

Contrail

JANUARY 2009, VOL. 43, No. 1



FEATURES

Holiday parties wrap-up the year (Page 4)

Say: YES! (Page 5)

Remember, act and celebrate (Page 7)

NJNG to mentor troubled vets (Page 8)

AND MORE...

DEPARTMENTS

COMMANDER'S COLUMN (PAGE 3)

FITNESS CORNER (PAGE 9)

NEWS AIRMEN CAN USE (PAGE 10)

THE HUD (PAGE 11)

COVER

TAKE OFF

A 177th Fighter Wing F-16D takes off while a C-130 comes in for a landing on Dec. 6. Photo by Master Sgt. Andrew Moseley, 177FW/PA.

Chaplain's Corner: A Happy New Year Greeting: and What Was Your Resolution?

By Chaplain (Capt.) Thomas P. Ganley

Here we are in New Year 2009. I hope that your celebrations of Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanza went well.

Last month we were all in preparation for the "holiday season", which came to an end with New Year's Day. It's better to name the feast of itself, rather than grouping it as "Happy Holidays". All too often, we forget to give each its proper place.

So what do you expect the New Year to be for you? What was your 2008 like? Was it good or was it not so good? What do you plan to do to make this year: something different and something changing for your individual life, and the lives of those around you, your family and friends.

God says He gives us only "this moment" or this time. What has been in the past is past, and what will be for the future may not even come to pass. There is no guarantee that we will have anything but the "present moment", and so it is up to us

to make it the best we can.

Resolutions are usually made at this time of year with good intentions. Maybe we should try to make some "spiritual" intentions that will have more weight for us and for our neighbors. Think of all the good you received last year, and think of the times you may have failed. If you concentrate on a change that concerns the things of the Spiritual, the material will come out better as well.

Happy New Year to you all, and don't get all bent out of shape about those "resolutions" that may be broken in a day or two. Make the resolution to do better to yourself and others, and God's Blessings will come to you quicker than you may expect them. God wants us all to do well, and be good, now and forever. AMEN.

January 11 Chapel schedule

Protestant Service – 8:30 a.m.

Catholic Mass – 9:30 a.m.

Annual dental exam

The Annual Dental Exam will be completed by your civilian dentist.

Start with a DD Form 2813 from the clinic or it is available on the K drive: \FORMS\DD\2800\dd2813.pdf; have your dentist complete the form and return it to the clinic.



Lt Col Harry Hartman

Retirement Dinner



February 7th 2009
from 1800-2200

at
Harbor Pines Golf & Estates
500 St. Andrews Drive
Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08324
609-927-0006
www.harborpines.com

\$40.00 Per Guest (price includes gift)

Make checks payable to the 177th Chief's Council

Dress: Business Casual

1800-1900 Cocktail Hour, Cash Bar 1900-2200 Buffet Dinner

RSVP by 30 Jan 2009 ~ **MSgt Michelle Pierce (645-6010)**, **MSgt Diane Hess (645-6215)**, **MSgt Mike Hodsdon (645-6515)**, and **SMSgt Pete Indio (645-6063)**

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A Message from the Commander



It's important to get prepared for Operational Readiness Exercises. Units throughout the base should spend dedicated time working on the important building blocks in preparation for the Air Combat Command Inspector General's visit, which will be in the first full week of Oct. 2-8.

What the IG team is really targeting is the general things: self-aid buddy care, unexploded ordinance recognition, post-attack reconnaissance routes, putting on the mission-oriented protective posture gear. Everybody has to do those things; everybody has to be operational security smart and safety conscious.

Although it's important for the unit as a whole to practice in a complete exercise (big picture), it is paramount that we build up from the basics. This will continue until the ACC inspection, with these events in mind:

- Phase II events practice: Feb. 7
- ICC/EOC/CP/UCC Tabletop #3: March 7
- ORE Phase II #2: April 2-5
- ICC/EOC/CP/UCC Tabletop #4: May 16
- ORE Phase II #3: June 4-7
- ICC/EOC/CP/UCC Tabletop #5; MARE & EOD Exercise: July 18-19
- ORE Phase II #4: Sept. 10-13

The full calendar of exercises and inspections can be found (read only) on the 177FW intranet Y drive site at Y:_OREWing Events Calendar. Check with the ORI office in Operations.

Also, a link can be found on the intranet Website to the ACC IG Web site on the Air Force Portal.

Included on that site is an "Inspections" link, in which you can find inspection criteria, ground rules, checklists and more. Also, there are functional area breakdowns, so whatever job one may have can be understood clearly.

Let me stress that training for an ORI is important, regardless of position in an organization, and that all individual actions of an ORI, from self-aid buddy care to PAR routes and MOPP gear, can be learned by reading the Airman's Manual.

If you don't get into the Airman's manual then you may not get the required information that you will be responsible for during ORE/ORI exercises. The IG team has identified that people get stuck on items that are right there in the manual. Once you read the information in the manual, then

our exercises will connect you to hands-on experience. It will better help you perform the shelter-in-place, recognitions or buddy care.

Almost everything we do during an exercise is in the manual, but the other step is hands-on, doing it. That's why we are doing the seven exercises that are listed above, so that we can get as much experience as possible before the ORI. That's just a learning style; reading it alone is not the same as reading and doing it.

The preparation team understands that seven exercises may seem like a lot, but with eight months to go and all of the regular requirements levied on a daily basis, it is important for everyone to get at least two weeks of training in before the ORI.

Above all, don't forget to keep a positive attitude and keep a positive mindset about the tasks at hand. That energy will carry the Wing through all obstacles.

On a final note, Staff Sgt. David Martinez from the 177th Services lost his life over the New Year holiday while he was by himself. I can't stress enough that the Buddy System is ultimately important on and off the job. Take care of those around you to prevent needless accidents.

RANDALL S. KING
Colonel, NJANG
Commander

Holiday parties wrap-up the year

Photos by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, 177FW/PA

The one word that best describes this year's holiday parties is more.

More people, more children, more dancing, more prizes and most important: more fun.

First came the Annual Holiday Celebration at the Sheraton in Atlantic City on Dec. 6. With 275 tickets sold, this was a record crowd.

This was followed by a huge turnout occurred on Dec. 20 with the Annual Children's Holiday Party. Everywhere you looked in the dining hall children were playing games, watching the antics of the clown and waiting for Santa (who was a hit with children of all ages) and Mrs. Claus to arrive.

At both events everyone had a great time and it can be safely said that everyone is looking for more of the same at the coming parties this December.

Eleven more months... 🎄



Say: YES!

By Master Sgt. Laura Moyer, 177FW/LGRDMA; photo by Master Sgt. Andrew Moseley, 177FW/PA

“Senior Airman Craig,” Capt. Toni Memmelaar asked, “Have you gone to Altitude Chamber School, yet?”

“Yes, ma’am,” Senior Airman (now Staff Sgt.) Jessica Craig replied.

“Would you like to...” Memmelaar began...

“YES!” Staff Sgt. Craig said enthusiastically, before Memmelaar could finish her sentence.

At five years in the section, Craig is one of the newest members of the Intelligence Shop and one of the few who hadn’t yet flown in an F-16.

The 177th Fighter Wing Intelligence Flying Program is designed to provide Intelligence personnel a better understanding of the aircraft their unit flies. By flying on training sorties in the rear cockpit of the F-16D with a 177th aircrew, these Airmen get firsthand knowledge of the aircraft’s weapons, radar and threat systems capabilities, as well as experiencing the physiological challenges that the aircrew undergo during the various flying scenarios. Understanding this core information is vital to providing effectively tailored



intelligence products in the heat of battle.

Craig’s flight went so high she could see the sun and the moon in a clear, cloudless sky.

While flying close to his wingman, her pilot pointed out the various systems on the aircraft.

To qualify for her flight, Craig had attended Altitude Chamber training, which teaches Airmen how their body will react to high altitude hypoxic (low oxygen) conditions. Some of those symptoms may be euphoria, headache, blurred vision, or nausea. It is crucial to know how you will react so you can take corrective actions

in a timely manner. The training is a prerequisite for flying missions above 18,000 feet.

“Not only was it a great adventure in life to fly in an F-16, it was also a valuable learning experience that will help me do my job better,” observed Craig. “Plus it gave me a real appreciation for how much the pilots have to do in the cockpit.”

Staff Sgt. Craig’s advice for anyone who works with pilots: “If you get an opportunity to fly with them, GO FOR IT!”

INTEL SERGEANT SUPPORTS IRAQ MISSION

By Master Sgt. Laura Moyer, 177FW/LGRDMA

Tech. Sgt. Jamie DeCosta, an Intelligence Evaluator, recently returned from a 149-day deployment to Iraq.

While there, she acted as the NCOIC of the wing level Mission Planning Cell, supervising five enlisted personnel. Together with two officers, the Cell worked closely with American and British Joint Tactical Air Controllers, taking the Army’s daily ground troop missions and converting them to “pilot friendly” graphics for aerial situational awareness.

The Army would supply information about which routes their convoys and ground troops would be taking, then send in Explosive Ordinance Disposal teams to clear the streets of improvised explosive devices before convoys and foot patrols went in. The Cell supported 170 house raids in search of high-value insurgents, many of which were followed by live feeds from the unmanned aerial vehicles. Forty of the raids resulted in the capture of insurgents.

Tech. Sgt. DeCosta and her team worked directly with base defense analyzing base attacks looking for patterns. Based on that analysis, pilots were directed to perform fly-bys over potential target areas, which resulted in a 63 percent drop



Tech. Sgt. DeCosta is presented with the NCO of the Month award from the 332nd Expeditionary Operations Group at Balad Air Base.

in fire attacks during a three-month period. Even better, there was a two week period without any base attacks at all.

On her days off, DeCosta volunteered at the Combat Surgical Hospital at Balad Air Base, doing blood pressure readings, feedings, cleanings, changing bed linens, and talking with injured Coalition and Iraqi people and their families. Many had been injured by IEDs, convoy rollovers, gunfights, and one couple from a booby-trapped stack of firewood. Her contribution freed up doctors and medical staff to focus on critical care patients.

Asked what were the most important lessons learned during her deployment, DeCosta said that it was a very rewarding deployment, knowing that she had contributed to an important mission and helped keep ground troops safe. DeCosta also learned a lot about being a supervisor, which is something that all NCOs need to be well-versed in.

Sergeant DeCosta returned with an outstanding letter of evaluation from her superiors. Her many actions contributed greatly to the Mission Planning Cell, and left her coworkers with the expectation of high quality people deploying from the 177th Fighter Wing.



Volunteerism makes the difference

Spc. Mindy Yeon (left), Human Resource Specialist with the 119th Combat Support Services Battalion and Staff Sgt. Walter Kienzle (second from left), Combat Arms, 177th Security Forces, help students from the Sovereign Avenue School in Atlantic City prepare donated items for military members deployed overseas on Dec. 18. The "Oceans Apart, But Never Far From The Heart" care package drive was arranged by school teacher Courtney Mitchell, volunteer for the 177th Family Support office and wife of 177th Master Sgt. Dan Mitchell. Photos by Master Sgt. Andrew Moseley, 177FW/PA.



Read your Airman's Manual



Christmas day promotion

Master Sgt. Frank Spence (center) and fellow Airmen take a moment to commemorate his Christmas day promotion at Kandahar Air Field, Afghanistan. Sergeant Spence was promoted by Lt. Gen. Gary North (right), Commander, 9th Air Force and U.S. Air Forces Central. Sergeant Spence is a logistics planner deployed at Kandahar from Atlantic City Guard Base, N.J. U.S. Air Force Photo.



Hangin' with the Generals

Logistics Plans Specialist Senior Airman Suzanne K. DeFilippi (third from right) poses with (l-r): Maj. Gen. P. David Gillett Jr., Director Of Logistics, Air Combat Command; Brig. Gen. Joseph Reynes Jr., IG, ACC; Lt. Gen. Gary L. North, Commander, 9th Air Force; Gen. John D. W. Corley, Commander, ACC; unknown, and Brig. Gen. H.D. Pumbo, Commander, 380th Air Expeditionary Wing. U.S. Air Force photo.

Remember, act and celebrate

Commentary by 1st Lt. Tyrone Bess, 8th Security Forces Squadron

KUNSAN AIR BASE, South Korea (AFNEWS) -- As we celebrate the world-changing movements of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and countless other civil rights leaders, their actions resonate in the theme of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day: Remember, act and celebrate.

Remember past challenges, hurts and conflicts endured by those who came before you. Remember your own past because there lies the person you are today.

I am reminded of a quote my mother once shared with me from Louisa May Alcott: "I am not afraid of storms, for I am learning to sail my ship." Those words exemplify all Dr. King stood for.

Knowing the relentless criticism he would undergo, not only from those different from him, but also the very people he stood in the gap defending.

Standing up to continuous beatings, threats against his life and the lives of family members and enduring unjust prison sentences -- all for the right to be called equal.

Few in the military are old enough to remember seeing the violence demonstrated against nonviolent protestors during the civil rights movement.

However, we have heard of and seen video of inhumane treatment against those demonstrators and remember the bloodshed, sacrifice, attack dogs, fire hoses and determination exhibited for the right to have a drink of water, a sandwich at the local restaurant with those from all walks of life. The sacrifices were not for those who lost their lives, but for those of us who would come after.

What we do today and the lessons we're learning now are not for our benefit, but those who will follow in our footsteps.

Dr. King acted on what he believed were injustices against African-Americans. In a letter from a Birmingham, Ala. prison, Dr. King wrote to fellow clergymen. "I cannot sit idly by in Atlanta and not be concerned about what happens in Birmingham. Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." He acted as the sounding voice in a time when African-American's were barely heard. His actions could move mountains and teach us to act in defense of what we believe is right. As military men and women, we have to realize the fight has

not stopped. We have a role to act on behalf of others who do not have a voice. Those in the Middle East and Africa need our voice, our remembrance, our action. Acting on injustices is important because as the popular military saying goes: "Freedom isn't free."

Celebrate the past from which we came and the future ahead. Celebrate those who realized change was needed and despite the seeming insurmountable odds banded together to create a legacy lasting beyond their lifetimes.

Celebrate the fact that regardless of your status you are free. Free to dream, free to meditate, free to pray and free to think. These freedoms can seem so small we take them for granted not realizing how many are dying right now for the same privileges.

Celebrate that you're in a position to help make a difference and positively affect another person's life.

Even when Dr. King realized his life was coming to an end, celebration was on his mind.

He celebrated that his children and many like them would have a better life because he chose to speak on their behalf.

He chose to stand where others would not, he chose to go where others would not, he chose to see what others were afraid of and he chose to celebrate before the outcome could be seen.

The celebrations during January and February do not affect African-Americans alone; these months are for all to remember the past in order to affect the present and future, to act for what we know is right and celebrate because you know the end result is freedom and life.

There is work yet to do, so today is a day on -- not a day off. A personal challenge from me is to see who you can impact in positive ways over the next two months.

Maybe you will be a sounding voice for someone and one day there will be writings about your accomplishments. I will end with one of Dr. King's more famous quotes: "The true stature of man is not how he stands in times of comfort and convenience, but how he stands in times of challenge and controversy."

Be courageous, remember, act and celebrate. 🇺🇸



***In Memoriam
Staff Sgt.
David Martinez***

It is with deepest regret that we announce the death of Staff Sgt. David Martinez, a cook with the 177th Services Flight.

NJNG TO MENTOR TROUBLED VETS

Photo and story by Wayne Woolley, NJDMAVA/PA

New Jersey has embarked on a pioneering endeavor to help veterans who get into trouble with the law.

And the Soldiers and Airmen of the National Guard will be at the forefront of the effort launched in December through a partnership between the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, the Judiciary and the Department of Human Services, Division of Mental Health Services.

The Veterans Assistance Project will attempt to identify every former and current service member who enters the criminal justice system.

In most cases, the veteran will be assigned a mentor from the Army or Air Guard. The mentors will work with the veteran to ensure they are able to get access to mental health providers, drug and alcohol counselors and benefits specialists to tackle the underlying problems that may have contributed to the legal trouble in the first place.

"This is not a free ticket," said Col. James Grant, Director of the Joint Staff. "But this tells a veteran, 'You just did a service for your nation. We realize this may have caused changes in your life.'"

The program has already launched in Atlantic County and should expand to Union County early in 2009 and the rest of the state after that.

Recently, about a dozen senior officers and enlisted members of the Army and Air Guard underwent a day of training at the Atlantic City Armory.

They got a crash course on New Jersey's criminal justice system from Atlantic County Superior Court Judge Bernard DeLury, Jr. and Municipal Court Judge Louis Belasco.

Master Sgt. Richard Roswell, the primary trainer, led the volunteers through a number of practice scenarios. Topics included ways to motivate reluctant veterans to get the help they need to techniques for handling a phone call from a suicidal veteran.

Roswell said the program will ultimately also assist National Guard Soldiers and Airmen who may not have yet had contact with the criminal justice system but are at risk.

DeLury, who serves in the Navy Reserve as a judge advocate general, told the mentorship volunteers that men and women who are suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder or other mental health problems brought on by service in Iraq and Afghanistan deserve special attention.

"I ask you to take your collective wisdom, get into and add to their toolbox and figure how best to help them," he said. 🇺🇸



Judge Louis Belasco, presiding Atlantic County municipal court judge, discusses the criminal justice system with Veterans Assistance Project mentors. The fledgling program will allow New Jersey National Guard Airmen and Soldiers to mentor veterans who have run into legal trouble.

THE FIGHTING FALCONS by SSgt Matt Hecht

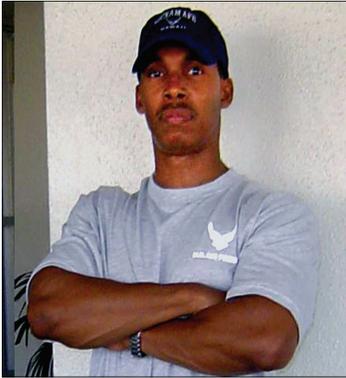


PUBLIC AFFAIRS NIGHTMARE

Matthew A. Hecht

FITNESS CORNER: WHAT WERE YOU THINKING

By Staff Sgt. Jamil Abdur-Rahman, 177FW/LGLM



If you've struggled with last year's New Year's resolutions it is mainly due to "What you were thinking" about for most of the 365 day term.

2008 is the past, and just as our new commander and chief; President Barack Obama has promised change in government.

2009 can be different from all the previous years by simply embracing the change in our thoughts.

Change is not just a matter of deciding to do something differently and it isn't beyond your reach. Any attempt to modify our habits literally requires a change in the physiology of the brain. For some people despite being presented with a myriad of facts on how much change will be benefit them, they still end up creating personal conundrums and won't make the necessary change. Do not to sabotage your God-given right in obtaining optimum health. In other words, it's time to re-think how you think!

Get out of your normal routine and start making change

now. Everything worth having requires some hard pressed decisions, determination, sacrifice, and extreme effort. Now you must be ready to create conditions for change. If you don't take action and become complacent, you'll wind up feeling tired after doing nothing but make decisions about change.

Now is the precise time to shed all the myths, fads, and decrease the reliance of over the counter and prescription weight-loss drugs. As I've said numerous times in the past, there is no Magic pill. Change of your thoughts right now will take building personal power, discipline, physical training, and proper eating plans to stave off the usual and ordinary annual diet plans that usually fail every year.

In order to obtain the necessary change to your New Year's fitness resolutions and be more productive, you must acquire the extra edge and exert more physical effort than last year in your workouts sessions. When you become aware of the power of your thoughts you will no doubt be stunned at how amazing your life has changed mentally and physically.

There are many side-effects to procrastination. But if you are ready to take a step to your new adventure and open for change you will improve in ways unimaginable. I truly believe that once take control and become actively cognizant of your efforts, you will conquer all your New Year's fitness successes.

I wish you optimum Health! 🇺🇸



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

JANUARY

Discover New Opportunities to Celebrate the Unity of Our National Guard Diversity.

- ✓ *Plan your special emphasis events for the Year of Diversity.*
- ✓ *Logon to the Year of Diversity Website*
- ✓ *Observe Martin Luther King Jr. Day*

Success, recognition, and conformity are the bywords of the modern world where everyone seems to crave the anesthetizing security of being identified with the majority.

Martin Luther King, Jr.



NEWS AIRMEN CAN USE

Compiled by the 177th Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

Contrail Photos

Contrail photos can be accessed on the Y Drive. Go to the Y Drive; type in: **Njatl14\shared\ 177 FWCC Electronic File Plan\00 Items to be Filed\PA**. Remember **copy, do not cut out** the image.

SFRC increases grants

The New Jersey National Guard State Family Readiness Council has increased the amounts of family and business grants up to \$5,000 and \$10,000, respectively.

Both are what are known as TIER I grants. TIER II family grants are also available to New Jersey Army and Air National Guard non-deployed service members who were on State Active Duty or State Missions (e.g., hurricanes, floods, border missions) for more than 20 consecutive days. Service members meeting these criteria are eligible to apply for a financial hardship grant up to \$1,500.

Applications are available at all New Jersey Army and Air National Guard Family Assistance Centers. Contact Mr. Gunning in Building 229 if you are interested in applying. 609.645.6248

Scholarship information

Financial Aid for Military Spouse Education

Scholarships, grants and assistance programs for higher education for spouses of servicemembers.

www.dantes.doded.mil/Dantes_web/library/docs/counselorsupport/FOSSM.pdf

National Military Family Association

Scholarships, rights and benefits education, deployment and family support, camps, retreats.

www.nmfa.org

Scholarships for Military Children

Scholarships for military children regardless of service-member's status.

www.militaryscholar.org

Scholarships for Military Children

Scholarships for Military Children Program provides at least one \$1,500 scholarship at every commissary location.

www.militaryscholar.org

Military pay info and web sites

Military Pay: Information about military pay, compensation, benefits, sources of assistance and easy-to-use online calculators. www.TurboTAP.org

Defense Finance and Accounting Service

www.defenselink.mil/militarypay/pay/calc/index.html

DoD Pay and Compensation

www.defenselink.mil/militarypay/index

Military Pay Calculator

www.MyPay.gov

Retirement Calculator

www.defenselink.mil/militarypay/retirement/calc/index.html

Survivors Benefit Plan

www.defenselink.mil/militarypay/survivor

PROMOTIONS

To First Lieutenant:

2nd Lt. Eric K. Johnson

To Master Sergeant:

Tech. Sgt. Christina Vidro

To Technical Sergeant:

Staff Sgt. Kirk Sherry

To Staff Sergeant:

Senior Airman Jessica Craig
Senior Airman Miracle Mays
Senior Airman Corey McPherson
Senior Airman Mary Milligan
Senior Airman Scott Sendrick

To Senior Airman:

Airman 1st Class Jeffrey Raine
Airman 1st Class Michael Walsh

To Airman First Class:

Airman Wesley Kliwinski

To Airman:

Airman Basic Anthony Foster

Airmen, become a Recruiting Assistant and for every person you recruit into the 177th Fighter Wing you earn \$2,000. Logon to <http://guardrecruitingassistant.com/> pick out Air Guard, fill out the application and you are on your way to helping someone make a great career choice and some serious cash for yourself.



THE HUD

HEADS UP ON MOVIES, GAMES, & ENTERTAINMENT

Editor's note: This month will see the addition of Sgt Hecht's movie, games and DVD reviews. In accordance with AFI 35-101 Public Affairs Policies and Procedures: 5.18.2.4: Book, radio, television, movie and other entertainment reviews are written objectively, and there is no implication of endorsement by the Department of the Air Force.

By Staff Sgt. Matt Hecht, 177FW/PA

On July 18, 2008, theatres across the country darkened, and history was made as a superhero movie set records and became one of the top-grossing films of all time.



I am, of course, talking about *The Dark Knight*, director/producer/writer Christopher Nolan's sequel to 2005's *Batman Begins*. After its record setting debut in theatres, the film continues to smash numbers in the Blu-ray and DVD markets. A week after hitting the shelves, the Blu-ray version of *The Dark Knight* sold more than 1.7 million units worldwide, including 600,000 on its first day, completely shattering all previous Blu-ray sales.

The Movie – 5/5

The Dark Knight is part two of an epically somber retelling of the Batman story. The tale picks up with Bruce Wayne/Batman's (Christian Bale) escalation of vigilantism, which has damaged Gotham City's mob bosses. A new player in Batman's Rogues Gallery arrives in town, the Joker (Heath Ledger). The Joker brings a sense of anarchy and chaos to Gotham, as he attempts to break the main players – Batman, District Attorney Harvey Dent (Aaron Eckhart), and Lieutenant James Gordon (Gary Oldman), as well as the city's criminal element. As this is playing out, a love triangle emerges between Bruce Wayne, his childhood friend Rachel Dawes (Maggie Gyllenhaal), and Dent.

The movie has great action sequences, as well as great psychological sequences that push some of the characters past their limits. The film features a fantastic performance from the late Ledger, who will be sadly missed in a potential sequel. Other notable supporting actors are Michael Caine as Alfred, Bruce Wayne's faithful butler, and Morgan Freeman as Lucius Fox, Wayne Enterprises chief executive officer. I can't recommend this movie enough for fans of superhero movies, film noir, or crime dramas.

The Supplements – 3/5

There are actually three versions of the film available, the single-disc edition, the two-disc special edition, and the Blu-ray version. Depending what kind of home theatre system you

have, you may want to choose carefully – for movie fans, the single disc edition completely lacks special features, and the two-disc edition has been criticized for the quality of its extra content – more specifically, its lack thereof. Be warned, there is no commentary track with the actors or director, and the special feature shorts are just that – short, and relatively lacking. The Blu-ray version does have several more features included, however it too has been noted as being deficient. Also, keep in mind that throughout the film there were six sequences filmed in IMAX. During these sequences, the picture will expand in the Blu-ray version, and it has been noted that this can be distracting.

For a movie that currently is the second-highest grossing movie of all time, many fans feel that the release deserved something more fitting. I personally believe within the next year we will see a second special edition version, possibly a directors cut.

2009 Entertainment Watch List

2009 is looking to be a great year for finding distractions in the theatre! The following is my must-see list for this year:

Feb. 6 – *Coraline* (Animation, Family, Fantasy) - A stop-motion animation from Director Henry Selick (*A Nightmare before Christmas*).

March 6 – *Watchmen* (Action, Drama, Fantasy) – The best-selling graphic novel turned R-rated film by Zach Snyder (*300*, *Dawn of the Dead*).

March 27 – *Monsters vs. Aliens* (Animation, Family, Fantasy) – A computer animated film from DreamWorks, the title says it all!

May 8 – *Star Trek* (Action, Drama, Sci-Fi) - J.J. Abrams of *Lost* and *Alias* fame brings us a reboot of the classic Kirk and Spock Trek.

May 15 – *Angels & Demons* (Crime, Drama, Mystery) – The sequel to director Ron Howard's *Da Vinci Code* follows Robert Langdon (Tom Hanks) on another adventurous quest to solve a murder and prevent a terrorist attack.

May 22 – *Terminator Salvation* (Action, Adventure, Sci-Fi) – Part four of the Terminator franchise finds John Connor (Christian Bale) fighting a future war against Skynet and the machines.

May 29 – *Up* (Animation, Family, Fantasy) – The next animated film from Disney/Pixar (*Toy Story*, *Cars*), it's a buddy story that takes a pair of friends from the U.S. to South America – via balloon.

June 26 – *Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen* (Action, Adventure, Sci-Fi) – The sequel will once again feature actual Air Force members and equipment. Oh yeah, and huge robots!

July 17 – *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince* (Family, Fantasy) – delayed from November 2008; the sixth Potter film finally hits theatres.

August 7 – *G.I. Joe: The Rise of Cobra* – Yes, the beloved 80s action figures are coming to the big screen. 🇺🇸

Spirit of Volunteerism



Nineteen Airmen from the 177th Fighter Wing and the 108th Air Refueling Wing, along with Fourth graders from the Seaview School in Linwood visited the Vineland Veterans' Memorial Home

on Dec. 17 where they passed out candy canes and holiday greeting cards, as well as sang and chatted with the residents. Photos by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, 177FW/PA.