

Contrail

DECEMBER 2009, Vol. 43, No. 11



"EXCELLENT"

FEATURES

**"Excellent" says it all
(Page 4)**

**ORI: Final Shots
(Pages 5-6)**

**Jersey Devils in the
News (Page 7)**

**ORI: Best of the Best
(Back cover)**

AND MORE...

DEPARTMENTS

**COMMANDER'S COLUMN
(PAGE 3)**

**NEWS AIRMEN CAN USE
(PAGE 10)**

COVER

EXCELLENT SAYS IT ALL

Flightline Mechanic Senior Airman Daryl J. Padula, left to right, Structural Repair Mechanic Senior Airman Norberto Solano, Logistics Specialist Master Sgt. Laverne Frazer and members of the 177th Fighter Wing applaud at the Inspector General's announcement that the Wing received an excellent for the Operational Readiness Inspection. U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Hanukkah and Christmas

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

Hanukkah

Hanukkah this year begins 12 December 2009. It is also known as the Festival of Lights, which is an eight-day holiday beginning on the 25 day of month of Kislev, which may fall anytime from late November to late December.

It celebrates the rekindling of the Temple menorah at the time of the Maccabee rebellion.

The festival is observed in Jewish homes by the kindling of lights on each night of the holiday – one on the first night, two on the second, and so on.

Hanukkah from the Hebrew word for "dedication" or "consecration" marks the re-dedication of the Temple after its desecration by Antiochus IV and commemorates the "miracle of the contained oil."

According to the Talmud, at the re-dedication of the Temple in Jerusalem following the victory of the Maccabees over the Seleucid Empire, there was only enough consecrated olive oil to fuel the eternal flame in the Temple for one day. Miraculously, the oil burned for eight days, until more oil was made available – which was the length of time it took to press, prepare and consecrate new oil.

This is why the usual seven-candle menorah is replaced by a nine-candle menorah for this holiday. At the lighting of the candles, the children are told of the heroic victories gained by the Maccabees. They are also given gifts.

This is a tradition that has developed over the years, not unlike the development of the Christian tradition of gift-giving at Christmas.

Christmas (The Light of the World) - 1 John 2:7-11

One dark and ominous night during World War II, an American aircraft carrier was plowing through heavy seas in the South Pacific. All lights were out because of enemy submarines. One plane was missing. Somewhere in that pitch-black sky it was circling in a seemingly futile search for the carrier – its only landing place, its only hope of not being swallowed up by the giant ocean.

The ship's captain, knowing the terrible risk involved, gave the order, "Light up the ship." Soon the plane landed onto the deck returning like a homing pigeon.

At Bethlehem, knowing the risk, God gave the command, "Light up the world." Then Jesus was born.

A new and radiant light began to shine, pushing back the darkness of the world, of spiritual ignorance, and of sin and despair. Like a ship lit up in an otherwise darkened sea of sinful humanity, Christ came as "the light of the world" (John 8:12), John wrote. "The darkness is passing away, and the true light is already shining" (1 John 2:8).

When Jesus the Savior entered this world, it was like the sunrise breaking radiantly over the horizon of human history (Luke 1:78-79).

In fathomless grace, God allowed His Son to die on the cross to save us from eternal darkness. What a blessed message for Christmas – and every day of the year!

Without the Light of Jesus, we would be in the dark about God.

**Your decision affects others:
Don't Drink and Drive**

177FW Editorial Staff

Col. Robert C. Bolton, 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 177FW/PA, 400 Langley Road, Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08234

(609) 645-6005; (609) 677-6741 (FAX)

E-mail: Public.Affairs@najatla.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.



A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER

Hello All,

"WE WIN"...that was the headline of the 1996 Contrail just after the Phase II that we had then which was rated overall "Excellent". And so thirteen years later ...WE WIN AGAIN with another overall "Excellent"! We did it...You all did it! And you made history in the process as this was our first ever Operational Readiness Inspection as a General Purpose F-16 unit. This is the biggest accomplishment I have been a part of in my entire career thus far and I can't thank all of you enough. I am so proud of our unit and how everyone came together as a team. The inspectors were literally overwhelmed by your attitude and professionalism. This kind of result, along with the success we've had on all our other inspections, will go a long way towards keeping us on the map. Go 177th!

Having said all that, it's hard to believe that the ORI was over two months ago! I have to admit that it's taken me awhile to shift gears in my mind and realize that the ORI is actually over. But time continues to fly as we keep up our busy schedule. As I am writing this, we have six of our aircraft en route to Sioux Falls, SD. Four of those jets will then continue on to the AOR in support of the AEF. The Maintenance Group has had little time to rest between the ORI and getting those aircraft ready to deploy. Great job! I'm actually looking forward to having a somewhat normal drill, if there is such a thing. There will be lots of AEF prep going on and once again I thank all of you involved for all your continued efforts.

So let me now catch you up on some of the current events. In case you hadn't heard, our conversion to the F-16 Block 30 BI, or "Big mouth" as we call it, has been put on hold. We were one of some twelve units that were affected by this hold. This action was taken by Congress pending what they feel is a reasonable "way ahead" plan by the Air Force. I don't know when we will hear something, but it should be soon as many future plans and schedules are on hold pending the new plan.

In November we interviewed for the position of Wing Command Chief and selected Chief Master Sgt. Ray Morales. Chief Morales brings a wealth of experience and leadership to the fight and I'm looking forward to good things from him. While talking about the position of Command Chief, I would be remiss without mentioning Command Chief Master Sgt. Jack Dever. Very shortly after I became the Wing Commander, Chief Francis was selected for the position of State Command Chief. Upon my request, Chief Dever volunteered to step in as the interim Command Chief to keep things going so we could concentrate on the ORI. I would like to thank Chief Dever for doing an outstanding job as the interim Command Chief!

As part of our Air Expeditionary prep, we will be deploying an aviation package to Davis-Monthan Air Force Base for the first two weeks in January. I know this is yet another sacrifice for many folks, but it is absolutely critical to our success in the upcoming AEF. With the challenges we faced with both the ORI and then immediately having to prep aircraft for the AEF. This deployment will allow the deploying pilots to regain valuable proficiency. I know the sacrifices many of you are making, but keep in mind that we are still a country at war, and it is our duty to make sure our aviators are well trained when they go in harm's way.

On a lighter note, I am extremely excited about our Wing Christmas Party this year and need to say a few words about it. I gave my staff marching orders to find a place more convenient than Atlantic City, cut the cost down to the bare minimum, and plan for about a 10 percent increase in attendance. My staff exceeded my expectations when they picked the Blue Heron Pines Golf Club and acquired enough Morale, Welfare and Recreation funds to cut the cost by more than half compared to previous years. Unfortunately it has become apparent that I made a bit of a mistake in my assumption about attendance. I am sorry I didn't plan on more folks attending but could only go by past years



numbers. Shortly after the new year I'll take a base survey and adjust the party for next year.

Let me close by doing a little holiday preaching. We have had an outstanding year in our unit with many successes. Let's keep it that way by being safe and playing it smart. Last year we lost a member who fell thru ice while alone. Losing a unit

member like that is horrible and far worse than losing someone in combat! Forgive me for repeating myself but certain things require repetition. You are all so important to not just our unit but to your loved ones! Please take a moment to think about that and always keep it in mind during your holiday celebrations. There are far too many incidents of people getting hurt or killed while intoxicated. Keep in mind also that you can lose your job. Please do not allow this to happen to you or anyone around you...use the wingman concept! Absolutely do not drink and drive! If you don't have a wingman or designated driver, call a taxi. If you have no other option call your First Sergeant, call the Command Post, or you can even call me on my cell phone (973-760-1198).

Lastly, make sure you take some time over the holidays to reflect on all the blessings we have and to thank your loved ones for their support. I know we may sometimes think we don't have it as good as someone else, but the reality is we are all extremely lucky to live in this country and be in this unit. I'll never forget years ago when we escorted the Russian MIGs around the country and I had the opportunity to talk to the pilots and crew about their living situations and show them around a little. You could see the look of awe and disbelief in their faces when I took them to a mall and they saw all the things we have here and simply take for granted. The flight lead, a major, told me he was making about \$200 a month. I know I am extremely grateful to be your Commander and work with the caliber of people we have here. Happy Holidays!

ROBERT C. BOLTON
Colonel, NJANG
Commander

**177TH FIGHTER WING
COMMUNITY BASED,
GLOBAL IMPACT**

"Excellent" says it all

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



More than a year's worth of hard work was summarized by a single word: "Excellent."

This word and grade ensures the 177th Fighter Wing's future and means it is fully capable of performing its wartime mission – keeping jets flying and taking the fight to the enemy.

The 177th went through its first Operational Readiness Inspection in 13 years by the Air Combat Command Office of the Inspector General from Oct. 2-8.

Normally these inspections are held every five years.

September 11 changed that and as a result the 177th fell out of the inspection cycle.

The IG rates wings on three areas: Employment, which is about mission effectiveness – keeping the aircraft flying and putting bombs on target; Mission Support, which covers everything from logistics to engineering, command and control to medical, and finally the Ability To Survive and Operate – how wing personnel react to an attack, and more important how quickly they recover in order to get back to the primary mission of refueling, loading weapons and launching aircraft to continue the fight.

These areas are then broken into sub groups; failure in any one can be catastrophic to the entire wing.

The IG grades all these areas and sub groups either Outstanding, Excellent, Satisfactory, Marginal or Unsatisfactory.

In preparation, the Jersey Airmen travelled nationwide to observe how other Guard wings were training; then watched them perform during their ORIs.

The stakes are high: units that fail risk losing their missions; loss of mission could equal unit closure.

Unfortunately many units failed – the

inspection is that tough.

The 177th pooled the lessons learned from those visits and nearly every month for the last six months have been running operational readiness exercises, which replicate the inspection's mission requirements and stress.

It paid off.

The IG recognized 33 Airmen and 12 teams, which are representative of the entire range of Wing functions for their performance during the inspection.

Excellent work 177th. 🇺🇸



Master Sgt. Anthony C. Henchinski, center, and Senior Airman Justyna M. Janasik, right, along with Airmen of the 177th Fighter Wing applaud after hearing the news that the Wing received an "Excellent" rating on the Operational Readiness Inspection. Janasik was one of two Airmen to be coined by Inspector General during the inspection.

ORI: FINAL SHOTS



Photos by Master Sgt. Andrew Moseley and Staff Sgt. Matt Hecht, 177FW/PA



ORI: FINAL SHOTS CONTINUED





New Headquarters building

On Dec. 12, a groundbreaking ceremony will be held for the Operations and Training Facility. The \$8.4 million, 21,400 square foot, state-of-the-art facility will house the Wing Commander and Staff, Public Affairs, Wing Safety, Mission Support Group Commander and Staff, Judge Advocate, Accounting and Finance, Comptroller, Wing Plans, Chaplains, Forces Support Squadron, Equal Opportunity, Family Support and Recruiting. The facility was designed by Burns and McDonnell located in East Hanover and will be built by Sambe Construction Company, Inc., of Pennsauken. Construction will take approximately 15 months and is expected to be completed in January of 2011.



New Command Chief

Col. Robert C. Bolton, left, 177th Fighter Wing Commander, pins Chief Master Sergeant insignia on Senior Master Sgt. Raynoldo Morales, center, as Lt. Col. James Garcia, right, 177th Force Support Squadron Commander watches on Nov. 25. Morales was also selected as the new Command Chief Master Sergeant for the Wing. U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Andrew Moseley, 177FW/PA.



Gulya makes Chief

Chief Master Sgt. George C. Gulya, center, has his new stripes punched on by Col Robert C. Bolton, right, 177th Fighter Wing Commander, while his wife, Michelle, left, watches on Oct. 16. U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Matt Hecht, 177FW/PA.



New paint job

Col. Robert C. Bolton, left, 177th Fighter Wing Commander, coins Master Sgt. Laura Moyer on Nov. 4. Moyer repainted the 177th Fighter Wing shield at the main gate entrance. U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Andrew Moseley, 177FW/PA.

AFSA ACTIVITIES: COMMUNITY OUTREACH

By Master Sgt. Laura Moyer, 177FW/LRS

Eight members of the Air Force Sergeants Association Chapter 258 came out to the base on a beautiful and rare "off" Saturday before the Operational Readiness Inspection.

They cleaned up around Supply's docking area, the main hangar, building 249, and the Engine Shop building.

Thanks go to: Chief Master Sgts. Pat Hare, James Leopardi and Rich Reiken; Senior Master Sgt. George Clark and retired Senior Master Sgt. Gene Graziano, MSgt Tony Henchinski and Laura Moyer and Tech. Sgt. Bonnie Beaulieu.

Three intrepid AFSA members made their way to Ocean City on a chilly, rainy, very windy o-dark-thirty volunteer mission with the American Cancer Society's Breast Cancer Walk for the Cure event.

Flooded roads didn't stop Reiken, Senior Master Sgt. Tim Donovan and Moyer, who helped set up signs along the course, then stayed to help with registration events for the participants.

Finally, AFSA members volunteered at the Mays Landing Toys R Us to help collect toys for children in the community.



They will also be helping sort and distribute the toys along with the Marine Corps members who run the annual Toys for Tots event.

Editor's Note: Toys for Tots will be collecting during the December drill.

Airmen participate in annual CFC Run/Walk

Airmen from the 177th participated in the Annual Combined Federal Campaign 4 Mile Run/2 Mile Walk fundraiser at the FAA Technical Center to support local charities on Nov 18.

Maintenance 1st Sergeant Michael Valiante brought home trophies in two categories: 1st Place Overall Runner for the Air Guard and 1st Place in the Clydesdale (over 200 pounds) with just a little over a seven-minute mile.

Congratulations Valiante and thanks to all the participants for helping raise money for a good cause.





Seasons Greetings



The 177th FW

Annual Children's Holiday Party

When:

Sat, Dec. 19, 2009
1130-1400 hrs

Where:

Dining Hall, Bldg 400



*Santa will arrive
by Fire Truck
and give your
child their gift!*



Please RSVP NLT Tuesday, Dec. 15 to
Jeannie Perry, x 609 645-6248.
Bring in a wrapped gift (\$20 or less)
with your child's name clearly marked
and give to me by Thursday, Dec. 18.
Jean.Perry@ang.af.mil

Hope to see you all there!!





NEWS AIRMEN CAN USE

Compiled by the 177th Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

GI Bill: Different Eligibility, Benefits

By Sgt. 1st Class Kryn P. Westhoven, JFHQ-PA

For our nation's newest veterans the education opportunities are new and expansive, but also confusing; if a service member had already started using other Montgomery GI bill programs before serving in the Global War on Terrorism.

Chapter 1607, the new Post 9-11 program, is the biggest change in the funding of post-secondary education since the original GI Bill was initiated after World War II.

Unlike other GI bill programs, Chapter 1607 provides three separate types of benefit payments to those who have at least 90 days of aggregate active service after Sept. 10, 2001.

The VA will directly pay schools for tuition and fees equal to what each state's most expensive state-run school charges for in-state, undergraduate study.

The students who are attending school more than halftime, seven credits or more, and are physically in a classroom setting at least for one course per semester are entitled to a monthly basic housing allowance for an E-5 with dependents for the zip code the school is located.

A stipend of up to \$1,000 a year for books and supplies is a new benefit. Service members with 36 or more months of active duty will receive 100 percent of the three payments and those with less than three-years will receive a prorated amount.

Another change is the ability to transfer this benefit to a spouse or children. The only limitations are a service obligation if the veteran has less than twenty years of service, benefits must be used within 15-years of the last discharge from active duty and you cannot collect more than a total of 48 months of VA education benefits.

For more information, visit the VA on the web at www.gibill.va.gov or call the VA Hotline at 1-888-GI-BILL-1.



From the Public Affairs archives.

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.



Random Car Checks

The 177th will soon be conducting random base entry checks.

Some of this may seem humorous, but consider what happened at Fort Hood.

This is a list of the prohibited items:

- Marijuana and related paraphernalia and other narcotics and related paraphernalia, dangerous drugs/controlled substances without a valid prescription.
- Zip guns, starter guns, pen guns, etc. modified to fire live ammunition.
- Sawed-off shotguns (modified to less than 18 inches) and rifles (modified to less than 16 inches).
- Silencers.
- 40mm or larger ammunition; this includes hand grenades and anti-personnel/anti-tank mines along with explosives and associated blasting caps/detonating devices (including fireworks)
- Crossbows/bows and arrows, except when being transported to and from a range
- Spears/lances, swords and cane swords, saps, blackjacks, clubs, police batons and nun-chucks, dirks, daggers, stilettos, switchblades and gravity knives or any other knife with the sole intent to produce bodily injury.

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.

Contrail Photos

Contrail photos are on the Y Drive. Go to the Y Drive; type in: Njatla14\shared_177 FWCC Electronic File Plan\00 Items to be Filed\PA. Remember copy, remove the image.

Wing and Association Team up with Marines

Once again the 177th Fighter Wing and Air Force Sergeants Association Chapter #258 are teaming up with the Cape-Atlantic Detachment Marine Corps League to support the Toys for Tots program.



The Toys for Tots mission is to collect new, unwrapped toys during October, November and December and distribute those toys to needy children in the community. The goal is to send a message of hope to our nation's most valuable natural resources - our children. The objective is to provide toys to our community's less fortunate youngsters so they can experience the joy of the holiday season. The program also serves to unite local community members in a common cause for three months each year. Last year, the local Marine Corps League Detachment distributed over 12,000 toys to local need based organizations. This year we're hoping for even bigger numbers.

Collection boxes are located at: Supply (Building 405), Headquarters (Building 400), Engine Shop (Building 441), Civil Engineering (Building 402), Security/Comm (Building 407), Op-

erations (Building 241), Weapons Element (Building 272), the Base Exchange (Building 30) and the Family Support Area (Building 229).

The collection boxes will be in place until December 12th. Please bring in a new unwrapped toy and help the children in our local community have a Happy Holiday.

For more info please contact Senior Master Sgt. Tim Donovan at extension 6309 or Master Sgt. Allison Phillips at extension 6021.

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.



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

DECEMBER

Discover the excellence in our Diversity of Thought

- ✓ *Highlight your year of success*
- ✓ *Identify goals for next year*

If you are a decision maker in your organization and you look around the room and everybody looks like you, you're probably doing something wrong. If everyone doesn't look like you, but thinks like you, you're really doing something wrong.

- Samuel Betances

ORI: BEST OF THE BEST



Superior Performers

Maj. John F. Barrett III
Maj. Diana M. Brown
Maj. Matthew T. Crill
Maj. Daniel M. Mitola
Capt. Jeffrey A. Rouse
Master Sgt. Thomas R. Capito
Master Sgt. Michael J. Hodsdon
Master Sgt. Andrew T. Matejek
Master Sgt. John C. White
Tech. Sgt. Jamie L. DeCosta
Tech. Sgt. Bruno A. Egizi
Tech. Sgt. Randall L. Flipping
Tech. Sgt. James Gillespie III
Tech. Sgt. Lauren A. Humphrey
Tech. Sgt. Dorothy N. Lanthier
Tech. Sgt. Kirk E. Sherry
Tech. Sgt. Christopher P. Simon
Tech. Sgt. Robert F. Wharton
Tech. Sgt. Ronald A. Wilkins
Staff Sgt. Christopher L. Gallo

Staff Sgt. Andrew T. Hambleton
Staff Sgt. Katherine M. Miller
Staff Sgt. Richard A. Ryan III
Staff Sgt. Joseph J. Zavislak III
Senior Airman Yoan Ante
Senior Airman Alexander Hunter III
Senior Airman Augustin A. Rosado Jr.
Senior Airman Sean R. Smith
Airman 1st Class Thomas J. Capito
Airman 1st Class Brandon P. Foster
Airman 1st Class Kelly M. Ellenberg
Airman 1st Class Nicole Piccolo
Airman 1st Class Ava M. Sachleben

Superior Performance Teams

Aircrew Extraction Team
Aircrew Flight Equipment ACCA Team
Avionics Reliability Team
Combat Supply Activity Team
Command Post Team
CDDAR TEAM
Fire Communications Center Team
Food Services Team
Hydrazine Response Team
Intelligence Team
Medical Team
PERSCO Team

Inspector General Coin Recipients

Staff Sgt. John F. Hurley Jr.
Senior Airman Justyna M. Janasik