

Contrail

February 2009, Vol. 43, No. 2



50 Cal
trainin'

FEATURES

ASOS Groundbreaking ushers in new era for Wing (Page 4)

Shoot 'em up (Page 5)

A word of thanks (Page 6)

African American Heritage (Page 7)

AND MORE...

DEPARTMENTS

THE HUD (PAGE 8)

FITNESS CORNER (PAGE 9)

NEWS AIRMEN CAN USE (PAGE 10)

PROMOTIONS AND AWARDS (PAGE 11)

COVER

ON TARGET

Staff Sgt. Thomas Fisher (left), 177th Combat Arms Training and Maintenance Instructor, acts as a spotter for Master Sgt. David Kovak, NCOIC 177 CATM as he fires a .50 caliber M2 machine gun at stationary targets at the Ft. Dix gunnery range, NJ on Jan. 30. Photo by Staff Sgt. Matthew A. Hecht, 177FW/PA.

Chaplain's Corner: February - A Celebration of African American History

By Chaplain Major Floyd L. White, III

The month of February celebrates African American History. It is a time to pay honor to the accomplishments of African Americans to our country.

Throughout the history of our country, African Americans have contributed through various achievements including but not limited to medicine, science, politics and military.

John Heysham Gibbon invented the first heart-lung machine in 1937 and also performed the first open heart operation – of which I am eternally grateful for – my wife Bonnie was a recipient of a heart and lung transplant on February 3, 2005.

Elijah McCoy invented the automatic oil cup, which eventually became standard equipment on most locomotives and heavy machinery; the ironing board and the lawn sprinkler.

The military has had more than its share of famous African American leaders from Crispus Attucks, American Revolution, to General Daniel "Chappie" James, first Four Star General, to General Colin Powell, the first African American Joint Chief of Staff.

The month of January ushered in the most famous African American politician in the history of our country, President Barack H. Obama. However the most fa-

mous African American in the history of the country was Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. As a young seven-year old growing up in South Carolina I remember watching Dr. King's funeral. Forty years later I had the distinct opportunity to witness the swearing in of the first African American President of the United States. It became a realization of Dr. Martin Luther King's famous quote that people should not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.

It is important that an accurate history of America cannot be complete without the inclusion and the recognition of the contributions made by African Americans. The struggle for true equality and true freedom is not yet over, it continues day by day. I am very proud to be an African American Presbyterian Minister, and one of the 177th Fighter Wing Chaplains. May God continue to bless us as we bless one another.

February Chapel Schedule

Saturday Feb. 7
Catholic Mass – 3:30 P.M.

Sunday 8 February
Protestant Service – 8:30 A.M.

Annual dental exam

The Annual Dental Exam, which is required each year, will be completed by your civilian dentist (exceptions include pilots, anyone new to this base, individuals on class three and those who have never been seen by a wing dentist).

Start by obtaining a DD Form 2813 from the clinic or it is available on the local area network (K:\FORMS\ DD\2800\dd2813.pdf); have your dentist complete the form and return it to the clinic.

The State Family Programs Office is available 24/7, call toll free 888-859-0352.

177FW Editorial Staff

Col. Randall S. King, Commander
Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen: Assistant Editor/Layout/Writer/Photographer
Master Sgt. Laura Moyer: Writer
Master Sgt. Andrew Moseley: Multimedia Manager, Photographer
Master Sgt. Shawn Mildren: Photographer
Staff Sgt. Matt Hecht: Photographer, Editorial Cartoonist
Staff Sgt. Andrew Merlock Jr.: Photographer
Staff Sgt. Jamil Abdur-Rahman: Fitness Writer
177FW/PA, 400 Langley Road, Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08234
(609) 645-6005; (609) 677-6741 (FAX), Public.Affairs@njatla.ang.af.mil

This funded newspaper is an authorized monthly publication for members of the U.S. Military Services. Contents of the Contrail are not necessarily the official view of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force. The editorial content is edited, prepared, and provided by the Public Affairs Office of the 177th Fighter Wing. All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.

177TH FIGHTER WING



Change of Command Ceremony

10 a.m., Main Hangar, 8 February 2009

The History of the Change of Command Ceremony

The Change of Command Ceremony is a military formation deeply rooted in history and tradition, dating back to the time of Frederick the Great of Prussia. In that period, military organizations developed flags with unique and specialized colors and designs.

When the soldiers followed their leaders into battle, they kept sight of their flag. If the banner still waved after conflict, it was a sign that their side had not tasted defeat on the field of battle.

Having this position of great importance, the flag was incorporated into the ancient assumption of command ceremonies. The organizational banner was exchanged in public for all to see that he who holds the flag is the unchallenged sovereign leader of the armies.

The modern-day ceremony is principally symbolic, yet it still announces to all the authority of the incoming commander in the finest military tradition.

ASOS Groundbreaking ushers in new era for Wing

By Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, 177FW/PA



Ground was broken for the 227th Air Support Operations Squadron complex at the 177th Fighter Wing, on Jan. 12 by (l-r) William Beich, Ranco Construction Program Manager; Dr. Wilson Felder, Federal Aviation Administration; Brig. Gen. Maria Falca-Dodson, Commander,

New Jersey Air National Guard; Rep. Frank A. LoBiondo, 2nd District of New Jersey; Col. Randall S. King, Commander, 177th Fighter Wing and Mira Martin, Benham Companies, Inc. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, 177FW/PA.

Ground was officially broken on Jan. 12 for the 227th Air Support Operations Squadron complex. The 34,000 square foot facility, which is located in the bivouac area behind the Civil Engineering Squadron will cost \$9.8 million dollars and will be completed in April 2010.

The 227th begins the standup process in October 2009, when it receives funding to hire personnel and order equipment. Equipment consists of more than military vehicles, conventional and satellite radios, and highly specialized laser rangefinders and combat networked computers.

The 227th, which is aligned under the 177th Operations Group will consist of 64 personnel with 14 full-time positions, running the gamut of Tactical Air Control Party, radio maintenance, administration and support.

The core part of the ASOS is the Tactical Air Control Party. The TACP is the primary Air Force advisor to the Ground Commander, coordinating and directing all airstrikes in support of Army maneuvers. A TACP is generally a two-Airman team, working in an Army ground unit and directing close air support

firepower toward enemy targets on the ground. TACP Airmen provide close-air-support aircraft guidance control to increase the capability of ground combat forces.

The two-man team comprises one Joint Terminal Attack Controller – an experienced TAC, and one radio operator maintainer and driver. Together, operating from a tactical operations center they use advanced, real-time full-motion video footage, to acquire a broader view of the battle space.

These Airmen receive training that goes well beyond that of the Army infantry. Tactical control Airmen serve as advisers to ground component commanders in planning and employing combat assets, and are the link between joint and combined forces.

Air Support Operations Squadrons deploy with and advise Army units on all aspects of air operations, to include weather and integration of air power into the Army scheme of maneuver effects on the battlefield. The unit is assigned to provide direct support for two Brigades: the New Jersey's 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team in and the 2/28 in Pennsylvania. 

Shoot'em up

By Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, 177FW/PA; photos by Master Sgt. Andrew Moseley, 177FW/PA



People get paid to do this?

Three 177th Security Forces Squadron Airmen took part in a week-long training class on the .50 caliber M2 machine gun at the Air Expeditionary Center at McGuire Air Force Base.

Tech. Sgt. Stan Carroll along with Staff Sgts. Thomas Fisher and Luis Rodriguez completed the course, while Master Sgts. David Kovak and Robert Powell surveyed the course and fired for familiarization on the M2.

"The machine gun provides a high volume of accurate fire in support of the Security Forces Air Base defense mission," says Master Sgt. David Kovak, NCOIC, Combat Arms Training and Maintenance, 177th Security Forces Squadron. "In the offensive role, the machine gun can add firepower to the assault, but it is often best employed to suppress or neutralize the objective from a base of fire."

Kovak continues: "The long-range, close defensive, and final protective fires of the machine gun provide an integral part of the defense against infantry attack. Heavy machine guns like the M2 our Airmen were trained on may also be used to destroy lightly armored vehicles or as defense against slow moving, low-flying aircraft. In addition, the machine gun is used effectively in convoy security, point defense of rear area facilities,

and other rear-area security missions."

There should be a law against having this much fun. 🇺🇸



Staff Sgt. Luis Rodriguez (left) directs an Airman on the .50 caliber M2 Machine Gun.

A letter of gratitude to the 177th Fighter Wing from the 482nd Fighter Wing Operations Group Commander

I had always known that our nation's National Guard and especially the Air National Guard had a strong reputation as team players, but on the night of Jan. 12 that reputation hit home to me like a thunderbolt.

On the night of the twelfth and the morning of the thirteenth I cemented a relationship with the 177th Fighter Wing that is based on a debt that will be extremely difficult to ever repay. The 93rd Fighter Squadron out of Homestead was two hours into their AEF deployment on their way to the Area of Responsibility when we got the word that the KC-10 scheduled to refuel the second cell of six F-16s over the Atlantic Ocean was broken and there were no spares to launch in its stead. We had briefed divert plans in case this worst-case scenario should happen, so we knew that the last place we could return to was going to be the piece of concrete called Atlantic City.

Now keep in mind, this is approximately 3 a.m. when we got the word that the six jets were on their way back. So when we tried to call and warn someone that they were about to see six unexpected F-16s there weren't a whole lot of folks to answer the phone. Eventually we were able to coordinate temporary parking at the local on-field business and the jets were safely shut down.

At 6 a.m., the 177th actions positively made my jaw drop. The first person I talked to, Lt. Col. Bradford Everman, took all of my data, processed what had transpired since our Homestead Air Force Base departure, and positively ran with it from there. As my primary go-between through the rest of the day and into the night my gratitude to him runs deep.

The jets were towed to the 119th Fighter Squadron ramp, and after the magnificent 177th maintainers heard that two of the aircraft had discrepancies upon landing, they grabbed their toolboxes and got busy. In order to get the jets to the AOR in time to let the in-place F-16 unit go home, your maintenance troops knew what they had to do to keep the deployment on

timeline. They performed some significant maintenance, to include replacing major components in the complex and potentially hazardous hydrazine powered Emergency Power Unit, and did all they could to troubleshoot what eventually turned out to be an engine problem in the second jet that would ground it for quite some time.

The 119th meanwhile cancelled the second half of their flying day with the intent of sending the maximum number of maintainers home so they could be available to launch our six F-16s that night. And it doesn't stop there.

While the maintainers were troubleshooting our jets, the 119th sent two jets and two pilots to Homestead as an out-and-back in case we needed to transfer two spare aircraft up to New Jersey to replace our broken F-16s. As it turned out, the 177th was able to fix one aircraft we ended up sending one of our F-16s with one of your pilots to New Jersey, returning one of your pilots and jets to you, and then when we finally had a pilot that could meet the crew-rest requirements, we flew the 119th jet back to Atlantic City.

Remarkable, yet so American.

Finally, the six aircraft were scheduled for an 11 p.m. launch on the night of Jan. 13. With that timeline, they could rejoin the first cell of jets and press on to AOR. Again, the 177th maintenance troops were up and ready at launch time. Unfortunately the weather was uncooperative and it delayed the takeoff for ANOTHER TWO HOURS! Your maintainers stood fast and made it happen.

Think about it, some of your brothers in arms showed up to work that morning at 6 a.m. and at 2 a.m. and the next day they were still there, serving their country, and launching F-16s for a USAF Reserve Wing they'd probably never heard of.

My name is Lt. Col. Ross R. Anderson, 482 OG/CC. If I ever meet any of your organization in an establishment that serves refreshing drinks, the first one's on me. I owe you one.

Ferguson chosen Top Airman for CONUS NORAD



Senior Airman Bradley S. Ferguson (left) a turbo jet mechanic, is coined by Col. Randall S. King, 177th Fighter Wing Commander, after Ferguson was chosen as the winner in the Airman Category for the 2008 CONUS NORAD Region - First Air Force (Air Forces Northern) Annual Awards.

According to Maj. Gen. Hank Morrow, Commander, CONUS NORAD Region, 1AF (AFNORTH), "The competition was extremely competitive and we are pleased to announce that all of our candidates represent the finest uniformed and civilian members throughout the entire NORAD and USNORTHCOM community."

He deployed to Iraq with the 174th Fighter Wing where he was commended on his engine expertise and saved valuable aircraft down time, ensuring 100 percent mission completion. His knowledge directly contributed to the overall success of the 518 combat missions the 174th performed while deployed.

Ferguson graduated from Stockton State College in 2008 earning a Bachelor in Art, majoring in Criminal Justice while maintaining a 3.2 GPA during his four years. He is the President of the 177th Rising Six Council and is active in his community as a volunteer firefighter, emergency medical technician and police athletic league basketball coach for Galloway Township. 🇺🇸

African-American heritage is American heritage

Commentary by Lt. Gen. Frank G. Klotz, Assistant Vice Chief of Staff and Director, Air Force Staff

In the 1920s, Dr. Carter G. Woodson concluded that if African-Americans were to take their rightful place in society, young Americans of all races needed to learn about African-American contributions to our history and culture.

In 1926, he launched the first Black History Week. Today, a movement that originally began in churches and school-rooms is observed across America as African-American Heritage Month.

Dr. Woodson felt African-American heritage should be remembered and celebrated by more than just one segment of the American population. African-American history is America's history, shared by and affecting all citizens of our great country regardless of background or individual experiences. The accomplishments and contributions of African-Americans to our society, to our culture and to our identity as a nation are numerous and varied. We'd be hard pressed to find any facet of American life that has not been shaped and immeasurably enriched by their knowledge, wisdom and talents.

In literature, you'll find Ralph Ellison's "Invisible Man" and James Baldwin's "Go Tell It on the Mountain" on the modern library's list of the best novels in the English language. Toni Morrison's "Beloved" won the 1988 Pulitzer Prize in fiction. Five years later, she was awarded the Nobel Prize as one "who gives life to an essential aspect of American reality."

The late Ray Charles was honored with eight Grammy Awards last year. African-Americans have pioneered sounds and styles in music that have influenced virtually every aspect of the American music scene.

Theater and film have also been greatly influenced by powerful performances by African-Americans. The late Ossie Davis received Kennedy Center honors in 2004 for a lifetime of achievement in the arts.

Beyond the arts, African-American scientists, inventors and engineers such as George Washington Carver, Elijah McCoy and Benjamin Banneker have helped unleash the tremendous resources of our country.

Yet in my mind, the most important contributions of famous African-Americans have been in the realm of political ideals and moral values. Perhaps I feel this way because my own academic training is in political history and philosophy. Perhaps it's also because my generation witnessed firsthand the vision, courage and persistence that the great civil rights leaders displayed in confronting the evils of segregation and racial inequality.

In pursuit of this noble mission, the tenets of a moral philosophy have been established that will inspire and inform Americans of all races on how to conduct themselves for gen-

erations to come. Let me suggest a few examples particularly relevant to those of us who serve in our nation's armed forces.

In his famous 1963 "I Have a Dream" speech, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said: "We must forever conduct our struggle on the high plane of dignity and discipline. We must not allow our creative protest to degenerate into physical violence. Again and again, we must rise to the majestic heights of meeting physical force with soul force."

I think the example of Benjamin O. Davis Jr.'s experience at West Point in the 1930s illustrates this point beautifully. Davis was the only African-American cadet in his class. He entered the academy mindful that no other African-American had graduated since Charles Young, nearly 50 years earlier. From the outset, Davis' classmates actively shunned him. Yet he remained resolute in his determination and did not falter.

He ultimately graduated in the top 15 percent of his West Point class; was commissioned a second lieutenant in the infantry; became the first African-American officer to solo in an Army Air Corps aircraft; commanded the famous Tuskegee Airmen who, flying fighters in the European Theater during World War II, never lost an American bomber to an enemy aircraft in more than 200 escort missions; and became the first African-American to wear an Air Force

star. His life and service so powerfully demonstrate that whatever challenge we may personally or professionally confront, we can achieve truly magnificent things if we maintain our dignity and discipline.

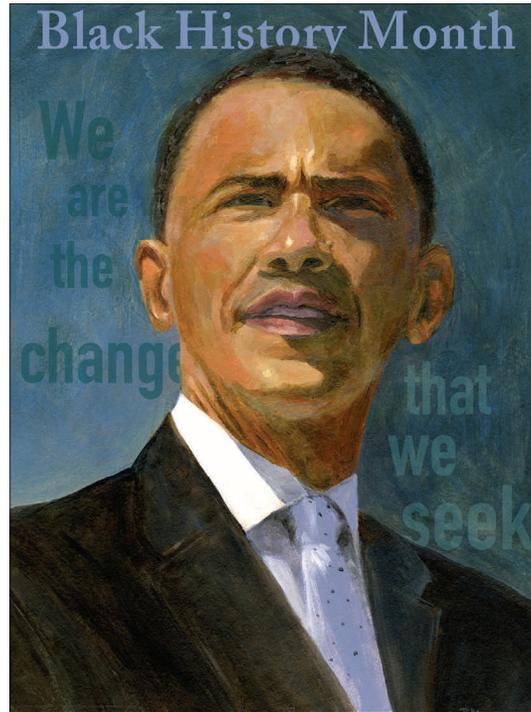
Dr. King also talked about how every job was important, and everyone should do his or her particular job to the absolute best of his or her ability. He said, "Whatever your life's work is, do it well."

His point speaks directly to us in the profession of arms. Everyone in a military organization is vitally important to the success of the mission. No job is any more or less important than any other job in our outfit. No matter what your assigned task, you should do it as if someone else's life or welfare depended on it -- because it probably does!

African-Americans have demonstrated that they were willing to fight for what they knew to be true, even at the cost of their personal safety and their lives. Through courage and self-sacrifice, they advanced the cause for equality -- individually and en masse.

During the Battle of the Bulge in World War II, when front-line troops were thinning under the German assault, a call went out to African-American units for volunteers to reinforce the lines. More than 4,000 men answered the call. Their per-

Continued on page 8



Home Theatre vs. Movie Theatre

By Staff Sgt. Matt Hecht, 177FW/PA

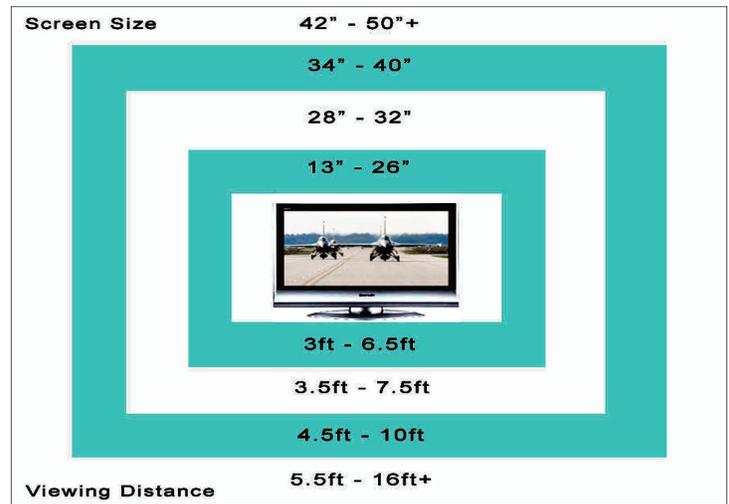
The Digital Age is upon us, and even though Blu-Ray technology is just coming out, there's a bigger, more efficient form of media that may win the format war – direct download.

Currently, you can stream movies or video clips on certain websites, but the format has always been questionable. File sizes were lowered for faster stream rates.

That is all a thing of the past. Newer, faster computers and better networks have allowed companies such as Netflix to offer streaming movies as part of their subscription package. Many South Jersey homeowners use Comcast, whose streaming technology is known as On Demand. What does this mean for the end user? The possibility is that just like MP3 players, eventually we will be in a world where the media that we own is completely digital, cutting out the disc makers.

The changes in technology have been revolutionizing the home entertainment experience dramatically. As the cost of a trip to the movies has increased, the costs of large screen TV's and peripherals have decreased. This has allowed many homeowners to create their own home theatres. Even surround sound, once a very expensive product, has seen price reductions. In today's economy, going with a home setup is cost effective, and you get the side bonus of not having to deal with some of the negatives of visiting the movie theatre, such as crowd noise, cleanliness of facilities and picture quality. With direct download quality getting better and better, it may not be long until we are able to stream new releases right to our own TV.

Any kind of threat or competition is good for business, so



movie studios are trying to up the ante, so to speak, by introducing Real D Cinema technology. On Jan. 16, the first R-Rated 3D movie, *My Bloody Valentine*, was released. Shortly thereafter, Disney/Pixar announced that all future animated releases will be in 3D. The 3D process involved in Real D Cinema eliminates the old red and green glasses for clear polarized lenses, giving the viewer a much better experience. In fact, be on the lookout for many older movies being re-released into theatres in 3D starting next year.

So if you have the money to spend, trips to the theatre are looking more and more exciting—especially for the kids. However, if times get tougher, look into home entertainment. It will save money in the long run (ticket costs, gas costs, as well as food), and will be a more comfortable experience. 🍿

African-American heritage is American heritage

Continued from page 7

formance in battle won the respect of all and drove another wedge into the barrier of segregation.

Dr. King perhaps said it best when he remarked: "There are some things so dear, some things so precious, some things so eternally true, that they're worth dying for...if a man has not discovered something that he will die for, he isn't fit to live."

This is the same kind of courage each of us in the military must possess -- the same kind of self-sacrifice that we must also be prepared to make.

We can take pride that many of these ideals are an integral part of the profession of arms. And we can take pride that the military has long been a leader in recognizing and advancing the concept of equality. It has led the way in correcting injustices, and today can rightly claim to practice the highest standards of equality and opportunity found anywhere in the land.

We'd be less than honest if we did not admit that even in today's military we still have work to do to ensure that all our

people -- regardless of race, ethnicity, gender or religion -- are treated fairly, equally and with dignity.

One of the most important keys to success in the military is mentoring -- teaching our young Airmen how to meet the unique standards we expect of them in the profession of arms. Unfortunately, experience shows that it is often difficult for some individuals to mentor people with backgrounds and interests other than their own.

Commanders and supervisors at every level must be aware of this often unrecognized barrier to full equality and ensure that all our Airmen receive the mentoring they need to reach their full potential. As military professionals, we are alike in more ways than we are different.

With that realization will come the fulfillment of the dreams of generations of courageous individuals who struggled and sometimes died to ensure that one day all Americans would have an equal opportunity to share in the blessings of our great land. 🇺🇸

FITNESS CORNER: PHYSICAL TRAINING AUDIT

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



Is the Air Force seriously undergoing a physical training reform and audit?

In 2007 Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Rodney McKinley ordered an audit to "confirm what his eyes were telling him" that far too many Airmen simply weren't keeping themselves fit. One Airman at Barksdale Air Force Base failed the AFPT 12 times in a row without receiving an AF 422,

Physical Serial Report or any form of Administrative action. So for now, expect at least two tests a year, on-the-spot surprise exams, and rules that hold commanders accountable for the results of their Airmen.

The same audit confirmed ample evidence that commanders are doing too little to enforce a culture of fitness. Too many Airmen are training just enough to pass the annual fitness test and then blowing up until it is time to take the test again. More than one third of the Airmen audited at 50 Air Force units gained an average of nine pounds and added

three inches to their waistlines, all within 60 days of taking the test.

Well, if you're dreading the time of year when you take your Annual Physical Fitness Test, start preparing for it NOW! If you've been talking about getting in shape, right now is time to stop the talk and walk the walk. It's important for all of us, despite our age, to commit to our health right now, and in doing this you will definitely set an example for those around you. If you choose this approach before the winter season disappears, you will undoubtedly yield a healthier and happier new you.

I wish you Optimum Health! 🇺🇸



FEBRUARY
Make a commitment to implement Diversity Training

- ✓ Observe African-American History Month
- ✓ Send Valentines to deployed members

The wave of the future is not the conquest of the world by a single dogmatic creed but the liberation of the diverse energies of free nations and free men.
John F. Kennedy

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

The ORI is eight months from now. Are you ready?



What do you know about EPP?

By Command Chief Master Sgt. Michael R. Francis

If you have been attending the Promotion and Awards Ceremonies, there was probably something happening that you didn't catch.

Some of the Airman getting promoted had at least one thing in common: they were being promoted under the Exceptional Promotion Program or EPP.

If you are a traditional Guardsman, you're probably thinking that this is another program that doesn't apply to me, you are wrong; it does.

If you are a traditional Guardsman holding the rank of master sergeant or senior master sergeant, you may be eligible to compete for the next rank.

There are some eligibility criteria; you must not be in excess, meet time in grade and time in service requirements and be fully qualified in your duty AFSC or fully qualified as a first sergeant. You must also complete the Senior NCO Academy (in-residence is highly desirable) and have 17 years satisfactory service toward retirement.

Finally, you must also agree to retire or be discharged

three years from being awarded an EPP position unless you are the sole occupant of a valid position equal to the EPP grade and pass the Wing level FIT Test.

So what's next? Your senior enlisted leader and Commanders recommendations and your continued exceptional performance.

If you are selected by the wing leadership you will compete with others throughout the New Jersey Air National Guard for four available positions. These could be two chief master sergeant and two senior master sergeant positions or any combination not to exceed two chief master sergeants. You are then boarded at Joint Force Headquarters by Chiefs from both NJANG units.

This selection process can occur anytime but normally is done around June. If successful your package is then sent to the National Guard Bureau and if it meets their approval, you're on your way to chief master sergeant or senior master sergeant. 🇺🇸



NEWS AIRMEN CAN USE

Compiled by the 177th Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

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

Servicemembers Civil Relief Act Overview

The Servicemembers Civil Relief Act covers all Active Duty, Reservists and National Guard members while on active duty. The protection begins on the date of entering active duty and generally terminates within 30 to 90 days after the date of discharge from active duty.

The SCRA provides a wide range of protections for individuals entering, called to active duty in the military, or deployed servicemembers. It is intended to postpone or suspend certain civil obligations to enable service members to devote full attention to duty and relieve stress on the family members of those deployed servicemembers. A few examples of such obligations you may be protected against are: outstanding credit card debt, mortgage payments, pending trials, taxes and lease terminations.

The Act expands current law that protects servicemembers and their families from eviction from housing while on active duty due to nonpayment of rents that are \$1,200 per month or less. Under the new provisions this protection would be significantly updated to meet today's higher cost of living – covering housing leases up to \$2,720.95 per month – and then be adjusted annually to account for inflation.

It clarifies and restates existing law that limits to six percent interest on credit obligations incurred prior to military service or activation, including credit card debt, for active duty servicemembers. The SCRA unambiguously states that no interest above six percent can accrue for credit obligations (that were established prior to active duty or activation) while on active duty, nor can that excess interest become due once the servicemember leaves active duty – instead that portion above six percent is permanently forgiven. Furthermore, the monthly payment must be reduced by the amount of interest saved during the covered period.

The Act prevents servicemembers from a form of double taxation that can occur when they have a spouse who works and is taxed in a state other than the state in which they maintain their permanent legal residence. SCRA will prevent states from using the income earned by a servicemember in determining the spouse's tax rate when they do not maintain their permanent legal residence in that state.

If you haven't already taken advantage of the SCRA, please look into it so that you get the full benefits allowed to you under the law. Remember that only a lawyer can advise you on legal matters.



"SIR, THEY SAID THEY WANTED TO EXPERIENCE OUR CULTURE!"

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.



PROMOTIONS AND AWARDS

To First Lieutenant:
2nd Lt. Eric K. Johnson

To Master Sergeant
Tech. Sgt. Christopher Taggart
Tech. Sgt. Christina Vidro

To Technical Sergeant:
Staff Sgt. Stanley Carroll
Staff Sgt. Robert Douglas
Staff Sgt. John Harris
Staff Sgt. Luminada Santiago
Staff Sgt. Kirk Sherry Squadron

To Staff Sergeant:
Senior Airman Jessica Craig
Senior Airman Miracle Mays
Senior Airman Corey McPherson
Senior Airman Mary Milligan
Senior Airman Gary Parks
Senior Airman Eric Scott
Senior Airman Scott Sendrick
Senior Airman Joseph Zavislak

To Senior Airman:
Airman 1st Class Jeffrey Campbell
Airman 1st Class Jeffrey Raine
Airman 1st Class Michael Walsh

To Airman 1st Class:
Airman Wesley Kliwinski

To Airman:
Airman Basic Anthony Foster

Meritorious Service Medal
Lt. Col. Bradford R. Everman
Senior Master Sgt. Eugene W.
Graziano Jr
Senior Master Sgt. Carl V. Scrivani
Senior Master Sgt. Michael T.
Wachter
Master Sgt. Stephen Rudowski
Master Sgt. Barry B. Steele

Air Force Commendation Medal
1st Lt. David Russo
Chief Master Sgt. Jean C. Perry
Senior Master Sgt. Jeanette K.
Giza
Master Sgt. Tulip A. Appleton

Master Sgt. Mark D. Porter

**Military Officers Association of
America Certificate of Apprecia-
tion for Demonstrating
Exceptional Military Leadership**
1st Lt. David Russo
Senior Airman Michael F. Sears

**Certificate of Appreciation for
Exceptional Service on Oct. 3,
2008 to Homeless Veterans Of
New Jersey**
Maj. Floyd White
Capt. Lisa M. Robinson
Master Sgt. Diane Hess
Master Sgt. Harry F. Waugh
Tech. Sgt. Katie L. Hucaluk
Senior Airman Lakesha J. Bryant

Airman of the Year
Senior Airman Bradley Ferguson

NCO of the Year
Tech. Sgt. Jaime DeCosta

Senior NCO of the Year
Master Sgt. Carl Finch

First Sergeant of the Year
Senior Master Sgt. Eugene
Graziano

Honor Guard Member of the Year
Staff Sgt. Jaime Tonkinson

177th Chiefs Award
Senior Master Sgt. Thomas
Allewelt
Master Sgt. Frank Heath
Tech. Sgt. Erica Nelson

**Employee of the Year/Special
Achievement Awards**
The purpose of the employee of
the year and special achieve-
ment awards are to recognize
177th Fighter Wing personnel
who have shown outstanding
job performance, customer ser-
vice and the ability to go over

and above the established job
requirements. These awards are
given to personnel that –
through their dedication and
effort – have made the 177th a
better and more efficient opera-
tion and created a more positive
image of the wing.

Captain Scott Coradi
Capt. Jason Halverson
1st Lt David Russo
Senior Master Sgt. Wayne
Baggstrom
Senior Master Sgt. Atanya
Lindholm
Senior Master Sgt. John
Overstreet
Master Sgt. Sherry Baker
Master Sgt. Carl Finch
Master Sgt. Garth St. Germain
Master Sgt. Jill Kovak
Master Sgt. Andrew J Moseley
Tech. Sgt. Dwight Thompson
Staff Sgt. Michael Sears
Senior Airman Brandon C. Wood

**Special Achievement Award
Creativity**
Staff Sgt. Matthew A. Hecht

Volunteer/Community Service
Staff Sgt. Joann Jones

**Team achievement –
Medical Group Health Service
Inspection Consultative Team**

Lt. Col. Jamie Ruffing
Senior Master Sgt. Jacqueline
Jackson
Master Sgt. Patricia Hughes
Master Sgt. James McCloskey
Tech. Sgt. Marie Paggi

Customer Service
Tech. Sgt. Donna Pugh

Leadership
Senior Master Sgt. Fred Lavan

Human relations
177th FW – Honor Guard

.50 CAL QUALIFIED



M2 Machine Gun Class graduates Tech. Sgt. Stan Carroll (second from left to right) and Staff Sgts. Luis Rodriguez and Thomas Fisher are joined by Master Sgts. David Kovak (left) and Robert Powell (right) on Range 7 at Fort Dix. Photo by Master Sgt. Andrew Moseley, 177FW/PA.

