resources to address any issues hindering an Airman's maximum wellbeing.

With case management, he provides continuity and helps the member address any challenges in receiving services. Savicky also collaborates with and assists with training local community providers regarding military culture, providing information relating to best practices and treatment needed for on-going counseling for Air Guard members and their families.

Black History Month



Black women in American culture AND History

JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC

FEBRUARY

2012

Make a commitment to implement Diversity Training.

- ✓ *Observe African-American History Month*
- ✓ *Send Valentines to deployed members*

The wave of the future is not the conquest of the world by a single dogmatic creed but the liberation of the diverse energies of free nations and free men.

- John F. Kennedy

PROMOTIONS & AWARDS

To Master Sergeant:
 Tech. Sgt. Luminada Santiago
 Tech. Sgt. Joseph Valentine

To Technical Sergeant:
 Staff Sgt. Chantel Bullock
 Staff Sgt. Andrew Merlock
 Staff Sgt. Rusty Litterer
 Staff Sgt. Nicholas Loglisci
 Staff Sgt. Charles Ryan
 Staff Sgt. Jose Santiago

To Staff Sergeant:
 Senior Airman Thomas Cornelly
 Senior Airman Michael Harasym
 Senior Airman Daryl Padula
 Senior Airman James Scott
 Senior Airman David Stokes

Senior Airman Desiree Duffy
To Senior Airman:
 Airman 1st Class Ilya Barankevich
 Airman 1st Class Rachel Hodge
 Airman 1st Class Ronald Leonard
 Airman 1st Class John Lafollette
 Airman 1st Class Jennifer Lauer
 Airman 1st Class Denise Pettit
 Airman 1st Class Natalia Rojas
 Airman 1st Class Jonathan Taylor
 Airman 1st Class Jaime Torres-Rivera
 Airman 1st Class David Silva

New Jersey Honor Guard Ribbon
 This ribbon is awarded to members of the New Jersey National

Guard Honor Guard Program who have performed a minimum of 30 missions with precision and dignity. Their willingness and readiness to execute funeral honors for veterans throughout the state contributes to the programs' overall success.

Airman 1st Class Louis Velez
Airman 1st Class Jeremy Jackson

Airman of the Quarter
Senior Airman Rebecca Patterson

NCO of the Quarter
Staff Sgt. Vanessa Torres-Pagan
 Congratulations to everyone

Jersey Devils



POST - 9/11 GI BILL A NEW BILL FOR A NEW CENTURY



Energy conservation a habit for everyone

As the weather gets cooler, heaters will kick on and energy consumption may rise, but there are ways to staying warmer at home to conserve. The Department of Energy website recommends keeping curtains and shades open during the day to let in the sun.

Other habits include unplugging battery chargers when the batteries are full, using rechargeable batteries instead of disposable ones, turning off water when brushing teeth.

GREAT VIEW



Top photo: A 177th Fighter Wing F-16C Fighting Falcon is refueled by a KC-10 Extender with the 514th Air Mobility Wing Nov. 11, 2011. The 514th is based out of Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J. Photo right: A 177th F-16C on a mission over Afghanistan on Jan. 23. Center photo: A Fighting Falcon somewhere over Afghanistan on Oct. 23, 2011. (U.S. Air Force photos)

