



14th Annual Scouting for Skills kicks off

Staff Sgt. Ivyann Castillo
Public Affairs

More than 1,000 boy and girl scouts attended the 2011 Scouting for Skills weekend, May 21-22, at the 171st Air Refueling Wing to earn merit badges.

The event began with the ceremonial colors by some of the scout members, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, the Boy and Girl Scout Pledges and finally opening remarks by Col. Steven Painter, vice commander.

The event was almost cancelled due to the recent deployment in Western Europe for Operation Unified Protector. However, several members' who returned didn't hesitate to volunteer and teach their scheduled classes to make the weekend another success for the Scouts to earn their merit badges, stated Painter.

After the morning events the Scouts were divided in groups of 10-20, and placed into merit badge classes they chose when they did the initial registration.

Classes ranged from photography, wilderness/outdoor survival, citizenship in the nation/American patriotism, fire safety, just to name a few.

Each class was taught mainly by a 171st member and lasted the entire day. The instructors were very interactive with the Scouts and gave scenarios that were entertaining that made the students not only enjoy the class, but have a good understanding about the subject.

One example was Tech. Sgt. Thomas Cloonan a medical technician who was instructing the first aid class. He was discussing the importance of providing first aid to an impaled object in the eye, as he discussed "mushy-stringing substance-like feeling, if an eyeball were to come out of its socket."

Other instructors like Tech. Sgt. Trisha Bashor and Senior Airman Shannon Pietrasiewicz, both security forces personnel, taught the Crime Prevention class. They had a 171st member act as a suspect, who ran into the class screaming. The point of the exercise is suspect recognition, for the Scouts to identify the suspect with as much detail as possible with only a few seconds of physically seeing him, described Pietrasiewicz.

Another interactive class was photography that taught the students about lighting, basic specifications of a camera and then later allowed them to take photos around base to create a certain photo story.

Several adult scout leaders also participated in the class with their scouts. "My favorite part of the aviation class was lying down like the BOOM operators, and being able to see hands on what they do down there," stated Debbie Halterman, Girl Scout Troop 23186, Youngwood.

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Time picks up speed

by Col. Steven Painter, Vice Wing Commander

Commander's CORNER

My student teaching professor in college told our class, "Life is like a roll of toilet paper. The closer you get to the end, the faster it goes." And that is so true in our world today. This past May, started with our unit deployed to Western Europe, the killing of Osama bin Laden, and a tremendous amount of rain that swept through our region and is currently wreaking havoc on America's Midwest. We hosted the Scouting for Skills weekend with more than 1,000 boy and girl scouts out here earning badges. Toward the end of May, we began receiving home our unit members and aircraft from overseas.



Throughout the month of May we've had numerous unit members return from Operation Unified Protector and we couldn't be happier with their success. Commanders from across the Air National Guard have been calling/emailing General Uptegraff and me to extend their appreciation of the 171st for a job well done. Maj Gen Etter, Deputy Director, Air National Guard wrote, "Thank you for deploying, you and everyone there has made the Guard proud."

If you remember back to late 2010, we planned on 2011 to be our in garrison/down year, a year without deployments or inspections. By the end of May we deployed, and at the current writing of this article an NSAV team from Scott AFB is inspecting our operations, maintenance and security processes as we exercise our nuclear SIOP mission.

Some of us can remember the slogan "Week end Warrior," phrased in a time when the guard and reserves were used as a Strategic Reserve Force and seldom moved out of the one weekend a month/ two week summer camp construct. Today we are FAR removed from that model. We are now a crucial node of the Total Force concept and play a critical role in the Operational constructs of today's environment.

From contingency operations from our ramp with multiple lines of Alert to supporting NATO's No-fly Zone over Libya, we are no doubt busy and the trend over the next year looks the same. As mentioned earlier we continue to support our deployed location with rotational crews and we look forward to receiving Gen Uptegraff and the Senior Staff home, here in a few weeks. This Operation has solidified the concept that the Air Guard is relevant and can move quickly, in this case, within hours, to carry on our Nation's calling. Because we were able to deploy on a moment's notice and the logistics involved in deploying personnel, equipment and the initial set-up/employment of now a sustained operations, General Johns, the Commander of Air Mobility Command, has granted the 171st accreditation of 3 out of the 4 Major Graded Areas of our upcoming ORI! --- Folks, this is huge. Because of the Wing's tremendous effort in support of Operation Unified Protector, we now only need to complete the Ability to Survive and Operate (ATSO) portion of our inspection. This 1-2 day exercise will be performed here at the 171st, in conjunction with our Nuclear Operational Readiness inspection (NORI), next December.

I hope that you and your family/friends will enjoy a wonderful Summer together. Take the time and slow down when pursuing some of our favorite (and sometimes most dangerous) activities associated with Summer, i.e., motorcycling, boating, etc...Enjoy it all, but please be safe. Many of our Wing members continue to perform our Nation's calling abroad and will continue to do so, let's continue to keep them and their families in our hearts and prayers for a safe return.

"Editorial Staff"



Brigadier General Roy E. Uptegraff, III Commander

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Adult scout leaders and scout masters also had their own mandatory training they had to conduct as a requirement to be in these leadership roles.

“Attending adult classes are very important to be a Scout Leader or Master,” stated Brian Popp, Boy Scout Troop 4, and Cranberry Township. “We teach classes that are focused on safety and survival for our scouts.”

The Youth Protection training is required for the adult leaders and masters, every two years. “This class is the most important and a difficult subject because it involves recognizing child abuse,” stated Tom Harting, Boy Scout Troop 427, Conway, who has volunteered to teach the class at the 171st during this event.”

Another quite interesting recognition is the increase in female (mothers) who are not only Scout leaders or masters for the Girl Scouts but also the Boy Scouts.

Kathy Brown was one of the female scout leaders from Boy Scout Troop 15, Munhall who attended the weekend event. Surprisingly, having a female scout leader counterpart in the Boys Scouts is not a recent change. “There are two of us who have been leaders for eight years and one who has been a leader for 15 years,” stated Brown.

“The mothers and even the fathers became leaders to spend more quality time with our sons when they began in the Cub Scouts, then eventually as they became older we ended up moving up with them and became Scout Leaders,” said Brown.

As part of their daily events, scouts, leaders and masters had a chance to tour the static displays of two of the KC-135s where they were allowed to look at the BOOM section and the cockpit and ask questions to the aircrew members.

During the closing ceremony, six scouts participated in bringing down the U.S. Flag from the flag pole and folding it in its traditional triangular shape before passing it over to Lt. Col Hess.



Scouts from the local area take a break from earning their merit badge in photography to pose for a fun photograph in the studio at the 171st Air Refueling Wing, May 21, 2011. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Stacey Barkey)

Welcome New Recruits

Matthew Roell
Jane Macioce
Steven Snyder

HIGH Flyer

Aircraft: 58-0054
Hours Flown: 232
Sorties Flown: 27

Generation of Pride

Crew chiefs:
Ricky Perza
Dan Oyster
Russell Huffmyer
Randy Reese
Jonathan Hough
John Breitenbach



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

Estimated pay date for the June UTA:
June 15

Estimated pay date for the June SUTA:
June 22

Marriage bonds of strength

by Master Sgt. Ros Ramos-Alvarez

“Laugh Your Way Into A Better Marriage” was the theme for the Chaplain’s Office first Strong Bonds Enrichment Retreat for married couples. It was held at Geneva On The Lake in Geneva, OH. And we were able to cater to eight couples from this unit.

Strong Bonds is a program that helps to reinforce the relationship between married couples. It is also a significant resiliency program for our Wing Commanders to help build, strengthen, preserve and restore National Guard Families. The Strong Bonds Program helps to increase the individual readiness in the course of relationship education and skills training. Strong Bonds helps to strengthen marital bonds in married couples. Strong Bonds Program provides the tools and knowledge to help couples build better communication and develop a better relationship.

The sessions were led by Chaplain Sung Lee, assisted by Tech. Sgt. Lisa Custer, Tech. Sgt. Rich Ward and Master Sgt. Ramos-Alvarez. Chaplain Sung Lee explained what each session would entail and provided a lot of valuable information.

In the sessions the couples also listened to Mark Gungor, who is one of the most sought-out speakers on love and marriage. The first session of the DVD series was Tale of Two Brains, Part I & II, in which Mr. Gungor explains what he calls the laws of relational physics - how men and women are wired differently and why. Then Why Does He/She Do That? - through a tool called the Flag Page, Mark is able to show husbands and wives a new way to discover what makes their spouse tick.

Chaplain Sung Lee went more in depth on the significance of the Flag Page. The second DVD was The Number One Key To Incredible Sex the ‘yo mama’ session you’ve been waiting for. Mark goes through the five steps couples need to know to experience incredible, mind blowing, married sex...don’t miss it!

He ended it with his last DVD of How To Stay Married and Not Kill Anybody through this session, viewers will discover the power of forgiveness in their marriage...or what Mark likes to call, The Reset Button.

As Mr. Gungor began to unveil the secrets of: how men and woman think; the whys of what they do; the five key points to sex; and how to stay married, our couples in the sessions came alive with curiosity and understanding.

The days began with breakfast, brisk walks throughout the property and then onto the sessions. The evenings were purposely set aside for free time so the couples could enjoy time together. By the time our sessions were finished the couples had a much better understanding of their spouses. It was a very Powerful and Inspirational Weekend for all.

Sign up for the next Strong Bonds weekend!

The 171 ARW Chaplain Office is offering a weekend enrichment retreat for twenty married couples. The military member will be provided travel pay and per diem for the weekend. That’s hotel accommodation, food and mileage all paid for! All you have to do is fill out the registration form. This is a first come first serve process. The sooner we receive your information the better.

What is the Strong Bonds program?

Strong Bonds is a chaplain-led program for commanders which builds relationship resiliency. The Strong Bonds mission is to increase Airmen and Family readiness through relationship education and skills training.

Attendees voluntarily participate in a Strong Bonds offsite retreat format designed to maximize relationship training impact. The retreat or “getaway” provides an emotionally safe and secure training environment in which to address the effect of military lifestyle stressors.

Four Strong Bonds programs applied to the Air Force Generation cycle help Couples and Families to thrive in the turbulence of the military environment.

This is not marriage counseling, this is a marriage enrichment program.

When: August 12, 13 & 14, 2011

Where: Seven Springs Resort & Spa,
Seven Springs PA

The first class will be on Friday, August 12 at 6 p.m.

The last class will be scheduled for a tentative release for Sunday, August 14 at 4 p.m.

You will have free time in the evening for you and your spouse. Seven Springs has many wonderful places to dine, shop or just kick back and relax.

Please email your registration to rich.

ward@ang.af.mil by close of business June 10.

If you cannot email registration by June 10 please contact the chaplains office for further instructions, by calling 412-776-7885.

101 Critical Days of Summer Campaign has begun

by Staff Sgt. Ivyann Castillo

The Memorial Day weekend began the U.S. Air Force's yearly safety program that highlights everyday and high-risk outdoor activities as well as promotes assessing and mitigating the risk before doing these activities.

"The campaign tries to be successful in raising awareness and reducing mishaps that can cause injuries or fatalities," states Lt. Col. Jeffrey Jones, chief of wing safety, 171st Air Refueling Wing.

"It focuses on reminding our Airmen the importance of every day routine tasks and outdoor activities where people overlook safety and become complacent," said Jones.

Such high risk and every day activities include grilling, boating, cell phone usage while driving and motorcycle riding.

"For example, in regards to grilling, this safety program addresses that you should grill on a non-wooded surface that isn't near your house because the potential of a fire increases," stated Jones.

"Another recreational activity is boating or fishing," said Jones. "Boating and alcohol are a pair that should obviously not be together, however Airmen should ensure there are life vests, flares and proper lighting before they go on-board."

Another target activity that is a common place for everyone is cell phone usage while driving.

"A driver is 36 times more likely to get into an accident while texting," pointed Jones.

In addition, according to a study by the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety, found that allowing hands-free phones is likely to have little or no effect on safety while driving. It is the actual conversation that is the distracting element, not the phone itself.

A video team from the National Guard Bureau came to the 171st Air Refueling Wing May 26 to film a training video that will be used to standardize how the Logistics Compliance Assessment Program and Quality Assurance inspectors conduct personnel evaluations throughout the Air National Guard and the Air Force.

171st members played a major role by being filmed demonstrating proper procedures in their specific career fields and assisting in writing the script.

"The 171st was chosen for the filming of this video because the maintainers and logistics personnel are known throughout the ANG for their professionalism and dedication to the mission. This video is not just a training product that the ANG will be using, but also the entire Air Force. It will be available to the entire DOD. We knew that the 171st would step up to the challenge of creating a high quality product that would represent the Air Force," said Senior Master Sgt. Jenny, director of the video project. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Shawn Monk)

Some of these items are common sense practices, however as Jones stated the 101 Critical Days of Summer program constantly reminds Airmen of these safety measures since they are easily forgotten.

Every year the campaign focuses on a high-risk activity that is a concern down in Washington D.C. 2011 is the year of motorcycle safety. With temperatures becoming seasonably warmer, most motorcycle riders would use this mode of transportation for every day use and/or recreation.

A memorandum by Gen. Phillip Breedlove, vice chief of staff and Mr. Terry Yonkers, assistant secretary, Installations, Environment and Logistics out of Washington D.C., stated motorcycle fatalities increased 150% since January of this year compared to the same period last year.

The memorandum also pointed out that there were six accidents where one has a permanent total disability and the other five were fatal mishaps, all involving the driver losing control of his motorcycle.

"Here at the 171st as well as being in the Air National Guard in general, our motorcycle riders are more mature," said Jones. "We try to emphasize motorcycle safety through briefings and handouts that focus on inspecting their motorcycles, helmets, wearing gloves, long pants, shoes without laces and reflective gear."

"The 171st Safety Office's mission is to provide people, capabilities, guidance, programs, tools, education and training that enable commanders and Airmen to effectively manage risk and to preserve the full spectrum of our capabilities," stated Jones.

The campaign ends after the Labor Day weekend.

According to Jones, any Airmen, commander or supervisor in the unit can visit the safety office if they have any questions or need additional resources or information on this campaign.

"Bottom line, we want zero accidents, zero injuries and zero fatalities, so every Guardsmen will be home safe every night," said Jones.



Fire Department conducts Semi-Annual MSA Fire Drill

by Staff Sgt. Ivyann Castillo

At 9:05 a.m., a call was received at the fire department: “HELP! My vehicle crashed into a building and it’s on fire!” yelled Technical Sgt. Kevin Thompson, on the other end of the line. “My buddy is trapped and he needs to get out!”

At 9:11 a.m. the first emergency vehicle, Chief II, the command truck, responds and begins setting up a perimeter with the other emergency vehicles to begin putting out the fire to rescue the victim.

In addition, the Allegheny County Fire Department also responded as mutual aid for any needed back up support.

This simulation begins the semi-annual Munitions Storage Area, MSA Fire Drill where a crew of nine fire fighters is evaluated on response time, emergency skills, rescuing and first aid.

In full firemen gear, they carried the hoses from the truck to the scene. Within minutes the fire was put out, the victim was saved and taken to a medical facility and the exercise ended.

“Overall the crew did well and accomplished everything they needed to do,” said Master Sgt. Darin Beckes, deputy chief, who was one of the evaluators.

“Most of the crew members are young, first-timers in this type of exercise environment, and they did a great job” said Beckes.

“We do conduct several different types of exercises and like all the other exercises this one is important because it involves fire and ammunition,” continued Beckes. “There are different types of obstacles to overcome.”

“It is also good to have interaction with our Allegheny County Fire Department counterpart since they actually respond to the base during the week,” stated Beckes. “It’s nice for our guys to get to know them.”

“Now with the winter season over, we will be administering more drills to always be ready for a real-world emergency,” said Beckes.

“vPC-GR Basics”
electronic Learning
Tool (eLT)



New for Air National Guard (ANG) and Air Force Reserve (AFR) members...The “vPC-GR Basics” electronic Learning Tool (eLT). The first in a planned series of web-based interactive courses being developed for transformed personnel processes, this course gives you an overview of the virtual Personnel Center – Guard & Reserve (vPC-GR). It shows, through guided simulations, how to establish an account, use the dashboard, and manage action requests/work. vPC-GR provides the ANG and AFR online services for submitting personnel action requests, coordinating requests, and managing cases.

The eLT is available via the Advanced Distributed Learning Service (ADLS) website (<https://golearn.csd.disa.mil>). View it by going to the “Course List” page, where it’s found under the “Miscellaneous” category.

Any questions or comments on the course should be directed to NGB/AIXT, Mrs Alison Dougherty, email: alison.dougherty@ang.af.mil



The 171st Fire Department hosts the Ohio Valley Fire Defense Mutual Aid Meeting May 19. The unit conducts a training class on KC-135 fire suppression for the mutual aid fire departments in the organization and provides aircraft familiarization. 78 firefighters from 18 fire companies take advantage of the event.

Tech. Sgt. Gary Shannon discusses rescue procedures of injured passengers via the over the wing emergency exit on the KC-135 with members from Moon, Imperial & Oakdale Volunteer Fire Departments. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Ann Young)

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

CONGRATULATIONS!



Scott T. McKenzie



Lauren N. Pullet
Robert L. Jones



Paul E. Topka
Sheldon A. Williams Sr.
Brandon T. Marree
Terry L. Jones Jr.
Mark A. Todd



Jenna M. Heinen
Kyle B. McCormick

Father's Day Weekend opportunity!

WHAT: Father's Day Celebration Day Camp

WHO: 25 Pennsylvania National Guardsmen's children (ages 6-12), and their father, step-father or grandfather

WHERE: 300 Tanker Road, Coraopolis, PA

WHEN: June 18, 2011 noon -5 p.m.

To register please visit www.jointservicesupport.org/events/KioskRegistration.asp

If you need assistance with registration, please call Mrs. Paula LaFlame, Assistant PAANG SYC, at 717-861-2650.

Activities include games, lunch and much more.

Burghers' Beat... "What is your dream/favorite vacation?"



Staff Sgt. Shayla Pollard, Recruiting

"I would have to say my trip to the Virgin Islands. I brought back keychains and rum for members of the recruiting office."



Staff Sgt. Ron Luciano, Civil Engineering

"Probably a nice house by the beach in Puerto Rico."



Tech. Sgt. Lisa Custer, Chaplains' office

"I would like to take a balloon ride over the Serengeti."



Master Sgt. Rick Costolo, Communications

"I am looking forward to my first annual family vacation in North Carolina, as well as future ones."

(U.S. Air Force photos by Staff Sgt. Sara Kaufmann)

Retiree Office
300 Tanker Road #4210,
Coraopolis, PA 15108-4210
(412) 776-7587 FAX: (412) 776-7441
george.manown@ang.af.mil, gmanown@gmail.com

The next 171st /112th luncheon will be on Monday, 18 July 2011, at Hoss's.

Jim Fuchs told me that the 112th reunion held at the 911th Open Mess, on the 112th day of the year, was a great success.

We extend our sympathies to the friends and family of Major Richard "Dick" Gipson, and MSG Eugene P. Francesconi who both passed in May 2011. These men served faithfully until their retirement from the 171st Air Refueling Wing.

Congratulations to our most recent retiree, TSG Allen J. Augustine. Welcome to the ranks of retirement, and if we can be of any assistance to you, please give us a call.

Recently, I received a call from the son of a retiree who just passed away.

This call jogged my memory of a guest speaker we had last year at one of our luncheons. He was from the Casualty Assistance Office, located over at the 911th. These gentlemen can help you through the paperwork necessary to get any benefits that are due to your family.

Items you will need to have on hand when meeting with these gentlemen are:

Your DD Form 214, marriage certificate, divorce decree, and children's birth certificates if under the age of 22. These documents are requested by the VA at time of applying for benefits.

The names of these gentlemen are Martin W. Patterson and Hugh Kays. Their phone numbers are (412) 474-8558 or 8559. I talked to Martin today, and he assured me they are there to help.

Don't pass up on benefits you earned by serving your country. Give them a call.

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

CAMPS FOR MILITARY KIDS



Camp registration for Warrior Teen Weekend, OMK Hero Camp, and Teen Odyssey Week is now open to all military children regardless of parents' deployment status. Links and information can be found below:

Warrior Teen Weekend

Ages 13-17

June 23-27, 2011

Ft. Indiantown Gap, Annville, PA

Registration Fee: None

<http://guest.cvent.com/d/fdqysl>

Teen Odyssey Week

Ages 13-17

July 17-23, 2011

Camp Outdoor Odyssey, Boswell, PA

Registration Fee: \$15/camper

<http://guest.cvent.com/d/fdqyxd>

OMK Hero Camp

Ages 8-12

July 17-23, 2011

Camp Outdoor Odyssey, Boswell, PA

Registration Fee: \$10/camper

<http://guest.cvent.com/d/kdqy3n>

Please call, toll free, 877-489-13EXT (877-489-1398) if you have difficulties with the above links.

Scholarship opportunity

Pennsylvania National Guard Scholarship applications are now being accepted and must be submitted no later than June 30, 2011. Two \$1000, two \$500, and as many \$400 scholarships as there are funds to support will be awarded. Air and Army National Guard members who are students beginning, or currently attending a 4-year degree program are eligible to apply. A short essay concerning future military plans is required for submission. Applications and guidelines are available in the Retention Office, your unit's orderly room or from the Steelweb.

Remember to also apply for Educational Assistance Program through your Unit Training Manager. Deadline for EAP is also June 30, 2011.