

Contrail

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RAMSTEIN
SPECIAL
ISSUE

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COVER

MY BROTHER ISN'T HEAVY

Master Sgt. James McCloskey helps lift a patient while serving with the Contingency Aerospace Staging Facility at Ramstein Air Base, Germany. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, 177FW/PA.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

The Immortal Chaplains

By Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Dean E. Wentzien

Military chaplains throughout history have inspired guided and comforted men and women in combat.

The greatest legacy for today's warfighter chaplains is the extraordinary faith and courage demonstrated by the 'four chaplains' during World War II.

None have been braver nor given of themselves more than these Army chaplains who sailed into immortality aboard the troop ship *Dorchester*.

The *Dorchester*, a converted commercial ocean liner, was part of a six-ship convoy that left Boston Harbor 2 February 1943, bound for Greenland. Among its mostly 902 military passengers were four men who would leave an everlasting impression on fellow shipmates.

Lt George L. Fox, a 42-year-old Methodist minister from Lewistown, Pa., was the only chaplain with combat experience. He had earned the Silver Star and Purple Heart medals in World War I. The others were new to the military: Lt Alexander D. Goode, a 31-year-old rabbi from Brooklyn, N.Y.; Lt John P. Washington, a Roman Catholic priest from Newark, N.J.; and Lt Clark V. Poling, a 32-year-old Dutch Reformed minister from Columbus, Ohio.

These chaplains helped calm some of the anxiety experienced on board ship. Many feared traveling through the North Atlantic, knowing that German submarines regularly preyed upon Allied shipping.

Shortly after midnight on Feb. 3, 1943, a torpedo from a German U-boat slammed into the *Dorchester's* starboard side, amid ship. The subsequent explosion and fire knocked out the ship's power and radio communications.

The order to abandon ship was given. The *Dorchester* would sink in 27 minutes.

Panic gripped most everyone as they



clamored for life boats or jumped into the ocean ablaze with burning fuel.

Survivor William Bednar recalls, "I could hear men crying, pleading, and praying. I could also hear the chaplains preaching courage. Their voices were the only thing that kept me going."

The four chaplains soon began distributing life jackets from a torpedo storage locker. When the supply ran out, the chaplains removed their life jackets and gave

them to terrified men.

"It was the finest thing I have seen or hope to see this side of heaven," recalls survivor John Ladd.

As the ship sank, survivors remember seeing the chaplains standing next to one another, arms linked together, as they prayed. They and 668 others died that night. Only 230 men survived.

Shortly thereafter, the United States Postal Service, waiving their five-year rule that people must be dead for at least five years before they're eligible for commemoration on U.S. stamps, issued a postage stamp honoring the four chaplains.

On Feb. 3 1943, Vice-President Harry Truman dedicated a chapel in honor at Temple University in Philadelphia. The Vice-President said, "This interfaith shrine...will stand through long generations to teach Americans that as men can die heroically, as brothers, so should they live together in mutual faith and good will."

The Chaplain's Medal for Heroism, also known as the Four Chaplains' Medal, was established by act of Congress on July 14, 1960, and was presented posthumously to their next of kin by Secretary of the Army Wilber M. Brucker at Ft. Myer, Virginia on Jan. 18, 1961.

Pro Deo Et Patria—For God And Country

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A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER

Hello All,

I can't believe its August already and I hope everyone has been enjoying their summer. The Operational Readiness Inspection is now less than 60 days away! This time will go by extremely fast and it's important that, during these next two Operational Readiness Exercise's, we apply our lessons learned from the past exercises. I expect that we will continue to make some mistakes, but the goal is to gain proficiency and to peak just as we take the ORI. While you are going through all of this, let me stress some of my past points...First, remember that Safety is paramount! These thoughts come to mind when I think Safety: show a sense of urgency but NEVER rush; do everything by the book; make sure you are rested and stay hydrated; keep an eye on your co-workers and use

the buddy system; speak up if something doesn't look right. Next, remember that attitude is 90 percent of everything. If we all display the right attitude and go by the book we

will be successful. In case you hadn't heard, our fellow Air Expeditionary Force partner, the 113th Fighter Wing passed their ORI a few weeks ago. The overall grade was "Satisfactory" but could have been worse except the base overwhelmingly displayed an outstanding attitude and "did it by the book". I tell you this to emphasize how important attitude is along with book knowledge. My last point is to do it by the book. I keep saying this because it's true. Beside's attitude the Andrews folks all knew their T.O's and were especially knowledgeable of AFI 90-201. I ask you to ask yourself if you have the proper knowledge of 90-201. Hopefully you do!

I'm going to keep this month's article short but wanted to mention a few other important items. Congratulations to the Medical Group for an outstanding deployment to Germany! As a side note thanks to Maj. Ron Williamson, and all the folks in the Logistics Readiness Squadron, for working miracles getting the Medical Group back from Germany when the scheduled airlift cancelled last minute. Thanks to all the Maintenance personnel who have worked weekends and nights over the last month to ensure we have 12 aircraft for this weekend's ORE! Lastly, don't forget that our annual Air Show is scheduled for Wednesday, August 19. Have a safe and productive ORE!

ROBERT C. BOLTON
Colonel, NJANG
Commander



**177TH ORE
SCHEDULE
Sept. 9-13**

ORI

**Sept. 30 to
Oct. 6**

Medical Group deploys to Germany

Story and photos by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, 177FW/PA

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, GERMANY--Airmen from the 177th Medical Group deployed to Ramstein Air Base, located near Ramstein-Miesenbach, Germany from July 19 to August 1.

The 31 Airmen comprise all the major sections in the Medical group – laboratory, medical logistics, medical technicians, public health, dental, optometry, administration, nursing and flight surgeons. In addition, three members of the 177th Chaplain team deployed to serve the wounded at Landstuhl Army Hospital, which is located near Ramstein.

The 177th Airmen served with the 86th Medical Group, which with 854 medical personnel divided between five squadrons is the largest overseas Air Force clinic. It is also has the largest Dental Squadron comprised of 52 dentists who attend to more than 51,000 appointments each year.

“They got a lot of training that is often hard to come by,” said Col. David J. Mellish, 177th Medical Group commander. “In addition they were working alongside their active-duty counterparts.”

The purpose of the deployment was to give the Airmen Readiness Skills Verification training at an overseas medical treatment facility. These include everything from H1N1 screening, patient loading on aeromedical evacuation flights, to biological warfare testing and even K-9 patient handling.

During their time at Ramstein, they accomplished more than 80 percent of their RSVs—a rather high accomplishment, given the duration of the deployment.

Garden State Airmen assigned to the Contingency Aerospace Staging Facility fully integrated with active duty Airmen and Marines performing aeromedical patient movement duties.

The doctors—dental, optometry, pediatrics and family practice saw at least one patient per hour. In addition, 23 medical Airmen—74 percent of the group deployed—donated blood.

All in all a successful deployment. 🇺🇸



Top photo: Maj. Eric Erickson (right) examines Master Sgt. Michael Worthington. Middle: Staff Sgt. Justin Kaenzig (left) confers with Sgt. Fred Campbell, Landstuhl Army Hospital, as Petty Officer Sandra Cisneros donates blood. Bottom right: Maj. John Sersanti (left) examines Airman 1st Class Jacenda Ayala's foot. Photo left: Capt. Jason Winterbottom (left) performs an eye exam on Melissa Russell.

MISSION: WOUNDED WARRIOR

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

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, GERMANY--Five 177th Airmen received some very special training on Tuesday.

Master Sgt. Harry Waugh, Tech. Sgts. Melissa Blackledge and Marie Paggi, along with Staff Sgts. Chantel Bullock and Valerie Chiola were assigned to the Contingency Aerospace Staging Facility or CASF.

“The CASF is responsible for transporting Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom wounded warriors from the flightline to the hospital than to the flightline when they are sent back to the United States,” said Senior Airman Liam Velez, a CASF medical technician assigned to the 86th Medical Group.

More than 65,000 wounded Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors and Marines have passed through Ramstein.

In the morning Waugh, Blackledge, Paggi, Bullock and Chiola were prepared for their duties by undergoing refresher training transporting volunteers around on stretchers.



Staff Sgt. Valerie Chiola (left) and Master Sgt. Harry Waugh (third from right) move a patient from the Contingency Aerospace Staging Facility to a bus for the trip to the flightline.

While all this may seem basic – lifting, moving and loading, it has a direct impact on those being transported.

That training was tested at noon when the 177th Airmen were assigned to moving a group of wounded warriors.

The 177th team moved the injured warriors from the CASF building to a bus specially designed to carry stretcher-borne patients. They were then driven to the Ramstein flightline where they were loaded onto a C-17 Globemaster III attached to the 172nd Airlift Wing, Mississippi Air National Guard.

The 177th Airmen joined active-duty Air Force and Marines in lifting and carrying the wounded warriors from the bus and onto the aircraft.

“It was an honor to help get the wounded home,” said Waugh.

Afterwards the entire CASF team got together at the bottom of the C-17 to give a cheer for the warriors.

“You guys trained really well and then went out on a mission,” said Velez. “It was awesome today.”

“This is a real world event, it was exciting,” said Chiola. “It’s not just another exercise.”



Staff Sgt. Chantel Bullock (right) assists in carrying a wounded warrior on board a C-17 Globemaster aircraft.

A trip to the meat plant

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

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, GERMANY – This is not your usual Air Guard Public Health inspection.

On July 29, the 177th Public Health team led by non-commissioned officer in charge Master Sgt. Patricia Hughes, public health technician Staff Sgt. Jason Mell and public health journeyman Senior Airmen Richard Arold and Desiree` Duffy, along with Staff Sgt. Caroline Haviland from the 177th Bioenvironmental Engineering shop visited the Ramstein Central Meat Processing Plant. The visit was during the plant's monthly inspection by Public Health Inspector Staff Sgt. Amy Deboy attached to the 86th Medical Group.

The 177th Medical Group is deployed to Ramstein Air Base, Germany for their annual training, which also includes working alongside their active duty counterparts with the 86th Medical Group.

"Here at Ramstein they have so much more involvement with Public Health," said Hughes. "At the 177th we have seven facilities to inspect; here they have more than 140.

"The inspection usually takes between two to three hours," said Deboy.

The 86th Public Health inspects everything from staff personal hygiene, receiving, the storage area, along with the processing, holding, picking and grinding rooms.



"Getting to see how it was packaged and the sanitary requirements was an enlightening experience," said Mell.

The plant, which is located right next to the Ramstein Commissary and is part of the Defense Commissary Agency Europe, provides meat to 42 commissaries and embassies in 10 countries, as well as to Iraq and Afghanistan.

"This is the only facility of its type in the Department of defense," said Corey Deery, CMPP food safety quality assistance evaluator. "Our goal is to provide the best quality we can,"

The plant processes a million pounds of meat each month; half a million pounds each of beef and pork.

During the inspection Duffy assisted Deboy in sampling and testing various materials.

"We learned from start to finish how rigorous they are here in processing beef and pork," said Duffy. "We also learned the difference in how they pack for hotter environments, like the Azores or Iraq."

"Knowing the prepackaging process enhances the ability to effectively conduct any food investigations," said Mell. "Having that knowledge is useful."

"This inspection was great – the experience we gained here will make our Public Health better for the base and especially for the upcoming Operational Readiness Inspection," said Hughes. 🇺🇸

AIR GUARD STEPS IN

By Airman 1st Class Rosetta Loper-Horsey, 86DS/USAFE;
photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, 177FW/PA

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, GERMANY--During the last two weeks, did you get the chance to get to meet and work with the two New Jersey Air National Guard members here at the Dental Clinic?

Capt. Jessica Bramlette and Staff Sgt. Neal Esplin are part of the 177th Fighter Wing Medical Group stationed at Egg Harbor Township, N.J. And while they were here for only two short weeks, they are here for one reason: to perform the mission of the Air Force Dental Corps by providing dental care to our active duty members and their families.

So how did they get the chance to come to Germany on temporary duty?

Col. David Mellish, the 177th Medical Group Commander opened this opportunity to the whole group and Bramlette and Esplin were among the lucky few to experience this rewarding duty.

"I have been able to get some training done including RSVs (Readiness Skills Verification), X-Ray, logistics and a refresh on patient care," said Esplin.

Bramlette willingly took Lt. Col. Jason Honnlee's pa-

tients while he was command sponsoring a new doctor. Treating at least seven patients daily proved Bramlette's professional abilities. Not only were the patients receiving excellent service they were able to be seen on their scheduled date and not have to be rescheduled.

"Thanks for treating Sgt. Esplin and myself as part of the dental team," said Bramlette.

So the next time you see Bramlette and Esplin in the

hall make sure you extend a warm welcome and thanks for the hard work. They are not only here to serve the mission but to also feel a part of the 86th Dental Squadron.



Capt. Jessica Bramlette (front), Staff Sgt. Neal Esplin (back left) and Airman 1st Class Elizabeth Cortez-Lozoya, 86th Dental Squadron work on Staff Sgt. Summer Walter.



Chaplains receive the word

Chaplain (Maj.) David Shirley (left) briefs (right to left) Staff Sgt. Eric Corry, Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Dean Wentzien and Father (Capt.) Thomas Ganley on what to expect during an Operational Readiness Inspection during their Annual Training at Ramstein Air Base Germany. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, 177FW/PA.



Preparing for the Wounded Warriors

Staff Sgt. Danny Opperman, 177th Medical Group, prepares a bed at the Contingency Aerospace Staging Facility at Ramstein Air Base, Germany. The Facility serves as a temporary housing facility for Wounded Warriors between the time they leave the hospital at Landstuhl and when they are transported back to the United States. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, 177FW/PA.

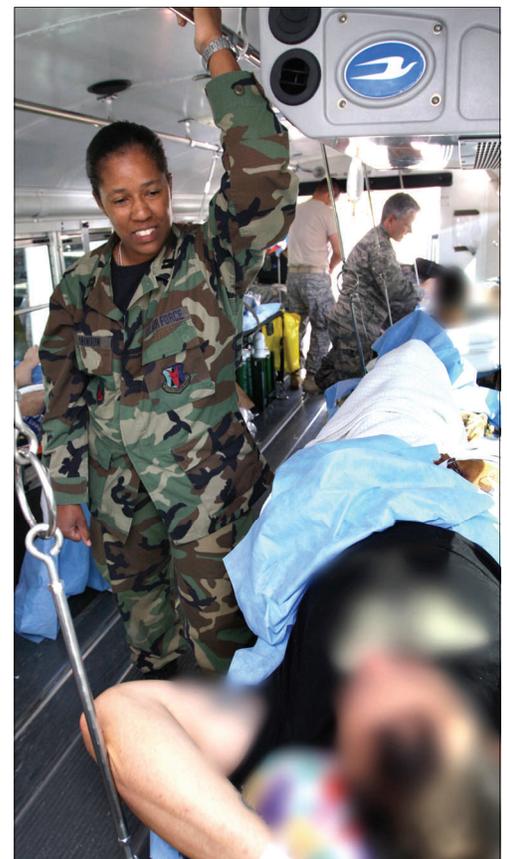


Small diagnosis

Maj. Roxellen Auletto (right) explains to patient Leilani Shepherd (left) after checking her hand what she needs to do while her father, Master Sgt. Joel Shepherd listens. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, 177FW/PA.

Moving the Troops

Capt. Lisa Robinson chats with a patient who is being moved from the Contingency Aerospace Staging Facility at Ramstein Air Base, Germany to be transported back to the United States for further treatment. Robinson was part of the 177th Medical Group deployment to Germany from July 19 to August 1. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, 177FW/PA.



Atlantic City Air Show schedule

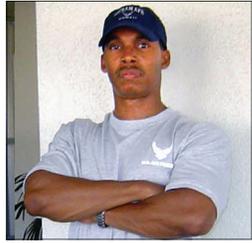
- 10:30 a.m. Horizon Blue Cross Blimp of New Jersey Flyby
- 11:02 a.m. US Army Golden Knights Parachute Team Flag Jump w/National Anthem
- 11:10 a.m. US Army Golden Knights Parachute Team Mass Exit Show
- 11:17 a.m. New Jersey Air National Guard 177th FW F-16C Fighting Falcon Flyby (4-ship)
- 11:19 a.m. New Jersey Air National Guard 108th ARW KC-135R Stratotanker Flyby
- 11:21 a.m. US Air Force-AFRC 514th AMW C-17A Globemaster III Flyby
- 11:23 a.m. US Air Force-AFRC 76th ARS KC-10A Extender Flyby
- 11:25 a.m. New Jersey Air National Guard Composite Flyby (KC-135 & F-16Cs)
- 11:27 a.m. US Air Force-ACC F-22 Raptor Flyby (4-Ship) 2-passes
- 11:32 a.m. Red Eagles Air Sports Teaser Demonstration
- 11:40 a.m. NJ State Police S-76A+ and Bell 206 Demonstration
- 11:45 a.m. FAA William J Hughes Technical Center Beech 200 Flyby
- 11:46 a.m. FAA William J Hughes Technical Center Global 5000 Flyby

- 11:49 a.m. US Coast Guard HH-65 Search & Rescue Demonstration
- 12:03 p.m. US Marine Corps HMM-774 CH-46E Sea Knight Flybys
- 12:08 p.m. US Air Force A-10A Thunderbolt II Demonstration
- 12:22 p.m. US Air Force F-16CJ Viper Demonstration
- 12:35 p.m. US Air Force Heritage Flight (F-16, A-10, 2X P-51)
- 12:44 p.m. Horsemen P-51 Demonstration
- 12:55 p.m. Tim Weber GEICO Extra 300 Aerobatics
- 1:09 p.m. US Air Force-AFRC C-130 Hercules Flyby (4-ship)
- 1:10 p.m. US Air Force-Air National Guard 106th RQS HC-130P & HH-60G Demonstration
- 1:32 p.m. Rob Holland MX2 Aerobatics
- 1:45 p.m. US Navy F/A-18F Super Hornet Demonstration
- 1:58 p.m. US Navy Legacy Flight (F/A-18F & F4U Corsair)
- 2:05 p.m. Jim Beasley Jr. Spitfire Aerobatics
- 2:20 p.m. US Army Golden Knights Parachute Team Mass Exit Show
- 2:38 p.m. Red Eagle Air Sports 2-ship Aerobatic Demonstration
- 2:55 p.m. US Air Force Thunderbirds Enlistment Ceremony
- 3:05 p.m. US Air Force Thunderbirds



FITNESS CORNER: WHAT *TIME* IS IT?

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



Are you always dreading the time of year when you know you must take your Annual Physical Fitness Test? Have you been talking about getting in shape? Now it's time to stop the talk and walk the walk.

Being fit isn't just for the pros. It's important for all of us in de-

spite of our age. It's time to commit to your health right now, and in doing this you will definitely set an example for those around you. By choosing this approach right before the fall and winter season will undoubtedly yield a healthier and happier and brand new you.

Is going to the gym daunting? Are you rationalizing with e.g. "By the time I change, workout, shower, get back, it's a two-hour ordeal." Or "I have kids and a job." "I don't have time to work out." And finally, "Exercise is a luxury."

Regardless of how true any of the statements are, we owe it to ourselves to stay fit and increase our chances of being able to enjoy the benefits of happy family life. With the alarming rise of obesity in the U.S. with all the related health problems exercise should never be viewed as a luxury. Exercise is something that we need to make a priority.

Below are some Sure Shot Excuse Busters!

Find a program that's right for you. Just because the Miss or Mr. Fitness a few houses down from you chooses to run 15 miles a day, doesn't mean you have to consider the same route to achieve your fitness goals. You could start out with some basic stretching, yoga, Cycling, a Step or a Spinning class. Or maybe just walk. All these can be extremely

beneficial if they keep you going and motivated to continue with your fitness program.

Schedule your workouts. One of the most frequent excuses people use for not starting a program is that they don't have the time. While it may be difficult to find the time, you need to do it. Set aside 30-45 minutes a day starting today. If you can't find 45 minutes, try to find 20 minutes twice a day. A strength training or cardio work out will help keep your metabolism boosted for longer periods throughout the day. Consider using lunchtime for exercise. It's a good time of day for a workout and will help curb your appetite.

Stay hydrated. Being that it's hotter than July, keep up your water intake. Dehydration can lead to muscle cramping and soreness. Remember to drink lots of water before, during and after your workout.

Get fit while helping others. A little spontaneous energy right after your evening meal like, taking a walk with your spouse or kids. This should yield you numerous benefits, while helping you reach your fitness goals.

You could even volunteer to clean up neighborhood roadways, or pitch in at local parks and recreation. There are lots of fundraising events you can sign up for that will help raise money and burn lots of calories. Check for local community walks, bike rides, or races for causes like MS, Breast Cancer, or AIDS research.

It's *TIME* to skip usual movie outing with the family or friends. Definitely dodge the Ice Bucket size of Nachos, butter/oil saturated popcorn. Take the family bike riding or spend an afternoon at a wall climbing expose. If you happen to be planning a family vacation, choose the active excursions like: windsurfing, boogie boarding, skiing, kayaking or canoeing. Whatever you choose to combine quality time with the



Retirement Dinner for Chief Master Sgt. Jean Perry



Location: Merighi's Savory Inn, Vineland

Date: August 15

6-7 p.m. cocktail hour with cold hors d'oeuvres

7-9 p.m. dinner, presentations, DJ

Attire: Business Casual

Buffet Style Menu: Garden Salad, Penne Pasta with Marinara sauce, Carving Station, (Roast Breast of Turkey, Top of the Round Roast Beef), Tilapia with Lemon-lime Tequila butter, Eggplant Parmigiano and New Orleans Shrimp and Scallop Creole with saffron rice, Roasted red bliss potatoes, Green beans almondine & glazed baby carrots, Sweet Table

Cost: \$40 per person (gift included, make checks to: 177th Chiefs Council)

RSVP NLT: August 11

POC: Master Sgt. Melissa Bruno, X6262; Master Sgt. John White, X6217;
Tech. Sgt. Dorothy Lanthier, X6214





NEWS AIRMEN CAN USE

Compiled by the 177th Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

Post-9/11 GI Bill

The Post 9/11 GI Bill provides financial support for education and housing to individuals with at least 90 days of aggregate service on or after September 11, 2001, or individuals discharged with a service-connected disability after 30 days.

You must have received an honorable discharge to be eligible for the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

The Post-9/11 GI Bill will become effective for training on or after August 1, 2009. The amount of support that an individual may qualify for depends on where they live and what type of degree they are pursuing. For a summary of Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits, see the benefit comparison chart.

Approved training under the Post-9/11 GI Bill includes graduate and undergraduate degrees, and vocational/technical training. All training programs must be offered by an institution of higher learning (IHL) and approved for GI Bill benefits. Additionally, tutorial assistance, and licensing and certification test reimbursement are approved under the Post- 9/11 GI Bill.

Many veterans and active duty personnel can qualify for more than one education benefits program, including the:

- Post-9/11 GI Bill (chapter 33)
- Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB, chapter 30 and chapter 1606)
- Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP, chapter 1607)
- Post Vietnam Era Veterans' Educational Assistance program (VEAP, chapter 32).

Depending on your individual circumstances, one of these programs may give you better benefits than the others. While you are the only person who can choose which program meets your needs, we have developed a step-by-step process that may help you compare the different education programs and decide which is best for you. This process includes links to additional information on the website that may help you make your decision.

NOTE: If you need any help making your choice, VA Vocational and Employment counseling help is available to all veterans toll free at 1-800-827-1000. You also can discuss your options with a VA education benefits specialist by calling toll-free 1-888-GIBILL-1 (1-888-442-4551) or TDD at (800) 829-4833.



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.

ORE/ORI Hotel Room Reservation Deadlines

The deadline for reserving hotel rooms for the September ORE is Sept. 3. The deadline for October ORI rooms is Sept. 24. Unit members must forward requests through their supervisors/First Sergeants by close-of-business on those dates. For more information, contact Master Sgt. Jill Kovak at x6295.

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 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. Those who meet these criteria can 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.

READ YOUR AIRMAN'S MANUAL

Contrail Photos

Contrail photos are 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, remove the image.

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.



Remembering the past, improving the future

From the 177th Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

For many of us who were raised in the last half of the 20th century, it is hard to envision a time when women didn't have the right to vote and participate in the political process.

Yet that right is relatively recent, was hard fought for and should not be taken for granted.

To ensure that, Women's Equality Day commemorates the 1920 passage of the 19th Amendment to the U. S. Constitution granting women the right to vote.

Rep. Bella Abzug, introduced the legislation (see boxed resolution) in 1971 designating August 26 as "Women's Equality Day."

Observation of Women's Equality Day has two purposes: the first is to commemorate the passage of the 19th Amendment and the second, to call attention to continuing efforts toward full equality.

The 19th Amendment was passed by Congress on June 14, 1919, and ratified by the states on August 19, 1920.

The 19th Amendment is also known as the Susan B. Anthony Amendment. Anthony, who was raised in New York as a Quaker, helped found the American Equal Rights Association in 1866. She co-founded, with Elizabeth C. Stanton, the National Women's Suffrage Association.

Those who worked for the right to vote were called Suffragists. The term is derived from the Latin word *suffragium* – a piece of broken tile, on which voters wrote the candidates' initials.

Their critics, which included the press and politicians, re-

ferred to them as the shrieking sisterhood. They were branded as unfeminine and accused of immorality and drunkenness.

The United States was not the first country to give women universal suffrage, in fact it was the seventeenth.

The first was New Zealand preceding the United States by 27 years. Governor Lord David Boyle signed the Electoral Bill on Sept. 19, 1893, making New Zealand the first self-governing nation in the world where women had received the right to vote.

Those other countries were Australia (1902), Finland (1906), Norway (1913), Denmark (1915), Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (1917), Canada (1918), Germany (1918), Poland (1918), Austria (1919), Belgium (1919), Great Britain (1919), Ireland (1919), Luxembourg (1919), Netherlands (1919) and Sweden (1919).

Prior to the passage of the 19th Amendment, women were able to vote in local and state elections in Kansas and Oregon.

Of all the states, Arizona led the way in giving women the right to vote. The Grand Canyon state was influenced by the Spanish legal system that gave women greater rights including community property, custody issues and the ability to sign contracts.

In 1903, when Arizona was a territory, the legislature passed a bill granting women the right to vote. When Arizona became a state in 1912, women again were given suffrage.

So while we don't remember a time when women didn't have the right to vote, our grandparents and great grandparents can.



AUGUST 2008

Recognize the diversity of our National Guard team

- ✓ Celebrate a multicultural event
- ✓ Identify your diversity successes (newsletters, etc)
- ✓ Recognize, reward and foster leadership

If we are to achieve a richer culture, rich in contrasting values, we must recognize the whole gamut of human potentialities, and so weave a less arbitrary social fabric, one in which each diverse human gift will find a fitting place.

Margaret Mead

177TH MEDICAL GROUP



Ramstein Air Base, Germany
July 19 to August 1, 2009

