



171st proves its excellence

Tech. Sgt. Todd McFeeley
Public Affairs

The Unit Compliance Inspection (UCI) that was conducted at the 171st Air Refueling Wing, Dec. 3-8, 2010 resulted in our unit receiving an overall grade of “excellent.” After spending well over a year of fine-tuning for the inspection, the hard work paid off.

“I think we did a good job communicating the needs and requirements to get through the inspection. I feel the wing is inspection ready on a regular basis. If you are inspection ready at the beginning of preparation, you are certainly going to be more than inspection ready when the inspection shows,” said Brig. Gen. Roy Uptegraff, 171st Air Refueling Wing commander.

“I think we got the word out early. I think we have high standards in the wing to begin with. I think we were very

good at handling the resources ... the days and dollars, to ensure that the areas we thought needed bolstering or support had the resources to do just that.

“It’s a good team. If you go back and look at the inspection reports you will see that we have leadership across the chain of command,” Uptegraff said.

The UCI is an Air Force inspection conducted to assess areas mandated by law, as well as mission areas identified by senior Air Force and Major Command (MAJCOM) leadership as critical or important to the health and performance of a unit. Failure to comply with these established directives could result in penalties or impact the mission significantly. Each unit is subject to this type of assessment every five years.

During the inspection, inspector generals (IGs) evaluate each common core compliance area, which is driven by law, executive order or applicable directive. Examples of some of the compliance areas are intelligence oversight, transition assistance programs, voting assistance programs, sexual harassment education and prevention, and homosexual conduct policy.

Inspectors grade each individual unit and parent wing on a five-tier scale: Outstanding, Excellent, Satisfactory, Marginal and Unsatisfactory.

“It went great. It was a terrific UCI. I don’t think we’ve had one as successful as this one. It’s a major Air Force inspection, and it occurs every five years. And there wasn’t a single marginal,” Uptegraff said.

The inspection began Friday and continued until the out-brief, which was held Wednesday. The bulk of the IG assessment took place Saturday and Sunday, which was the drill weekend.

Our unit apparently made a favorable impression on the inspection team, as all sections received passing grades, highlighted by several “excellent” grades as well as an “outstanding” grade by the Financial Management section.



Inspectors arrive at the 171st Air Refueling Wing and receive a welcome packet from Tech. Sgt. Shawn Monk before the unit’s Unit Compliance Inspection. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Ann Young)

SEE EXCELLENCE ON PAGE 4

Reflecting back and looking forward

Commander's CORNER

Brig. Gen. Roy Uptegraff

171st Air Refueling Wing Commander



Happy New Year, everyone! The year 2010 will go down in our history books as one of our most challenging years. From USAF inspections to combat support operations, we did it all.

Earning an excellent on the UCI to end the year was a proud and fulfilling achievement that actually brought a tear to my eye. I invited my wife Ginger to the out-brief so I could share this moment with both of my families.

Congratulations and farewell to 2010. Welcome 2011! This will be a year of back to basics. Our deployment level will be low, which means we will have the opportunity to train and prepare for our Operational Readiness Inspection in 2012. We are already working with the IG to ensure the timing of our ORI will not impact our 2012 or 2013 AEF commitment. Of course, the unpredictable nature of war can change the picture between now and then.

New challenges will become more apparent in 2011. There will be more pressure to cut costs everywhere we turn. Fuel efficiency, energy compliance and manpower utilization will get a hard look from this moment forward. Sadly, the Air Force did not order a replacement tanker for our ever-aging KC-135s this past year.

Instead, we will have to pay greater attention to sustaining our Eisenhower-era aircraft. We need sharp eyes, skilled hands and an appreciation of risk from all of you to ensure the safety, availability and effectiveness of these terrific legacy aircraft.

I think our resourcefulness and sense of ownership is one of our greatest strengths at the 171st. We make do with what we have, and the ingenuity from our youngest Airmen is a key component. Just look at this piece I found on the Air Force Association's Web site about what is going on at Barksdale:

Staff Sgt. Justin Garcia, who is assigned to the 2nd Maintenance Squadron, pitched the idea of a parts vending machine to his leaders. The machine, installed on Nov. 15, not only dispenses small, universal parts, such as bolts and washers, but also keeps an accurate count of inventory. Airmen looking to use the machine simply type in a pin number and then choose the part they need—a vast improvement over standing in line at a window. "Tools, parts, even snack bar items were all at the same window. An Airman needing two bolts could be waiting in line behind an entire flight checking out tools for the day," Garcia explained. "It was basically a funnel that the window could not keep up with."

Now that is what I am looking for! We also need to do things faster, cheaper and with much more satisfaction to our Airmen.

Though the holiday season is behind us, I encourage all of you to keep an eye on each other. We have been through a lot. We have been away from our families and our civilian jobs due to previous months of continuous deployments.

We have also had to reduce some of the active duty opportunities on the base as wartime resources decline. Winter is dark, dreary and does not loan itself to getting out very often. Let's make sure we are all OK. Not one of you is an ordinary citizen. You are highly burdened by strict military requirements that reach into your homes and jobs, and you quietly shoulder those responsibilities.

Most of your friends and neighbors will never fully understand that. Our morale is high, because collectively, we understand and appreciate each other.

Keep up the good work and see you at Commander's Call in February.

"Editorial Staff"



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What will it take?

Chief Master Sgt. Vic Guerra

171st Air Refueling Wing Command Chief

I believe most Airmen know that as enlisted Air National Guardsmen, they are eligible to earn degrees from the Community College of the Air Force (CCAF). You may also know that CCAF is the only college system solely for enlisted members; it's the largest community college in the world, and it's the only community college in the Department of Defense. It was activated in 1972 to gain academic recognition for technical training conducted by Air Force schools. Its programs are designed to provide students with knowledge, skills and theoretical background for enhanced performance as technicians, leaders and citizens.

But you may not know that CCAF offers 67 degree programs in five general areas, so anyone can find an area of study related to his or her Air Force occupation. Your Air Force technical training may already qualify you for a portion of the credits required for a CCAF degree!

CCAF also offers credentialing programs, as well as college credit, to those who already possess certain approved national professional credentials that satisfy applicable degree program requirements. A tool to help you in determining what some of these may be is CCAF's Credentialing and Education Research Tool (CERT). CERT can be used to increase your awareness of professional development opportunities applicable to Air Force occupational specialties. CERT includes information related to specific Air Force Specialty Codes (AFSCs) such as appropriate CCAF degrees, national professional certifications, certification agencies, certification exams offered by Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support (DANTES), and various related professional organizations. CERT can be accessed at <https://augateway.maxwell.af.mil/ccaf/certifications/programs>. It's easy to use and you can access it from home. From the CERT site, just select the appropriate AFSC from a pull down menu, click on the Select button and CERT will list all of the appropriate/related information it has pertaining to that AFSC.

An example of a CCAF credentialing program is the Airframe and Powerplant Certification Program for those aircraft maintenance technicians in specific AFSCs looking to obtain a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Airframe and Powerplant (A&P) license. The program is designed to bridge gaps among Air Force education, training and experience, and FAA eligibility requirements. In addition, the program broadens the skill sets and professional development of maintenance technicians. Additional information regarding professional credentialing and the programs offered by CCAF can be found at <http://www.au.af.mil/au/ccaf/certifications.asp>. Again, you can access this website from home.

Already have a college degree? Then you may qualify, with the Air Force training you've already received, for an additional degree from CCAF. It can only add to your educational résumé, as well as provide support and documentation in your official Air Force record of your academic achievement!

Whether you're looking to see what it may take to start you on your way to earning a CCAF degree, or if you already have a college degree and want to see if you qualify for an additional degree from CCAF (or just want get your college credits updated in your Air Force record), make a visit to the base education and training office to see what it will take to obtain a degree.



Briefs FYI

2011 Dining Out

The 2011 Dining Out will be held Feb. 25 or 26 at the Airport Regency Hyatt. Tickets can be purchased for \$40 from Master Sgts. Monica Heyl, Julie McBane, Kim Rose or Andrea Henry.



Maternity uniforms

Females are authorized to file for maternity clothing allowance every three years. Members must visit the clinic and complete an AF 469 (Duty Limiting Condition Report) identifying the "P4-T status due to pregnancy." A signed copy of the AF 469 must be turned in to finance for payment of the allowance. The payment for fiscal year 2011 is \$328.58. After the payment is made, the amount is logged on the member's military pay record reflecting on the leave and earnings statement. The regulations that support this payment are:

AFI 36-3014, Para 2.1.5
For more information on uniform standards and changes, visit www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/dress/index.asp

Estimated pay date
for the January UTA:
January 18

Estimated pay date
for the January SUTA:
January 26

Jingle Fest supports 171st Airmen

Deb Krall

Airmen and family readiness program manager

A picture may be worth a thousand words, but the one to the right deserves some explanation. The Pittsburgh Airport Area Chamber of Commerce hosts a Jingle Fest each year with its members. Participating businesses “buy” a table to decorate and compete for the honor of donating the proceeds to needy Airmen of the 171st. This is the second year that I was asked to represent our families.

Fun was in the air as I walked into the Montour Country Club. I was greeted by women in pajamas offering brownies. The Double Tree decorated its table to reflect the few minutes after Christmas morning gift exchange. The “girls” had just opened their Easy Bake Oven and were sharing their wares in exchange for votes. Secret elves were on hand to do the voting on the tables. The brownie bribe worked, and the Double Tree won the competition.

The real winners were the needy families who received gift cards to buy gifts for their kids. The C.E. Kelley Commissary had already donated hams for each family through a prize won in a Pepsi competition. A generous donation by Dr. Mike DeMasi (Aspinwall Chiropractic) and his family supplied the rest of the meal. Eaton Corporation and MS Consultants gave items for the families as well. A unit family gave toys, and another unit family sent stockings and cookies to a deployed member. Dominion Gas offered support through personal care items for the troops; this year they even included canned snow! North Suburban Build-



Double Tree employees present a donation to Deb Krall for the families of the 171st. (Photo courtesy of Deb Krall)

ers Association purchased gift cards and phone cards. The women of Crescent Township, led by Harriet Lewis, offered red shirts in support of Wear Red Fridays. Money donated to them purchased phone cards to keep families in touch. Many local scouts and schools made heartfelt cards.

As the holidays end and a new year dawns, it is my resolution to give mankind a break. In a country where we hear daily about a bad economy, generosity still thrives. Family, friends, neighbors, churches and local businesses notice and appreciate the sacrifices made by military members and those who love them. They are anxious to show their support as soon as a venue appears. I just wanted you to know.

FROM EXCELLENCE ON PAGE 1

“It was all satisfactory, excellent and, of course, the Finance office had an outstanding. That’s quite the Christmas present,” Uptegraff said.

“We made it through the UCI in a Team Pittsburgh manner. We exceeded our goals and our expectations, which is a credit to the men and women assigned here. They performed in a professional way ... in a way that holds a great deal of stock for anyone who is a member of the 171st,” said Col. Gerard Mangis, 171st Mission Support Group Commander.

“They all did well. Some got an excellent, some got a satisfactory, but they all are outstanding to me,” Mangis said.

As far as future UCIs go, Brig. Gen. Uptegraff said, “My best recommendation is to maintain what we have right now. If we can maintain what we have today, we should be good every day.”

To see all the photos from the Dec. 8 out-brief, including groups and individuals recognized for their performance, visit the public affairs page of the Steelweb.



Inspector General Col. Pat Savoy congratulates Brig. Gen. Roy Uptegraff on the excellent performance by the 171st in their Unit Compliance Inspection. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Ann Young)

Aerospace Ground Equipment

Staff Sgt. Ivyann Castillo
Public Affairs

Have you ever noticed the nondescript, bay-type building that sits to your left on your way out to the running track before you reach the hill? The sign reads: “171 MXS AGE SHOP.” What do they do?

The 171st Maintenance Group, Aerospace Ground Equipment Shop, otherwise known as AGE, “maintains equipment to support the KC-135s,” said Master Sgt. Dean Heinen, production super, 171 MXS/MXMG.

“Our shop is a diversified field. We don’t specialize in one system; we cover all of them,” Heinen said.



The 171st Air Refueling Wing Aerospace Ground Equipment shop performs maintenance on equipment used to support aircraft maintenance, Dec. 4, 2010. Senior Airman Nicholas Leskowac assists in maintenance on a replacement carriage. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Sara M. Kaufman)

“Our job involves analyzing why a system or aircraft part doesn’t operate,” Heinen continued.

“We go through a thorough troubleshooting process to determine what the problem is. If we are unable to fix it, as a last resort, we replace the part or system; it isn’t simply a plug-and-play.”

Because the nature of their work is diverse, the technical school for this career field is one of the longest, averaging close to six months.

“New Airmen who join AGE go through instruction in basic hand tools, technical instruction, systems and wiring, diagrams and flow charts,” Heinen said. “There is a lot you have to learn.”

Once their technical school is completed, the new Airmen undergo extensive on-the-job training. According to Heinen, every piece of equipment that needs to be serviced, is assigned to a full-time person in the shop, and the newer traditional Airmen train and work with one of those full-

time personnel to continue gaining knowledge in the career field.

Though this can be a good training structure, it can also pose a challenge in getting these Airmen to reach their upgraded skill levels.

“With all other training requirements and the operation tempo, sometimes it is difficult to concentrate specifically on our career field training,” Heinen said. “But that is normal in the Guard; you try and squeeze in training when you can, and our younger force does an excellent job.”

With constant advances in technology, getting new or updated equipment or systems can pose another challenge for training. But, on a positive note, new equipment can make the mission easier to complete.

“In the past, we had to maneuver 125-pound nitrogen bottles to service the aircraft and that would require at least two people,” Heinen said. “Now we have automatic machines that are easier to move on the flight line and hookup to the KC-135.”

“We have senior officers who come to our section because they are curious to know how we work; after a day, they are amazed at what we do and are capable of.”

“I have been in this shop for about three years, and I chose it because I am a mechanic in the civilian world,” said Senior Airman Nicholas Leskowac. “I am hoping to utilize what I learn here to eventually take over my father’s automotive shop when he retires.”

“I really enjoy being here,” Leskowac said. “When it comes right down to it, everyone in the maintenance group and the entire wing is important, and we all compliment each other one way or another,” Heinen said proudly. “That is what makes this unit stand out from the rest.”

So next time you are on your way to the track and you see the building, you can have a better understanding of what the 171 MXS AGE shop does and appreciate how well they help unify the 171st Air Refueling Wing.



Staff Sgt. Fredric Underwood assembles the platform with assistance from Airman 1st Class Andrew Mihalik. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Sara M. Kaufman)

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Don't forget, the first 171st /112th luncheon for 2011 will be Jan. 17.

Speaking of luncheons, Buck Boyd asked me to remind all you 112th folks of the annual 112th reunion. It will be held at the 911th Open Mess on the 112th day of the year, April 22, which is also Good Friday. The event starts at 5 p.m.

We extend our sympathies to the friends and family of Chief Master Sgt. Tony Rothbauer, who passed away on Nov. 7, 2010. The chief was a veteran of World War II and served in the 171st until he retired as the superintendent of the base personnel office. We would like to thank the chief for his leadership to the unit and his service to our country.

Congratulations to our recent retirees: Lt. Col. Richard White, Chief Master Sgt. Bonnie Kriberney, Senior Master Sgt. Daniel Specht, Master Sgt. Michael Farrell, Master Sgt. Phillip Gomez, Tech. Sgt. Thomas Higgins and Tech. Sgt. Jason Houk. Welcome to retirement, and if we can be of any assistance to you, give us a call.

There isn't much to say on TRI-CARE at this time, but if something develops, I'll let you know in future issues of the newsletter.

That's it for right now, so on behalf of the Retiree Office, we hope you have a great retirement year.

Top 10 Tips for Social Media

1. DON'T GIVE CLASSIFIED INFO

Don't divulge classified, FOUO or sensitive materials, photos or video. OPSEC is crucial to our mission. Think before you speak or film—if you're not sure, ask someone! A harmless video of an Airman dancing on the flight line could be sensitive if it's a deployed environment showing bombers on the flight line. Be smart. Security is at the source.

2. STAY IN YOUR LANE

If you're an aircraft mechanic, you're well-suited to communicate messages about aircraft maintenance. If you're an aircraft mechanic blogging about legal issues—reconsider your blog.

3. DON'T LIE

Credibility is critical, without it, no one cares what you have to say... it's also punishable by the UCMJ to give a false statement.

4. GIVE YOUR OPINION

Yes, tell them what YOU think ... just make sure you state that this is your opinion and not that of the organization. Also, be sure to identify what is your opinion and what is fact.

5. ALWAYS IDENTIFY YOURSELF

Identification makes your post more credible.

6. SAFETY

Videos that get widespread attention, or become "viral," feature death-defying stunts or acts that are considered "extreme" in nature. Don't let the desire to get your message across compromise your consideration for safety.

7. BE AWARE OF THE IMAGE YOU PRESENT

If using a visual medium, don't let your message get overshadowed because the viewer's attention is drawn to your improperly worn uniform or something occurring in the background. The image you present will set the tone for your message and often mean the difference of whether or not people listen to your message. Your tactical representation could have strategic and international consequences for the Air Force and the nation.

8. USE COMMON SENSE

This is the bottom line. If you wouldn't say it in front of your mother, you probably shouldn't say it on YouTube. Realize that your words and images will go out to thousands and possibly millions of people around the world instantly, and once it's out there, it's out there for good. Your unit Public Affairs shop should always be a source of advice and guidance in this medium. Also, be careful what personal information you divulge, such as addresses, phone numbers or any information that could aid identity thieves or the enemy.

9. DON'T BE AFRAID TO TAKE CALCULATED RISKS

Military life often deals in ambiguity: To make the best decision, it's recommended to take in as many variables as possible to make the most accurate and informed decision.

10. THE ENEMY IS ENGAGED

The enemy is engaged in this battlespace, and you must engage there as well.

Source: Air Force Public Affairs Agency

You have just entered the ...

RECRUITER ZONE

Our Recruiting Team -- (412) 776-7495



Master Sgts. Sue Smith and Skip Powell, Tech. Sgt. John Frazier, Staff Sgts. Lindsey Duncan and Shayla Pollard and Airman 1st Class Lisa Weiss
Contact us toll free at 1-877-249-5193 or through the web www.171arw.ang.af.mil

Welcome New Recruits

Seth Melnick
Kala Hostutler
Derek Moore

Daniel White
Billy Davis
Samantha Zajicek
Emmett Luketic

Retention Corner

If you are eligible for the Post 9/11 GI Bill and you are interested in transferring the benefit to your dependents, but you are waiting to apply because your kids aren't old enough to use it yet, or you are just procrastinating -- DON'T WAIT! The Post 9/11 GI Bill, otherwise known as Chapter 33, is the only GI Bill benefit that can be transferred to your dependents. Part of the deal is a service commitment of four years from the date you apply to transfer your benefits. This service commitment applies to you if you were not retirement eligible, (20 years of service) as of Aug. 1, 2009. It may be diminished if you were close to retirement on Aug. 1, 2009, and there are other exceptions. The point is this: the sooner you apply to transfer the benefit, the sooner you begin satisfying the service commitment. If you wait until you are close to retirement to apply, you may not be able to complete the four years required to transfer your benefits. DON'T PUT IT OFF! APPLY TO TRANSFER YOUR BENEFITS NOW!



Congratulations on your promotion!

Promotion to Senior Airman:

Zachry A. Hamilton

Promotion to Staff Sgt.:

Brandon J. Amrhein
Patrick D. Donohoe
Gary W. Hutsler Jr.
Richard S. Laipple
Erik S. Larson
Michael A. McCoy
Anthony P. Price

Christopher M. Sheppard

Andrew D. Theobald
Elizabeth Venesky

Promotion to Tech. Sgt.:

Dylan R. Lehmeier
Adam K. Lloyd
Byron P. Mang
Andrew W. Mowry
Bradley R. Schumacher

Promotion to Master Sgt.:

Jeremy P. Cameron
George J. Meszaros
Edward J. Spagel
Michael R. Worthington

Promotion to Senior Master Sgt.:

Joseph A. Morris

Promotion to Chief Master Sgt.:

Mark A. Hutsler
Craig A. Smith

For more information visit:

http://www.gibill.va.gov/GI_Bill_Info/CH33/transfer.htm

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Interested applicants may reference job posting #746353 and apply online at www.deicingsolutions.com or e-mail dsullivan@deicingsolutions.com.



171st Airmen visit local veterans for holiday season

Maj. Marvin Ee, of the 171st Civil Engineering Squadron, and staff members of the Southwestern Veterans Center served lunch to the residents. More than 25 unit members of the 171st Air Refueling Wing spent the afternoon sharing stories with the veterans, passing out balloon animals made by Master Sgt. John Buckwalter or pushing residents in wheelchairs through the hallways. The visit has become an annual holiday tradition for some unit members, but this year was Staff Sgt. Ashley Moore's first. "I really enjoyed talking to the residents and may have even got a pen pal out of the trip," Moore said. One of six veterans homes in Pennsylvania, the center serves more than 200 veterans and spouses in need of specialized care due to disabilities, chronic illness or Dementia/Alzheimer's disease. (U.S. Air Force photo by Capt. Dicie Hritz)

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'Burghers Beat... "What's your New Year's Resolution?"



Staff Sgt. Shayla Pollard

Recruiting

"My New Year's Resolution is to have a more positive attitude and not let my emotions dictate my behavior."



Master Sgt. Richard Norman

Civil Engineering

"Spend more time with my family and do a little more walking and running. I already do about six miles a day, but I'd like to do some more."



Staff Sgt. Joshua Glessner

Security Forces

"My New Year's Resolution is to get a bigger house for my expanding family. We have four children and one more on the way."



Airman 1st Class Gino Mendoza

Services Flight

"Get fit and lean by staying more active and also eating a lot of brown rice."

(U.S. Air Force photos by Master Sgt. Stacey Barkey)