



'Guard'ian Angels work among us

1st. Lt. Chris Preffer
Public Affairs

Approximately an hour after finishing a physical fitness test and settling into his chair to enjoy a burger burn lunch in operations, a fellow 171st boom operator said to Master Sgt. John Gift, "I'm not feeling well."

"You don't look well," Gift said, and he left the room to get the boomer a glass of water.

"I had a very brief conversation in the hallway," Gift said, "and when I returned a minute later, he was laid out on his desk, as blue as my lunch bag."

Gift's buddy had suffered a massive heart attack in that short time and was in cardiac arrest.

"Call 9-1-1!" Gift shouted as he laid his wingman on the floor and immediately began CPR.

Lt. Col. Joseph Olszewski, a 146th Air Refueling Squadron pilot, heard Gift's call for help and rushed into the office to provide assistance.

"As I got there, Gift was over him trying to establish an airway, because at that moment, he wasn't breathing," Olszewski said. "As I ran out of the room to get the defibrillator, Lt. Col. (Dr.) Robert Donley, of the 171st Medical Group was coming in."

All three men -- Gift, Olszewski and Donley -- worked wildly to get air into their patient's lungs and re-establish a heartbeat.



One of the many AED's located on the base to be used in an emergency. provide self aid and buddy care to a fellow crew member who collapsed and was in cardiac arrest during the July unit training assembly. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Ann Young)

"We started compressions, and it seemed as if he was coming back," Olszewski said. "Then, he'd go back under and then come back again. His face would get color back in it, and a pulse would show up on the machine [defibrillator], but then he would go back under."

Everyone in the building scrambled to help by contacting local paramedics and providing assistance to the three men performing CPR.

When Senior Airmen John Kovacic and Brandon Montrey, both 171st firefighters and local paramedics, heard the command post paging medical group commander Col. William Post over the base's public broadcast system, they sensed trouble.

"Senior Airman Kovacic and I were returning to the firehouse when we heard the call go out for Col. Post to report to operations," Montrey said. "At the same time,

"THIS IS ONE OF THE MOST REMARKABLE SAVES I'VE EVER HEARD ABOUT."
-BRIG. GEN. ROY E. UPTEGRAFF III, WING COMMANDER

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Highlight professional education

Brig. Gen. Roy Uptegraff, Wing Commander

Last month, I once again attended a steering committee meeting for the Air National Guard's Strategic Planning System (SPS). The 2013 Program Objective Memorandum (POM) was due that week. As some of you are aware, the POM provides a detailed and comprehensive projection of the proposed programs, including a time-phased allocation of resources by program. In addition, the Air National Guard may describe important programs with no or partial funding in the POM, and assess the risks associated with the shortfalls.

We now live in an age where such discussions and POM submittals are sensitive with many of the senior leaders in the ANG signing non-disclosure statements. It is hard to think about any direction to take when one hears concern over a grim forecast for resources in fiscal year 2013; but no details can be disclosed.

I will never cease to be puzzled by the way we do business, but it is what it is to the American public and us. Then, several weeks later, both Gen. McKinley and Lt. Gen. Wyatt delivered their statements to the House Armed Service Committee Subcommittee on personnel concerning the reserve components as an operational force.

General McKinley stated, "The National Guard currently provides 35-40 percent of the Army and Air Force operational force for less than seven percent of the base defense budget – precisely the type of efficiency the Department of Defense is seeking."

Lt. Gen. Wyatt recognized this and added, "But we also know that in today's uncertain world cost alone is not sufficient; the Air National Guard must also be ready and accessible if it is to be effective. For the Air National Guard to be effective, it must have equipment capable of performing the mission and able to integrate seamlessly into joint operations. Our Airmen must also be capable of performing the mission through training and professional education."

So here is where I am going with this: We have to do an even better job than what we are doing today to prepare our Wing for operations in an even tighter budget environment than what we have now. Every Airman can help meet this requirement.

Lt. Gen. Wyatt mentions professional education, and I am concerned a number of our Airmen are not following through on their career development with education. Recently we had a small number of officers get passed over on a promotion board. Those who were passed by lacked the requisite professional military education certificates required for the next grade. This also occurred last year. We continue to interview applicants for NCO positions on the base, but many candidates could not pin on a new stripe for similar reasons.

My concern is that if we do not develop our Airmen's education in a timely manner, they will miss the opportunities ahead, and someone else will take their place. I urge commanders, chiefs, first sergeants and peers to work harder to ensure our Airmen are ready to serve at the next level.

We have the enlisted grades review approaching in January. Our end strength is always in question. Please don't get caught short by not taking care of your personal requirements to progress. We need you for our future. We need your leadership backed by the operational experience you have already gained. Professional Military Education is not that difficult. The hardest part is signing up for it. It does take time, but everyone at the level above you is proof it can be done.

Lt. Gen. Wyatt said it to Congress, and I will say it to you: America will need the Air Guard now more than ever in an era of a shrinking military budget. Do all you can to be prepared when the next call to duty comes. Your service is vital and is revered by a very grateful nation. Lean forward.

Commander's CORNER



I Thank You

Chief Master Sgt. Vic Guerra, Command Chief

In my first article back from being deployed, originally for Operation Odyssey Dawn, and then continuing on to Operation Unified Protector, I'd like to thank all of our Airmen who deployed from the start and stood up what became the 313th Air Expeditionary Wing as well as those who followed on and those continuing to deploy in support of the operation today. Thank you for your dedication and service.

I'd also like to thank another group that, although didn't deploy with us, is every bit a part of our 171st family and contributes to our success. Their dedication, support, commitment and patriotism is every bit as important as that from the Airmen in our Wing. I'm talking about our spouses, children, parents, significant others, friends, relatives, neighbors, communities and employers who support us.

An Airman's deployment is a family's deployment. Those we leave behind when we deploy have to deal with those things we took care of or helped out with when at home. Doing things with/for the kids, house work, yard work, working on the car are but a few things that come to mind.

There are things that we sometimes take for granted when we're home, but need to find a solution for when we deploy. It seems things wait until we deploy to breakdown, adding additional stress to both those at home and those deployed. Thank you to all the family and friends, for without your support, we couldn't accomplish our mission whether we're deployed or here at home.

And let's not forget the help and support we received from unit members back home. We relied on them for finding out information, working and addressing issues, and shipping over items we needed or forgot (we did leave rather quickly). We wouldn't have been as successful without that help and continuous support.

We were the lead unit for this operation, and I couldn't be more proud of that fact. We landed and hit the ground running. We had no notice or pre-coordination, but quickly formed a Wing that grew to nearly 1,000 Airmen at one point; a true total force made up of Guardsmen, Active Duty and Reservists from over 21 wings across the Air Force. And we had great support from the 496th Air Base Squadron who not only relied on their own Airmen, but from Airmen across Europe, to include the 1st Combat Communication Squadron. We couldn't have done it without them. Thanks to all of them as well.

Many of our Airmen really stepped up and showed us what they are capable of when the pressure's on. They did a great job pulling everything together and making it work, and it wasn't easy.

The hours were long and there were many obstacles to overcome, but they got the job done. And we couldn't have done it without the relationships we built throughout the wing, with the host unit and host nation. Many of those relationships will be life-long ones. It was truly a team effort, and one I won't quickly forget.

To all members of the 171st, whether you've recently returned home from deployment or have been home for a while and those retired as well, I ask that you join me, and take the time to thank your family and friends for their support, as you support and serve our country. We shouldn't underestimate how important their continuing support is to completing our mission, or how important it is to let them know how much we appreciate them by saying "Thank You."



Briefs FYI

Public Affairs Guidance

As a reminder to all unit members, if you are contacted by a reporter or civilian news organization, be sure to refer any questions or requests to the 171st Public Affairs Office. Contact information is listed below for your convenience.

Phone: 412-776-7350
E-mail: 171.ARW.PA@ang.af.mil



With the end of the fiscal year quickly approaching, unit members should inspect their uniforms for serviceability. If you need replacement clothing, to include ABUs, blues, or PT items, please bring a Wing Form 6 to Clothing Issue so they can be put on order prior to September 1.

Please keep in mind that funds are limited so plan accordingly. Remember all items are on a one for one exchange basis.

Estimated pay date for the August UTA:
August 15

Estimated pay date for the July SUTA:
August 24

"Editorial Staff"



Brigadier General Roy E. Uptegraff, III, Commander

171st Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs Office: Capt. Dicie Hritz

171 ARW/PA, 300 Tanker Rd. # 4205, Coraopolis, PA 15108-4205

Comm: 412-776-7350, Fax: 412-776-7845

171.ARW.PA@ANG.AF.MIL

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258th salutes squadron's heroes

1st Lt. Christopher Preffer

Public Affairs

During July's drill, the 258th Air Traffic Control Squadron recognized 30 members at its Hometown Heroes Salute (HHS) ceremony for their service in a deployed environment of more than 30 days since September 11, 2001.

"The ceremony happened at the perfect time, because we recently had members return home," said 1st Lt. John Dwyer, Chief of Air Traffic Control Operations for the 258th. "The Hometown Heroes Salute is a wonderful way to honor our troops and their families."

1st Lt. Dwyer deployed to Lajes Field, Azores, for 45 days during 2003. He deployed again with the 108th Air Refueling Wing's Aircraft Maintenance Squadron of the New Jersey Air National Guard to Incirlik AB, Turkey, for 45 days during 2005 and again in 2007.

Brig. Gen. Roy Uptegraff, 171st commander, hosted the annual event with Maj. Joseph Hensley, commander of the 258th. Additional notable attendees from our state leadership included Maj. Gen. Stephen Sischo, Brig. Gen. Jerry Beck, Brig. Gen. Walter Lord, Brig. Gen. John Murphy, and Command Sgt. Maj. Nicholas "Chip" Gilliland.

Congressman Mark Critz's office was represented by Mr. Miles Palasze who thanked the Airmen and their families for their service and sacrifices during the past decade.

July's HHS is the 258th's first time to honor its deployed members. Future celebrations will honor members who were deployed from 180-364 days.

171 SFS completes first taser training

Tech. Sgt. Stacy Gault

Public Affairs

The 171st Security Forces Squadron completed the unit's first TASER training allowing Airmen to carry an additional nonlethal weapon while on duty.

A TASER gun is a weapon that releases two probes into a suspect, causing neuro muscular incapacitation from an electric current and disabling a person for five seconds.

Used by Air Force security forces personnel since 2002, the weapon allows Airmen to hinder a suspect without using deadly force.

"It's another tool in the tool box," said Tech. Sgt. Robert Swartzwelder, the training instructor.

"Our Airmen are constantly on the go, be it overseas or at home station," said Lt. Col. Chuck Perrott, deputy mission support group commander and former commander of the 258th ATCS. "This ceremony is a fitting way for the nation to say 'thank you' to our troops and especially their families for the support and dedication they have to our nation's cause."

Each Hometown Hero received a framed thank-you letter and coins from Air National Guard Director Lt. Gen. Harry M. Wyatt III. In his letter, he states, "In times of war and national emergency, our nation relies on the skilled Airmen of the Air National Guard to defend freedom around the world. Citizen-Airmen are vital to our states during natural disasters and civil unrest. This dual role -- both federal and state -- has served as a source of great pride among Guard members for generations."

To qualify for a tier one award, Air National Guard Airmen on contingency orders, for 30 or more consecutive days, must have been deployed overseas or employed at home station, inside or outside of the Continental United States.

The Squadron hosted an after-party dubbed the 258th Family Day for unit members and their families at the conclusion of the HHS ceremony. Bagels, Smiley Cookies and a multitude of other great food was supplied by Back Alley Productions, a Pittsburgh based non-profit organization that enlisted the support of many community partners.

"Our Hometown Heroes Salute ceremony was a lot of work, but well worth it," said Master Sgt. Rebecca Lechner, 258th Recruiting and Retention NCO. "It was wonderful to finally recognize our members and their families for the sacrifices they made during deployments."



A member of the 171st Security Forces Squadron reacts to the shock from a TASER gun on his body during the squadron's initial training on the weapon. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Stacy Gault)

SEE TASER ON PAGE 6

FROM GUARDIAN ON PAGE 1

the phone in the firehouse was ringing. In my experience, that's a really good indication that something's wrong."

Montrey grabbed their "house [medical] bag" and their AED and ran to operations to relieve the three men, who had acted so quickly on their wingman's behalf.

"It's all really a reflex for me," Montrey said. "We [paramedics] have to maintain many [cardiac] certifications, and that's really why paramedics were put into the field, for cardiac arrest situations. Airman Kovacic is also a paramedic, so I knew he – being at the patient's head – would control the airway, which freed me to work the rest."

Robinson Township paramedics arrived and transported the patient to Allegheny General Hospital. Airman Montrey volunteered to ride along to assist with care on the way.

"During the ride to AGH, we were talking with the patient and asking questions," Montrey said. "Did you pass your PT test?"

"Yes, I passed," he replied, which was a great sign, according to Montrey.

"Any time you can get a patient to respond to your questions and answer them correctly, you know he'll be fine," Montrey said.

When they arrived at AGH, a doctor pulled Montrey

aside and said, "What is this? I thought we were getting a cardiac arrest patient? This guy is talking!"

And, he was. He was chatting with hospital personnel – a highly irregular feat for patients who suffer cardiac arrest, according to paramedics and AGH staff.

A concerned crowd gathered in the waiting area, including the airman's wife, who was surrounded by more than 50 members of her 171st family.

"When the cardiologist came to talk to the family members only, she replied, 'This is his Guard family. You'll talk to all of us,'" recalled Col. David MacMillan, operations group commander.

MacMillan recounted that the AGH cardiologist said, "Any longer, and he would have suffered major heart and brain damage."

"Thank God they [171 ARW wingmen] took immediate action and followed their training," MacMillan said.

"This is one of the most remarkable saves I've ever heard about," said Brig. Gen. Roy E. Uptegraff III, 171st commander. "Absolutely awesome job by all!"

Four days later, our patient was released from AGH and sent home to recover at home with his family.

"These guys [John Gift, Joseph Olszewski, Robert Donley, John Kovacic, Brandon Montrey and Bill Post] are my guardian angels," said the boom operator's wife. "Thank you, thank you, thank you to our entire Guard family. You all made it bearable."

FROM TASER ON PAGE 5

Before carrying a TASER, security forces members are required to complete an extensive training course that includes classroom education, target practice with the TASER and voluntary exposure to the shock.

A TASER uses 0.0036 amps of electricity controlled by a digital pulse controller that doesn't allow a continuous current, but instead small sprinkles of electricity.

For comparison, a wall outlet conducts 16 amps of current and holiday lights use one amp.

Schwartzwelder said half of an amp can kill a person and the TASER's 0.0036 is nowhere near a half. He added the victim never feels the full shock because the digital pulse control provides much smaller doses sporadically.

"There is a 100 percent injury reduction of the suspect," said Schwartzwelder, who is also a Pittsburgh Bureau police officer where he conducts TASER training as well.

It doesn't eliminate all risk for injury, because when someone is hit with a TASER, he or she is susceptible to suffer bumps and bruises from falling to the ground.

During the training, the exposure to a TASER is com-

pletely voluntary by the participants. Schwartzwelder said even though it's not mandatory, there are many benefits to Airmen getting TASERed.

"They understand muscular incapacitation, and what the subject is experiencing when they are hit by it and what their limitations are," he said.

He explained the whole purpose of the TASER is to affect the central nervous system, the brain center, which will cause a change in behavior.

"There is a level of pain, but most people complain about the inability to act because it locks up their muscles," Schwartzwelder said.

Schwartzwelder added Airmen also understand that there are no lingering effects after the shock is over, and the subject can be ready to go again after the five second cycle. It's important to detain the suspect during the short period he or she is immobile.

"The TASERS are safer for both the suspect and the security forces members and allow another level of force during a situation," Schwartzwelder said.

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



Retention Corner

Master Sgt. Don Schauer

Tech. Sgt. Elizabeth Simoneau

Student Loan Repayment Changes

In a memo from the National Guard Bureau, DFAS Limestone, in accordance with IRS guidance, will now be deducting a flat rate tax of 25% from all student loan payments. The payment that is applied to the member's loan will still be calculated as 15% or \$500 (whichever is more) of the balance of each loan LESS the 25% tax. For example, if your payment is calculated to be \$1,500, \$1,125 will be applied to your loans and \$375 will be withheld for taxes. The flat rate tax deduction will be reflected on the member's SLRP W-2, which should be available through myPay at the end of the calendar year. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the Retention Office.



Help Wanted

Admissions Liaison Officer

Applications are being accepted for Admissions Liaison Officers for the Air Force Academy and Air Force ROTC in Pennsylvania. There are additional duty positions for ANG and AFRC commissioned officers allowing candidates to earn additional retirement points and occasional man-days. Work with sharp students in high schools and colleges/universities in your neighborhood. Also offers an opportunity to advertise the ANG! One-week paid TDY to the Air Force Academy for initial training and then once every four to five years for a refresher course. Contact Lt. Col. Dave Palmer, 193rd Special Operations Wing at DSN 423-2202 on UTA weekends or 301-836-7166, DSN 278-7166 during the week, or cell 570-498-6637 for more details.

Pilots Wanted

The 171st is accepting applications for traditional pilots until August 31. Selected applicants will be going to pilot training in FY 13. Applicants should not be older than 29 in FY 13. Applicants also need to have passed the AFOQT and either have a bachelors degree or be within 1 year of finishing their bachelors degree. If you are interested please contact Tech. Sgt. John Frazier at 412-776-7494 to begin the process.

Welcome New Recruits

Ed Costantino

Linda D'eramo

John Jochum

Benjamin Lehman

Alicia McCoy

Andreanna Price

Matthew Reed

Michael White

Congratulations on your promotion!

Promotion to Airman 1st Class

Connor P. Shanley

Matthew T. Roell

Samuel J. Patrick

Nicole E. Luben

Promotion to Senior Airman

Corey S. DeMaiolo

Eric J. Kizina

Zachary K. Young

Andrew P. Mihalik

Paul J. Overly

Michael T. Dugan

Lucas T. Sedar

Jeremy M. Shoup

David D. Hutchinson

Ryan S. Miller

Thomas J. Maloney

Promotion to Staff Sgt.

Robert L. Ryden

Nicholas R. Moschetta

Dale A. Yard

Matthew K. Ford

Tiffany A. Farabaugh

Emile S. Khoury

Promotion to Tech. Sgt.

Rodney J. Lockwood

Jill T. McKenzie

Frederic C. Underwood

Promotion to Master Sgt.

Brian K. Chichester

Promotion to Chief Master Sgt.

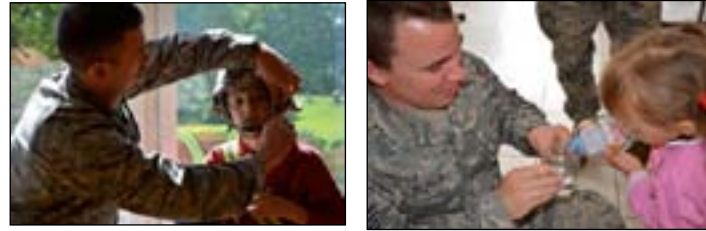
John L. McCoy

Pabradė Orphanage Outreach Visit

By Sgt. Matt Jones and Staff Sgt. Ted Nichols
Pennsylvania National Guard Public Affairs

On June 20th, twenty five members of the Pennsylvania National Guard (both Air Force and Army) spent the afternoon at the Pabradės Vaikų Globos Namai. Director Jolita Veronika Dubauskienė provided them with an initial briefing and tour of the facility. Seventy two children are fed and housed at the orphanage and range from ages of 4-17 years old. Through donations from American airman and soldiers, they purchased two new football (soccer) nets, two new swings for the playground, ping pong equipment and a few hand held garden tools. Along with providing help with trimming the grass and bushes, they spent the majority of their time interacting with the children. Football was their favorite sport as the children proceeded to defeat Americans in two matches. Additionally, Americans participated in 4 on 4 basketball in their gymnasium and ping pong in their recreation room.

The children provided members of the PNG with a guided tour through their living quarters. Each child was very proud to show their very clean and tidy bedrooms. Personal drawings and



pictures were hung on the wall of many of the young girls and the boys showed off their various sports medals. Refreshments were graciously provided by the staff workers in their large dining room for our members.

Americans enjoyed watching the transition of the shy and timid children turn into many laughs and happiness. Candy and small gifts were shared with the children and in return, they were presented with many crafts created by the children. By the end of this visit, the children really wanted Americans to stay longer and play. As they were leaving the orphanage in two vans, the children built a human blockade across the road and told them "Don't go", "Don't go". Americans were all touched by this show of affection.

This was truly the highlight of this trip. Members of the Pennsylvania National Guard came to Pabradė to complete a military mission, but to be able to take the extra step to give back to the local community made it very rewarding for all of the airman and the soldiers who participated in this event.

Below: Children of Pabradė Orphanage create a 'human chain' across the road trying to prevent Pennsylvania National Guardsmen from leaving after their visit. (U.S. Air Force photos courtesy of Maj. Joseph Sullivan and Pennsylvania National Guard Public Affairs)



American Heart Association's Chain of Survival can make the difference

1st Lt. Chris Preffer, Public Affairs

Senior Airman Brandon Montrey, a member of the 171st Air Refueling Wing and civilian paramedic who responded to the boom operator in cardiac arrest, credited the Chain of Survival in saving his life.

The American Heart Association developed the Chain of Survival in 1990 according to their website. This process addresses the fact that most sudden cardiac arrest episodes occur outside of a hospital, with death occurring within minutes of onset. For the chain to be effective, quick execution of each and every link is critical. With each minute that passes the likelihood of survival decreases by 7-10 percent.

The first link of the four links in the chain is early access: getting the immediate call to 9-1-1. A delay of even a few minutes could prove fatal. Master Sgt. Jon Gift was screaming for someone to call 9-1-1 from the first seconds the boom operator became unconscious at his desk.



Early defibrillation is the third link. According to the American Heart Association, CPR alone cannot fully resuscitate a person in SCA and most SCA victims are in ventricular fibrillation, which is an electrical malfunction of the heart that causes the heart to twitch irregularly.

American Heart Association studies have concluded when CPR and defibrillation are provided within eight minutes of an episode, a person's chance of survival increases to 20%. When these steps are provided within four minutes and a paramedic arrives within eight minutes, the likelihood of survival increases to over 40%.

The fourth and final link in the chain of survival is advanced care. This is paramedics and other highly trained personnel providing care, which can include basic life support, defibrillation, administration of cardiac drugs, and the insertion of endotracheal breathing tubes.



This type of advanced care can help the heart in VF respond to defibrillation and maintain a normal rhythm after successful defibrillation.

"It's amazing how well the Chain of Survival occurred," Gift said. "I want everyone to understand the importance of timing with the Chain of Survival and that each step must occur within a certain amount of time."

Next time you are in training for Self-aid Buddy Care, CPR, or defibrillators, remember this training is designed to save lives. In this situation the training was effective, but things could have been different.

"What if my conversation would have gone for two minutes longer?" Gift questioned. "The next guy could have found him dead."

Due to these heroic acts and quick decisive actions of these gentlemen, he is alive and well, all because he had 'Guard'ian angels watching over him.

AED Locations On Base

Base gym	Building 320 Fuel Cell- room 101
Medical Group Immunizations	Building 404 Vehicle Operations, customer service counter
Fire Department -response vehicle	Building 300, Room 106 - medical administration
Building 300, outside of Dining Facility in the main lobby	Building 205, main hallway
Building 107, Operations counter	Building 111, main warehouse
Hanger 302, Room 234 "MOC"	Hanger 304, Room 13
Building 302A, Hallway between crew chief lounge and 302A	

HIGH Flyer

Aircraft: 58-0084
Hours Flown: 252.1
Sorties Flown: 28

Crew chiefs: Mster. Sgt. Keith Acre,
Tech Sgt. Kevin Clancy, Staff Sgts.
Rod Salka, and Brian Thompsen