



258th RAPCON Certified

Capt. Dicie Hritz
Public Affairs

The 258th Air Traffic Control Squadron (ATCS) received its certification to open after nine years of preparation for its Radar Approach Control (RAPCON) facility Mar. 10. after going through a Facility Commissioning Certification Inspection (FCCI) in Johnstown.

The FCCI was conducted to assess the quality, adequacy, and safety of the RAPCON facility supporting flying operations at the John P. Murtha Cambria-County Airport, Johnstown, Pa.

The results of the FCCI were based on compliance with

Air Force, Air National Guard (ANG), and Federal Aviation Authority (FAA) standards, as well as local policies.

The inspection encompassed ATC, Air Traffic Control and Landing System (ATCALS) Infrastructure maintenance, Automation Systems, Terminal Instrument Procedures, and overall management of the ATC operation.

The 258th ATCS has been preparing for the RAPCON opening for several years and now will be taking over airspace from the Cleveland Center May 5. with approval from FAA and the National Guard Bureau to open the RAPCON facility.

With this certification, the Johnstown's Standard Automation Replacement System and Digital Airport Surveillance Radar will operate in the National Airspace System.

The lead inspector of the FCCI was Scott Duke, ATC Functional Manager NGB. He also conducted the outbrief of the certification.

"The 258th is a class act in every level of this organization. It's about morale and passion and you see that here. You see the enthusiasm and the passion here," said Duke.

He also noted that the 258th ATCS will be the first location in the entire ANG where a controller can come and receive every Special Education Identifier that is required, in one location. This is very efficient and cost effective to have in today's military.

The implementation of a RAPCON into the National Airspace System has not been accomplished in more than four decades by civilian, active duty or any reserve component. The hard work and efforts of both NGB, Airfield Services Division (A3F) and the 258th ATCS have made this a success.

"We are the only unit in the whole Air Force that has every piece of equipment out there," said Maj. Joe Hensley, 258th ATCS Commander. "We are very unique in that we are the only unit that has a fixed tower, a mobile tower, a fixed radar and a mobile radar."



Major Joseph Hensley, 258th ATCS Commander, receives the certification letter authorizing the Johnstown Radar Approach Control to operate in the National Airspace System. The letter was presented by Scott Duke, the functional manager for the NGB/A3F. (U.S. Air Force Photo by Capt. Dicie Hritz)

Unit bugs out in 171st style

by Col. Steven Painter, Vice Wing Commander

Commander's CORNER



A recent event caused me to be transported back in time to watching an episode of one of my favorite old TV series, M*A*S*H. Specifically, the episode when the soldiers of the 4077th have to pack up and bug out in mere hours. Hawkeye, Radar and Major Houlihan stay behind to take care of an injured soldier.

That's something I can relate to right now. That's why I'm filling in where you are accustomed to seeing our wing commander, Brig. Gen. Uptegraff's insights.

I have stayed back to help take care of a "temporarily injured" unit. Our unit is missing some of the pieces that we usually have solidly in place. It's good to report that my job as Vice Commander has been a seamless transition because of the incredible talent and depth we have here.

The wing personnel that remain behind, have back-filled the gaps created by our forward deployed personnel and have kept the wing fully operational without missing a beat. It has been a humbling experience for me, watching first-hand our deployers and their families answer our nation's call at, literally, a moment's notice. There has been tremendous wing support, which was needed to get them out the door and down range.

On March 19 the international coalition took measures to begin enforcement of United Nations Security Council resolution 1973, to include the imposition of a no-fly zone over the African nation of Libya. The same day, the 171st Air Refueling Wing received a request to support Operation Odyssey Dawn as the lead tanker unit in an overseas expeditionary wing made up of numerous units from guard, reserve and active duty components.

Responding in less than 24 hours, the wing sent more than 40 tons of cargo and more than 160 personnel to support the mission of refueling U.S. and coalition planes to enable the enforcement of the no-fly zone.

In true 171st form, we again are proving in overwhelming fashion the relevancy of the Air National Guard to our country. We have become an invaluable force multiplier that has garnered tremendous visibility at all levels.

To think, we are participating proudly in Operation Odyssey Dawn with a completely voluntary force. This speaks volumes about the term "citizen airman."

What is being accomplished by the wing's members both at home and abroad is impressive, but not at all surprising. I applaud each and every one of you in your steadfast willingness to always go the extra mile. Your efforts continue to shine a positive light on the 171st all over the globe.

Before using your travel card

by Tech. Sgt. Phil Burd, Financial Management

Due to the Government Travel Card (GTC) program changes and the transition to the new Controlled Spend Account (CSA) cards, we will be sending 100% of all travel payments to Citibank effective immediately.

This will include home-station mileage-only payments, miscellaneous payments, etc.

This is to comply with the new rules of the GTC program. You will contact Citibank to receive payments of any funds that are due to you. Contact Tech. Sgt. Phil Burd at 412-776-7659 with any questions.

"Editorial Staff"



Brigadier General Roy E. Uptegraff, III Commander

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National Guard updates diversity policy

by Chief Master Sgt. Charlie Thomas, 171 ARW Human Resource Advisor

We all know that diversity plays a vital role in ensuring we maintain a well-qualified, talented and capable force. It is the responsibility of each of us to work towards providing a barrier-free Guard that provides opportunities for growth and advancement for all.

The National Guard Bureau recently released its Policy on Diversity which is fully endorsed by Gen. Craig R. McKinley, Chief, National Guard Bureau, Lt. Gen. Harry M. Wyatt III, Director, Air National Guard and Chief Master Sgt. Christopher E. Muncy, Command Chief Master Sgt., Air National Guard.

Policy on Diversity

1. The success of the National Guard federal, state, and community missions are directly associated to the contributions of the men and women who have volunteered to join our force. Our community basing architecture is fundamental to this success, because it affords the diverse opinions, abilities, beliefs, ideologies, and experiences of our greater American society. The training our members conduct during unit training assemblies does not solely prepare them; it is the melding of those individuals into the organization that diversifies the team.
2. The rapidly changing demographics of our nation already are reflected in our forces and will demand a more inclusive approach to leadership and followership. Our community basing provides a diverse force, but does not guarantee that our organization capitalizes on the opportunity that diversity provides.
3. Diversity includes differences in characteristics, background, attributes, and experiences. However, further expansion is essential to create a culture that fosters:
 - a. Absolute respect for all people no matter their rank, function, or position.
 - b. Inclusion, engagement, and management of talents to capitalize the potential power.
 - c. Diversity in thoughts, ideas, and perspectives to promote moral courage and trust.
 - d. Confidence in equal opportunity for all.
 - e. An interdependent mindset where collaboration is the standard.
4. It is incumbent on all members to ensure we are prepared to serve in a multicultural world. The National Guard of the future belongs to our new generation of Airmen and soldiers. Our legacy is to entrust a great organization to them, free of barriers so that all members can be successful.



Welcome New Recruits

Lauren Gothe
Brandon Boff
Valerie Horvath

↑ HIGH Flyer

Aircraft: 59-1490
Hours Flown: 45.3
Sorties Flown: 15

Crew chiefs:
Daniel Rodgers,
Clifford Rumbaugh
Cory Knox
William Shapiro
Daniel Grabowski



For information on uniform standards and changes, visit www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/dress/index.asp

Estimated pay date for the April UTA:
April 13

Estimated pay date for the April SUTA:
April 18

Don't Ask, Don't Tell, Don't Worry

by Staff Sgt. Michaela Diallo, 171st Public Affairs

Repeal of the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy has stirred a lot of conversations. There have been many recent discussions in the military arena as well as the civilian world about the repeal.

Some people have heard of the upcoming changes and consider it an advancement of their cause towards civil rights. Others believe these changes to be negative, invoking feelings of angst or concern.

Regardless of your stance on the issue, there are some things to keep in mind. One is that there will soon be training on this upcoming policy. All Airmen will go through training which will help to answer some questions they may have about this repeal. Until then the Legal Office and other leadership have already learned more about this new policy. For the time being, the Legal Office will do its best to answer any questions concerning this policy change.

Our JAG stated there are a couple of essential points. The new policy focuses on two things, one being that law-

ful homosexual acts will not bar someone from entering the military. Secondly, they are no longer a basis for discharge. The previous "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy resulted in gay individuals in the military potentially facing discharge for engaging in lawful homosexual acts.

As far as other concerns, our JAG stressed that the rules and regulations are still the same regarding the standards of conduct and behavior. Any type of sexual misconduct whether homosexual or heterosexual will not be tolerated. Any concerns beyond that of misconduct, the stance is now that a person's sexual orientation is a personal and private matter.

No matter what one's personal thoughts and feelings to this change are, keep in mind that, "All Airmen are supposed to treat each other with dignity and respect and that never changes," said Master Sgt. Jim Spagel, 171 ARW Legal Office Superintendent.

171st medic honored in D.C.

by Staff Sgt. Ivyann Castillo, 171st Public Affairs

Senior Airman Candice Cook, 171st Medical Group medical technician, was honored on behalf of the Air National Guard for her deployment to Iraq and other military humanitarian missions at the 5th Annual Angels of the Battlefield Gala in Washington D.C., Mar. 31.

The event was sponsored by the Armed Forces YMCA where Cook was one of ten recipients representing branches of active duty, reserve and guard military services in the medical technician and corpsmen career fields.

As it is stated throughout the event program and with the guest speakers, the ceremony was to honor medics and corpsmen that deployed and volunteered in saving lives while simultaneously risking their own. "These dedicated individuals give of themselves, day in and day out, in support of our Soldiers Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Cost Guardsmen."

"Being deployed was a learning experience," continued Cook. "I interacted with the active duty and was the only female when I was overseas; and it is greatly appreciated to be recognized," said Cook proudly.

The ceremony was a huge gala, where Cook was able to meet her functional and other higher ranking individuals from the Guard Bureau and the Air Force.

"I couldn't believe I was able to see people from the Guard Bureau and even take my picture with General Swartz," said Cook excitedly. "If it wasn't for being hon-

ored, I probably would never meet the leadership, especially being a senior airman."

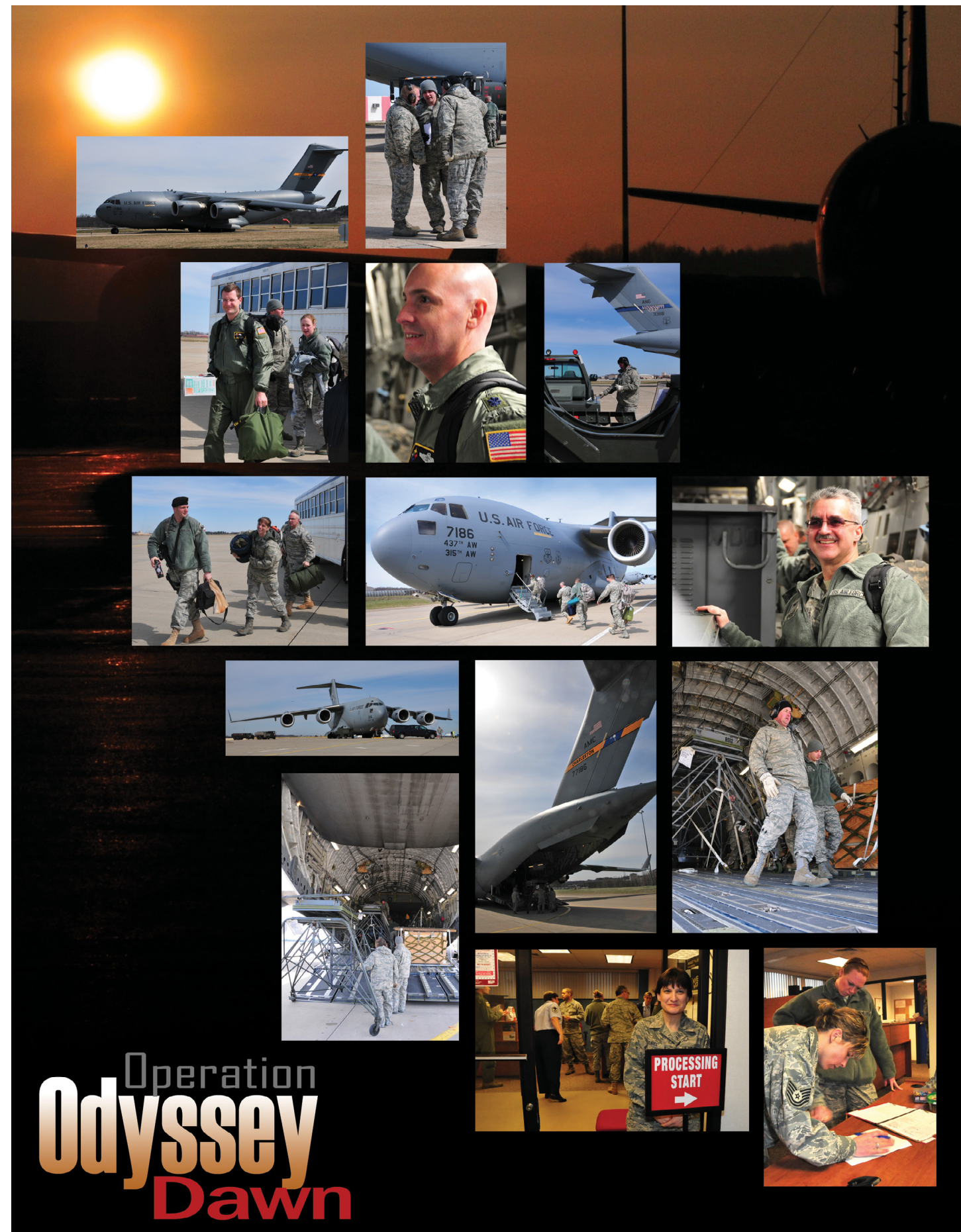
Cook wanted to be in the military as a medic not only to part of something and follow in her father's and grandfather's footsteps, but to learn about the medical field and help others.

"I am proud to be a part of the military because of what it represents to me; I was always grateful for the sacrifices that my grandfather and father made for our family," described Cook.

"It was such an honor to receive this award and attend the event," said Cook. "The term 'Angels,' which is what the medics and corpsmen were called] gave a different meaning and it is something of a good feeling."



Senior Airman Candice Cook, 171st Medical Group was selected as the award recipient for the Air National Guard at the 5th Annual Angels of the Battlefield gala in Washington D.C. Mar. 31. The award was to honor outstanding medical technicians and corpsmen from the 10 military components. (U.S. Air Force photo by Maj. Joe Sullivan)



Operation
Odyssey
Dawn

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The next 171st/112th luncheon will be on April 18. Congratulations to our recent retirees, Chief Master Sgt. Clinton B. Gee, and Master Sgt. Robert H. Nation. Welcome to retirement, and if we can be of any assistance to you, give us a call. Our number at the base is (412) 776-7587.

We extend our sympathies to the friends and family of Master Sgt. Richard W. Land, who passed away on February 22, 2011. Rick served faithfully until his retirement from the 171st Air Refueling Wing.

TRICARE: Good news! Back in August of 2010, rumors were going around that TRICARE Prime was going away. It has been confirmed that because of the large military population in the Pittsburgh area, Prime is going to stay. The bad news is that our local TRICARE office, where Betsy Clark was, is now closed. If you have TRICARE problems you can still call TRICARE at 877-874-2273. You may also contact Army Strong, at 412- 507-3813. They are not a TRICARE office, but they probably will be able to field some of your questions.

That's it for right now. So for the Retirees Office, we hope you continue to have a great retirement year.

Act extends coverage
 Submitted by Tech. Sgt. Jessica Craiger
 Force Support Squadron

The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011 extends dependent medical coverage up to age 26. The legislation authorizes both TRICARE Standard and TRICARE Prime which will be implemented in a two phased approach.

- * Effective April 1, 2011 TRICARE Standard will be available.
- * Prime Plans will follow later in 2011 due to complexity of system and process changes.

Enrollment process through the TRICARE Management Activity (TMA), will begin April 1, 2011. When enrolling, the sponsor may opt to have the date of initial enrollment back dated to January 1, 2011, provided the sponsor pay retroactive premium payments. If the eligible dependent incurs health care expenses prior to April, all receipts against claims can be submitted once the dependent is enrolled.

Once dependents have been enrolled and then show eligible in DEERS, they can proceed to the nearest DEERS/RAPIDS site to receive an ID card. There should be no enrollments or child adds at the DEERS/TERMINALS unless a dependent is not visible to the Managed Care Support Contractor. These would normally consist of children who were never added to the sponsor DEERS record.

For more information about the program and legislation, please visit: www.tricare.mil

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. Shayla Pollard and Lindsey Duncan and Airman 1st Class Lisa Weiss

Contact us toll free at 1-877-249-5193 or through the web www.171arw.ang.af.mil



CONGRATULATIONS!

Promotion to Senior Airman

Lara a. Lattanzio
 Scott R. Granzeier
 Ryan M. Herman
 Nickolas A. Endres



Promotion to Staff Sgt.

Rinaldo A. Policicchio
 Courtney M. Hoberek
 Traci L. Morris
 Craig W. Nunamaker Jr.
 William D. Roth
 Kristopher D. Civils
 Earl L. Morgan Jr.
 Ronald A. Randolph
 Shane A. Miller
 Frederick C. Wolfe Jr.
 James E. Stumbaugh III



Promotion to Tech. Sgt.

Dan A. Greenawalt
 Anthony S. Warner
 Timothy N. Tyler



Well-traveled, well-deserved welcome home!

Submitted by 1st Lt. Jeremy Ketter
 Civil Engineering Squadron

After traveling the world, four members of civil engineering arrived at their final destination, the Pittsburgh International Airport, April 1. Tech. Sgt. Michael Fetterman, Staff Sgts. Joe Lizon and Joe Meehan and Senior Airman Pete Malich were greeted by many family members and friends, as well as media.

The group left Pittsburgh the last week of August 2010 for 3 weeks of combat skills training at Ft. McCoy, Wis. From there they deployed to be a part of the 1st Expeditionary RED HORSE Group based at Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar, which is the hub of operations for the entire area. From Qatar they traveled to several locations for different construction projects:

- Manas Air Station, Kyrgyzstan for 2 months where they worked on a hot cargo pad airfield extension, which included placing 4,000 cubic yards of concrete
- Dwyer in Southern Afghanistan for 1 month to construct an airfield connector
- Thumrait, Oman for 2 months to repair heavily damaged 27 acre war ready materials storage area that was damaged by heavy flooding
- Al Dhafra Air Base, UAE for 1 month to construct several miles of road
- Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar for 1 month to construct loading dock to offload differing types of military vehicles



(U.S. Air Force photos by Master Sgt. Ann Young)

Burghers' Beat... "How do you conserve energy?"



Airman 1st Class Kendal Galand **Master Sgt. Paul Homza** **Master Sgt. Jodi Villmer** **Senior Airman Garrett Herdman**

I conserve energy by turning lights off when not needed and using energy saving CFL light bulbs. I also save up my errands to do all in one trip to conserve gas.

By properly building with the right materials.

My dad always said to go outdoors and do something constructive. If you are doing that, you won't be sitting around using the TV, computer, or other things.

My grandmother taught me to unplug all appliances when they are not in use.

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