

***Heroic actions under
enemy fire***

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We
SSG

PHOTO FLASHBACK

MAY 2013, Vol. 47, No. 05

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And more...

COVER: Sears, an explosive ordnance disposal technician with the 177th Fighter Wing, defused two improvised explosive devices and made five trips across open terrain under heavy enemy fire to aid a wounded coalition soldier and to engage insurgent forces.
Photo by Master Sgt. Mark Olsen

SOCIAL MEDIA

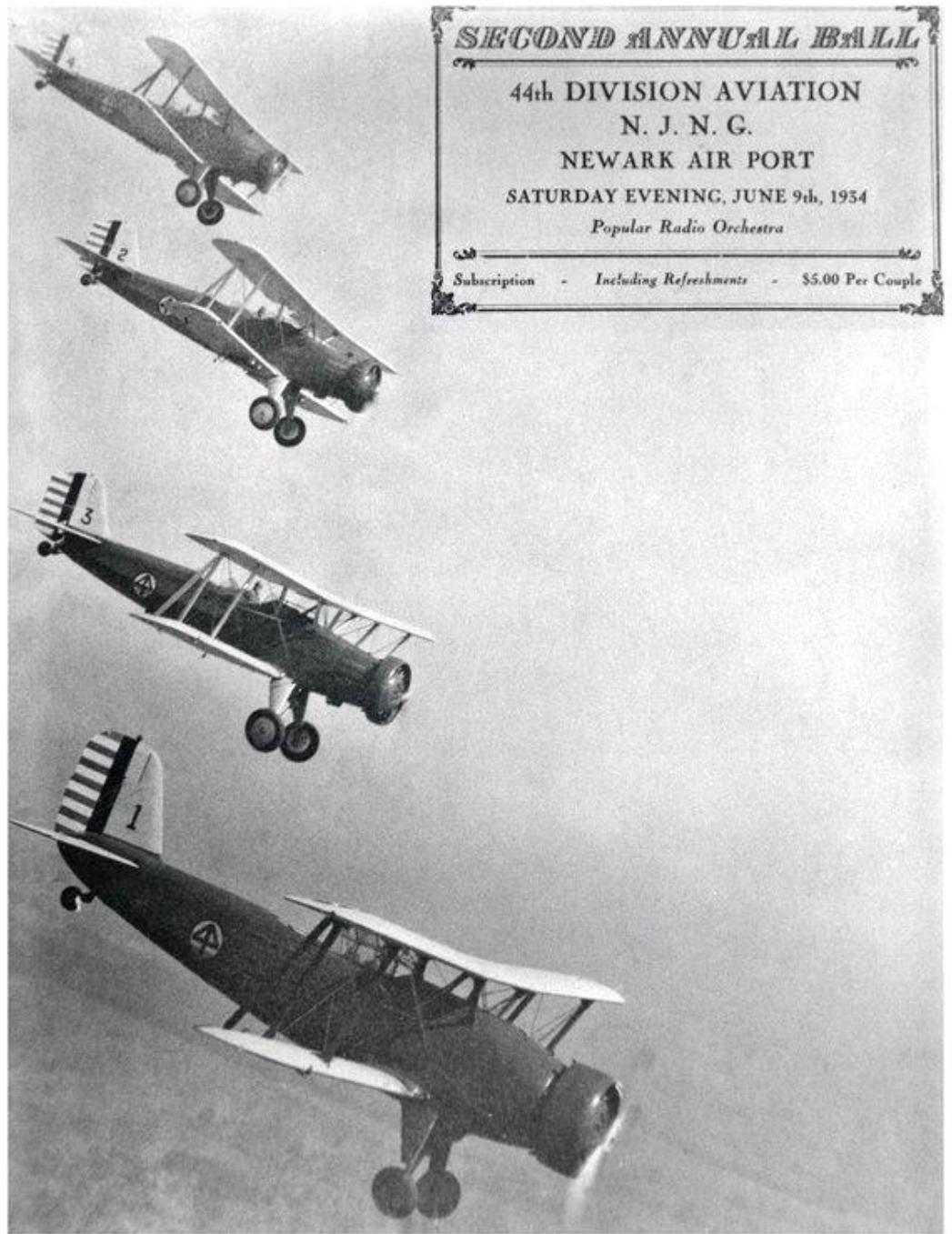
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A Message from the Vice Wing Commander

So, there I was, the year was 1999, Luke AFB Arizona family housing, a bright, sunny, spring day (which equates to about 100°F!), being told by my spouse Kim it was time to put the steaks on the grill. I acted as though I was prepared, calmly grabbed the steaks she prepped for grilling, and scurried to the gas grill to begin the pre-heating process. I opened the top cover of the grill, turned the gas on at the propane cylinder, and began to push the ignition button to light the burners.

Click, click, click.....no flame. I try again and still, no flame. Feeling the pressure to impress Kim and give no indication I was completely unprepared, I secretly scurry into the house to grab a long reach lighter to manually create a flame to ignite the grill. I succeed, navigating back to the grill undetected in mere seconds. I quickly extend the lighter to ignite the grill...BOOM!! My cranium immediately was engulfed in a ball of flames.

Fortunately for me, the result of the small explosion was singed eyelashes, just about completely burnt-off eyebrows, and a face that looked like it had a bad sunburn! I was as bald then as I am now, so no issues with hair loss! Initially, my greatest concern was my inability to conceal my gross grilling error to Kim...I could not blame having no eye-brows on a shaving accident. As I grilled the steaks (yes, I was not going to let a small explosion ruin dinner), I thought of the possible long-term consequences of my irresponsible actions. My first thought was if I had damaged my vision, I would not be

able to fly F-16s any longer. Second thought was my career in the United States Air Force was potentially put in jeopardy. Third thought was damage to my vision...causing a possible inability to drive, possible blindness. What impact would that have on my wife Kim, my two-year-old daughter Brooke and me?

The Air Force 101 Critical Days of Summer Campaign begins May 24, 2013. This time of year should be fun and enjoyable! Sun, beach, get the motorcycle on the road, boating, fishing, family vacations, increased outdoor activities, and yes grilling. Most summer activities are fun, but are riddled with hazards. There is no possible way I can review each and every hazard to you in this article. What I can do is ask each one of you to spend some time thinking of possible hazards associated with the activities you plan to partake in, therefore raising your awareness, and hopefully reducing risk to injury. All I had to do was take a couple extra seconds to shut off the propane cylinder before scurrying into the house to get the lighter. Instead, my hastiness put my entire way of life in jeopardy.

It is imperative that you, the Airmen of the 177th Fighter Wing, mitigate these hazards, understand safety has a role in everything we do, not only on-duty, but off-duty as well. I ask you to commit to yourself, family, friends, and co-workers by preparing mentally for summer activities, and participating responsibly.

Col Gentry and I would like to wish all of you an enjoyable Memorial Day weekend and a fun-filled, yet safe 2013 Summer!



John R. DiDonna Jr.
Colonel, NJANG
Vice Wing Commander

Heroic actions under enemy fire

Story by Staff Sgt. Wayne Wooley, NJDMAVA PA

When an explosive ordnance disposal team rolls out for a combat patrol, their objective is to defuse bombs and gather intelligence about the bomb-makers. It's not to engage the enemy.

But as New Jersey Air National Guard Tech. Sgt. Mike Sears put it, sometimes, there's no choice. Sept. 29, 2012 was one of those days.

A three-man Air Force EOD team led by Sears found itself in the middle of a complex ambush on a dusty road in Ghazni Province, Afghanistan. Over the course of a two-hour fire-fight, Sears provided life-saving aid to a fallen coalition soldier from Poland; ran five times through a 150-yard open area riddled with enemy machine gun fire to direct his team in returning fire; and continued on with the fight even after being knocked temporarily unconscious by a rocket-propelled grenade blast.

Brig. Gen. Michael L. Cunniff, The Adjutant General, awarded Sears the Bronze Star and Purple Heart at a ceremony at the State House in Trenton.

In an interview, Sears, 36, credited his Afghan team, Staff Sgt. John Hurley, a fellow member of the 177th Fighter Wing, and Staff Sgt. Josh Jerden, an active duty Airman, with fighting hard to allow them all to survive the ambush.

On the day of the attack, Sears's team had been on patrol with a team of 90 Polish infantrymen and sappers, also known as combat engineers or soldiers who perform various military engineering duties. They had come across a massive improvised explosive device packed with 80 pounds of explosives. After Sears had investigated, Hurley used a robot to detonate the device. Sears went back to ensure the bomb had been defeated and instead found two more devices triggered by pressure plates. He was able to diffuse them on his own and collect evidence to be used to try to identify their



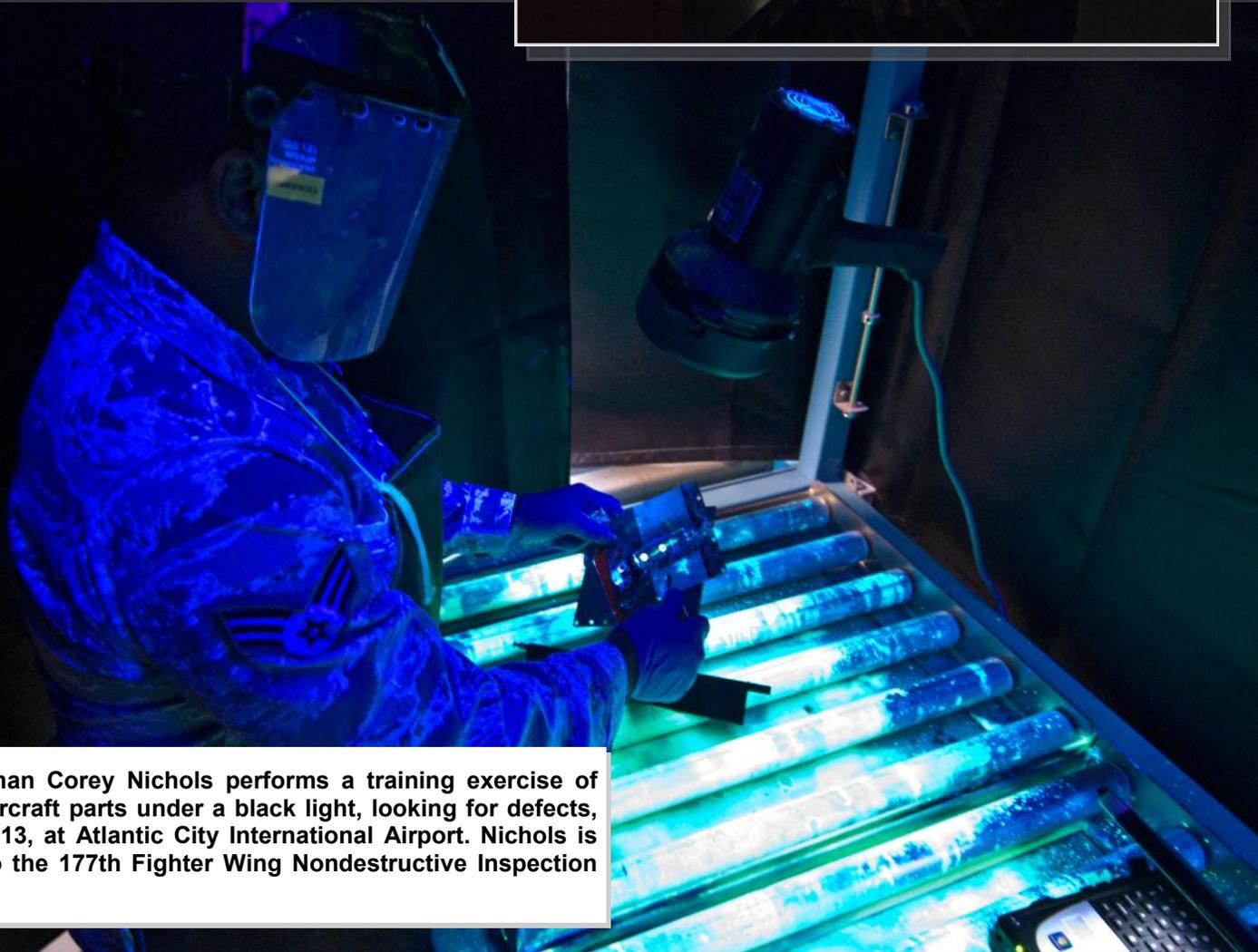
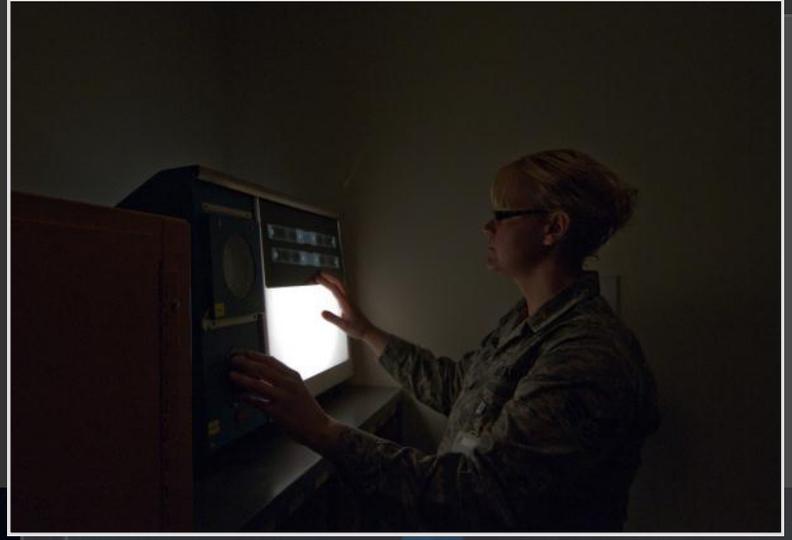
New Jersey Air National Guard Tech. Sgt. Michael Sears, left, is awarded the Bronze Star by Brig. Gen. Michael L. Cunniff, the adjutant general, at a ceremony April 17, 2013, at the State House in Trenton, N.J. On a single combat patrol in Afghanistan, Sears, an explosive ordnance disposal technician with the 177th Fighter Wing, defused two improvised explosive devices and made five trips across open terrain under heavy enemy fire to aid a wounded coalition soldier and to engage insurgent forces. Sears suffered a shoulder injury and expended more than 190 rounds from his M4 rifle during the firefight. He was also awarded the Purple Heart. U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen

NDI

Photos by Tech. Sgt. Andrew J. Merlock, Jr., 177th FW/PA



Senior Airman Ray Casanova (above) performs a training exercise of checking aircraft parts under a black light, looking for defects, April 14, 2013. Senior Airman Rita Abate-marco (right) performs a training exercise of reviewing an x-ray negative, checking for defects, on April 14, 2013.



Senior Airman Corey Nichols performs a training exercise of checking aircraft parts under a black light, looking for defects, April 14, 2013, at Atlantic City International Airport. Nichols is assigned to the 177th Fighter Wing Nondestructive Inspection shop.

PILOT FOR A DAY

Photos by Master Sgt. Andrew Moseley, 177th FW/PA



Tech. Sgt. Jasin Nesmith, 177th Operations Support Flight, and Huw Bradwell, honorary pilot for a day, watch F-16 Fighting Falcons land during his visit to the 177th Fighter Wing, New Jersey Air National Guard, in Egg Harbor Township, N.J., April 16, 2013.



Huw Bradwell, honorary pilot for a day, shakes hands with Col. Kerry Gentry, wing commander, as his father, Chris, and other unit members look on during his visit to the 177th Fighter Wing.



Senior Master Sgt. Jason Gioconda shows Huw Bradwell, honorary pilot for a day, aircrew life support equipment during his visit the 177th Fighter Wing, New Jersey Air National Guard, in Egg Harbor Township, N.J., April 16, 2013.



Atlantic City's rich aviation history is little known, but this relationship dates back to just a few years after the Wright brothers' first flight. The purpose of this and subsequent articles is to relate the fascinating stories of this close relationship between Atlantic City and aviation.

Continued from Part 2 in the April 2013 Conrail

On August 17, 1943 after previous failures in combat and the senseless loss of a Thunderbolt due to his stupid accident, Mahurin finally scored by downing two Fw -190s while escorting B-17 bombers on the infamous Schweinfurt and Regensburg raid. The 8th Air Force bombers suffered badly, losing 60 heavy bombers out of an attack force of 360; incensed by the carnage witnessed during the raid, the 56th Fighter Group finally came into its own, scoring 17 confirmed kills, including Mahurin's two, while flying P-47C-2 (serial number 42-6259, coded UN:V) since the Spirit was out of service. It is believed that one of those two kills was Luftwaffe Gruppe Leader Hauptmann Wilhelm Galland, the younger brother of Luftwaffe fighter ace and general, Adolf Galland. Bud Mahurin scored his third kill, a Me-109, on November 29, 1943 while flying P-47D-11 (serial 42-75278, code UN:B).

From that point on, Bud Mahurin flew the Spirit of Atlantic City almost exclusively, becoming an ace (5 air-to-air victories) by October 1943 after shooting down 3 Me-110s in a single day and in November becoming the 8th Fighter Command's first pilot to down 10 enemy aircraft, after again shooting down another three Luftwaffe Me-110s on one mission. In March 1944, he was promoted to major, and with 20 victories, he was the Army Air Corps' leading ace.

On March 27, 1944, Mahurin achieved his 21st kill – a Dornier 217 fast bomber, but at a price. In his words,

“I reached the Dornier rapidly, firing well out of range in hopes that the crew would abandon the machine in view of the odds of destruction. I could see the enemy tail gunner firing at me; I broke off and re-established the attack. I settled in behind on a second firing run and watched both engines catch fire ... the crew bailed out just before the bomber exploded into the ground.

When I had broken off attack to begin my climb back to altitude I saw the shadow of my aircraft on the ground and noticed a long stream of black smoke billowing from the tail.”

Hit by the German tail gunner in the exchange, the Spirit of Atlantic City was doomed. Mahurin bailed out at less than 1000 feet, barely having time for the chute to deploy before he hit the ground near Chartres, France. Uninjured, he made it to nearby woodland and evaded capture. Mahurin, with the help of the French underground and a clandestine rescue flight by the RAF, made his way back to England on May 7, 1944 and eventually to the 56th Fighter Group at Halesworth airfield. Ironically, the 8th Air Force's other leading ace, the 61st FS's Gerald W. Johnson, was also lost on the same mission, but unlike Mahurin, spent the rest of the war in a prisoner of war camp.

Bud Mahurin would have liked to get right back into combat and certainly pilots of his skill were in great need. But this was not to be, for the authorities had justly established a rule that any flier who evaded capture could not fly again in the European theatre. This was to prevent an unlucky flier, shot down again, from divulging information under interrogation that would endanger the lives of those who helped the original escape.

Mahurin received orders back to the States, where he first enjoyed R&R in Miami Beach before embarking on a War Bond Drive, which included a stop at Atlantic City. He took a train from Trenton to Atlantic City and upon arrival on July 4, 1944 saw a crowd of people, including city officials and a band on the platform. Wondering who important might be onboard, he stayed in his seat until everyone else had left the train. Much to his surprise, he learned that the festivities were in his honor! He was welcomed by Mayor Joseph Altman along with former Mayor Harry Bacharach, chairman of Atlantic City's War Bond effort. Bud Mahurin rode in an open car through the streets of Atlantic City passing crowds of people waving to their 'adopted citizen.' At the end of the time spent by Bud in Atlantic City, Bacharach announced that funds raised during the visit pushed the War Bond drive's total over \$235,000 – well on the way towards the purchase a new fighter, to be dubbed “Miss Atlantic City.”
....to be continued!

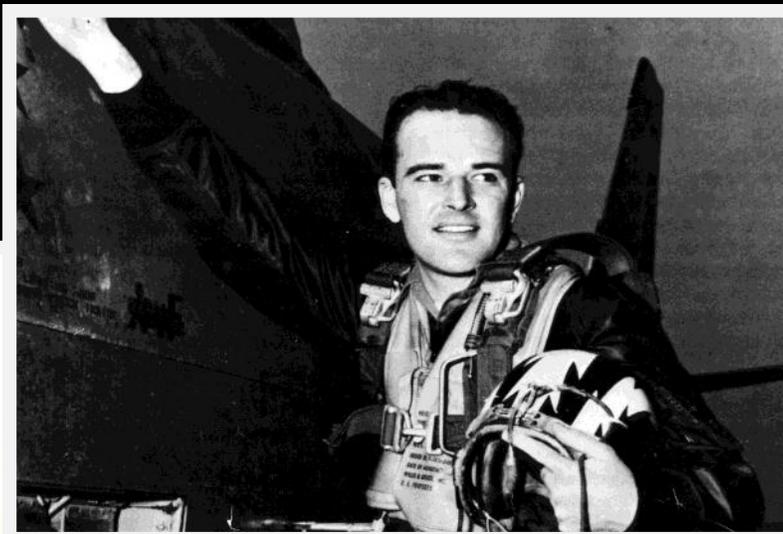


THE SPIRIT OF ATLANTIC CITY

BY DR. RICHARD V. PORCELLI



Colonel Walker Melville "Bud" Mahurin was the first American pilot to become a double ace in the European theater and was the only USAF pilot to shoot down enemy planes in both the European and Pacific theaters and the Korean War. In his career, he is credited with 24.25 aircraft destroyed in combat.



Around the Wing

Photos by Tech. Sgt. Matt Hecht, 177th FW/PA

ARMY TRAINS IN A.C.



A U.S. Army UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter crew from the 12th Aviation Battalion prepares for takeoff from the 177th Fighter Wing, New Jersey Air National Guard on April 24, 2013. The 12th Aviation Battalion is located at Davison Army Airfield, Fort Belvoir, Va.

CE WORKS MAINT PROJECT



Above: Senior Airman David Ringer and Master Sgt. Delroy Wallace clear gravel from the back of a truck during a construction project on April 20, 2013. Ringer and Wallace are both part of the 177th Civil Engineering Squadron.

SECURITY OVERWATCH

Below: Master Sgt. Kurt Williams, a flight chief with the 177th Security Forces Squadron, watches as a 177th Fighter Wing F-16C Fighting Falcon taxis on April 24, 2013.



JERSEY DEVILS IN THE NEWS



KAWAN HITS 1,000 HOURS



Maj. Michael Kawan, an F-16C Fighting Falcon pilot, and 177th Fighter Wing Chief of Safety, accomplished his 1,000th flight hour on April 16, 2013. Also pictured: Maj. Jed Humbert, Maj. John Barret, Maj. Ben Robbins, and Maj. Greg Poston. Courtesy photo.

NEWEST CHIEF



Aircrew flight equipment superintendent, Senior Master Sergeant Jason Gioconda, with the 177th Fighter Wing - NJ Air National Guard, at his promotion ceremony to Chief Master Sergeant in Egg Harbor Township, NJ on April 16, 2013. U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Andrew J. Moseley, 177th FW/PA

RECRUITERS MENTOR STUDENT FLIGHT



Tech. Sgt. James Morris, left, a recruiter with the 177th Fighter Wing, leads Student Flight members in pushups, April 13, 2013, at the National Guard Training Center in Sea Girt, N.J. U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen

THREE DECADES OF THE GUARD



Security Forces Squadron Tech. Sgt. Edwin Visalden (right), with the 177th Fighter Wing - NJ Air National Guard, re-enlists after 30 years of service at the base in Egg Harbor Township, NJ on May 14, 2013. U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Andrew J. Moseley

HAIL & FAREWELL IN THE LEGAL OFFICE

Story and photo by Master Sgt. Anna Ayars, 177FW/JA



In a bittersweet occasion, the 177th Fighter Wing Legal Office has announced that it is losing one of its most valuable resources, Tech. Sgt. Rusty Litterer. Litterer has served with dedication and great distinction as a Paralegal with the Legal Office since 2004, garnering national recognition as ANG Paralegal of the Year in 2010. In 2012, Litterer realized his goal of a combat deployment, bringing his paralegal expertise to DoD Detention Operations in Afghanistan with Combined Joint Interagency Task Force 435. Despite his love of the paralegal profession, Litterer, who is a fireman in his civilian profession, made the difficult decision to accept a voluntary demotion to E-5 which enabled him to transfer to the 177th Fighter Wing Fire Department. While we in the Wing Legal Office are sad to see him go, we wish him well and much continued success in his new position as a firefighter. We are confident that he will be as great an asset to the Fire Department as he was to the Legal Office.



As we bid farewell to Litterer, we hail Staff Sgt. Susan Bobb. Bobb was recently approved for accession as a Paralegal into the United States Air Force Judge Advocate General Corps. Bobb is transferring from Airfield Management where she had been assigned since September 2011. She previously served as an Air Traffic Controller with the 258th Air Traffic Control Squadron in Johnstown, PA from September 2005 – July 2011. Bobb well knows the challenge in replacing Litterer, but we have every confidence that she will successfully meet the challenges and expectations of the Legal Office.

JERSEY DEVILS SPOTLIGHT



Name: Airman 1st Class Michael Berenotto

Position: Aircraft Structural Maintenance

Favorite Food: Sushi

Favorite Movie: Black Hawk Down

Favorite Music: Rock

Favorite Book: Anything by Tom Clancy

Favorite Sport: Football - Cowboys!

What I like best about the 177th: Every day is different and brings new challenges.



DON'T FORGET TO FEED THE BIN!





NEWS AIRMEN CAN USE

Airmen's names used in online scams

by Chris McCann
Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Public Affairs

12/2/2011 - **JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska (AFNS)** -- "Hi,

Thanks for replying to my ad. I'm in a hurry to find a buyer because I have a family emergency and I need to sell it before 22 November. My name is Larry. I'm an Air Force Staff Sergeant stationed at an AF Base in Anchorage, Alaska. The truck is here with me.

This 2000 Toyota Tundra SR5 4 Wheel Drive, has 72,000 miles on it, Automatic 4SPD, 4.7L V8. A/C, Cruise Control, Heated Seats, Tow Package, Traction Control and more... It has no damage, no scratches or dents, no hidden defects....

The price is \$2,690. If you want to buy this SUV I will take care of the delivery to your door (with an AF cargo plane to the nearest AF Base) and I will offer 5 days to inspect the vehicle and take it to your mechanic from the moment you receive it (and the option to accept or reject it), before I'll have your money..."

Sounds too good to be true?

That's because it is.

This scam and others similar to it have circulated around Craigslist for a few years now.

Service members of all branches have had their names used as the "sellers" of these vehicles. Often, the ad even states that an Air Force tow truck will take the vehicle from the nearest Air Force base to the buyer's house. The photos are taken from other Craigslist ads, photo-hosting sites and even car dealership websites.

Unfortunately, people can and do get conned into sending money, and the car of course never shows up.

Staff Sgt. Amanda Gibson, an approving official for the 3rd Munitions Squadron here, was a "seller" -- much to her surprise.

"I found out through an email from someone at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, (Ohio)," Gibson said. "I thought it was over. ... Then I got a call from security forces at a base in Pennsylvania because a civilian had gotten in touch with them and asked if I was real."

She was also mentioned in an article in the Hartford, (Conn.) Courant about the scam, she said.

In all, she has found her name in 61 scam advertisements and continues to get occasional emails about the vehicle she's allegedly selling. Gibson has filed reports with the Federal Trade Commission and the Air Force Office of Special Investigations, she said.

Unfortunately, there's not much that can be done. The scammers

are not in the U.S. in most cases. FBI Agent Tim Gallagher, the section chief of the bureau's cyber division, said that the FBI has arrested people in connection with the scams overseas.

However, that may be cold comfort to those who have been duped.

"I think service members' names are chosen because it's relatively easy to verify that we exist, and people want to trust military people," Gibson said.

It's also easy to search for a name and get results, even phone numbers, which makes potential victims think it's legitimate. For example, even Chief Master Sgt. Lisa Kuehnl, the 673rd Air Base Wing senior enlisted advisor here, was shocked to get a call on her duty phone about a vehicle she was allegedly selling.

"I have sold things on Craigslist in the past, so the first email didn't surprise me," Kuehnl said. "But I would never use the duty phone. That spooked me."

Alaska seems to be a good place for the scammers to claim as the car's location, since it's remote, Gibson said. Often, people don't realize it's a scam until they offer to make a trip to take a look at the car, which is almost always somewhere remote.

If a potential buyer offers to visit and test-drive it, suddenly there's "another offer" and the car isn't for sale anymore, or it's "already crated and ready for shipping."

And what if you discover that you've been "trying to sell" a beautiful vehicle at a fraction of its blue-book value?

Fortunately, said a representative from OSI, it's usually not an actual case of identity theft, just theft of your name. Scammers use web-based email addresses, like Gmail, to do the transactions; they're not hacking email accounts. They don't need a person's social security number, address or any other information -- just his or her name and reputation as a service member -- to get their money and disappear.

Most times, the ad states that "for your protection" the money will go to an escrow account with eBay until buyer and seller are both satisfied, officials said. But eBay and Craigslist have nothing to do with each other. Just like Toyota won't repair your Ford, eBay won't broker money for Craigslist.

Airmen who find that someone has used their name in connection with the scam should report it to local authorities as well as to IC3.gov and ftc.gov. OSI also recommends Airmen inform their chain of command. Some potential victims think that service members are the scammers, so their command should know what happened as soon as possible.

Airmen can also file reports with the FBI, and it's never a bad idea to have a fraud alert on your bank account and credit cards, officials said.

Craigslist and eBay both have prominent disclaimers reminding people not to use Western Union or MoneyGram for purchases, since once the money is sent, it's gone, with no recourse for the sender. While those services might be good for sending money to a relative or friend, they're also often used by scam artists.

Galione retires after 40 years of service

Story by Tech. Sgt. Andrew J. Merlock, Jr., 177FW/PA

The 177th Fighter Wing Fire Department's assistant fire chief retired after forty-four years of service on April 13, 2013.

Chief Master Sgt. (Ret.) Dominick Galione enlisted in the 177th Fighter Interceptor Group in September 1969 and served both as a full-time technician and a traditional Guardsman. Galione noted that the thing he will miss the most is watching the aircraft, which also was the reason he initially enlisted.

After retiring from the Maryland Air National Guard in 2010, Galione returned to 177th and continued his service as a state employee.

Galione deployed to numerous places throughout the world, including England, Panama, Germany and the Azores, in addition to several state-side bases where he trained, mentored and worked with firefighters from all fifty states.

During his career, Galione saw advancements in everything from fire suits to regulations, as well as an increased awareness about hazardous materials and their effects. Galione took this knowledge and, as a founding member, incorporated it in the development of the Air National Guard Fire Chief's Course and the Air National Guard Fire Marshall's Course.

"The professionalism and camaraderie of fire department personnel always remained a constant," Galione said.



Chief Master Sgt. Dominick Galione (Ret.) accepts a lithograph from Senior Master Sgt. Brian Alexander upon his retirement on April 13, 2013. U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Andrew J. Moseley

Human Trafficking A Global Problem

Prostitution. Servitude. Forced Labor.

Each year, hundreds of thousands of innocent men, women and children are exploited in human trafficking schemes.

ICE is a leader in the global fight against trafficking.

By targeting trafficking organizations while providing support to victims, ICE is working to dismantle the criminal infrastructure behind human trafficking.

Common Trafficking Indicators

- Victim does not have ID or travel documents.
- Victim has been coached in talking to law enforcement and immigration officials.
- Victim is in forced labor situation or sex trade.
- Victim's salary is gamished to pay off smuggling fees.
- Victim is denied freedom of movement.
- Victim or family is threatened with harm if escape is attempted.
- Victim is threatened with deportation or arrest.
- Victim has been harmed or denied food, water, sleep or medical care.
- Victim is denied contact with friends or family.
- Victim is not allowed to socialize or attend religious services.

Trafficking vs. Smuggling

Human Trafficking is defined as:

- sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such act is younger than 18; or
- the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage or slavery.

Human Smuggling is defined as:

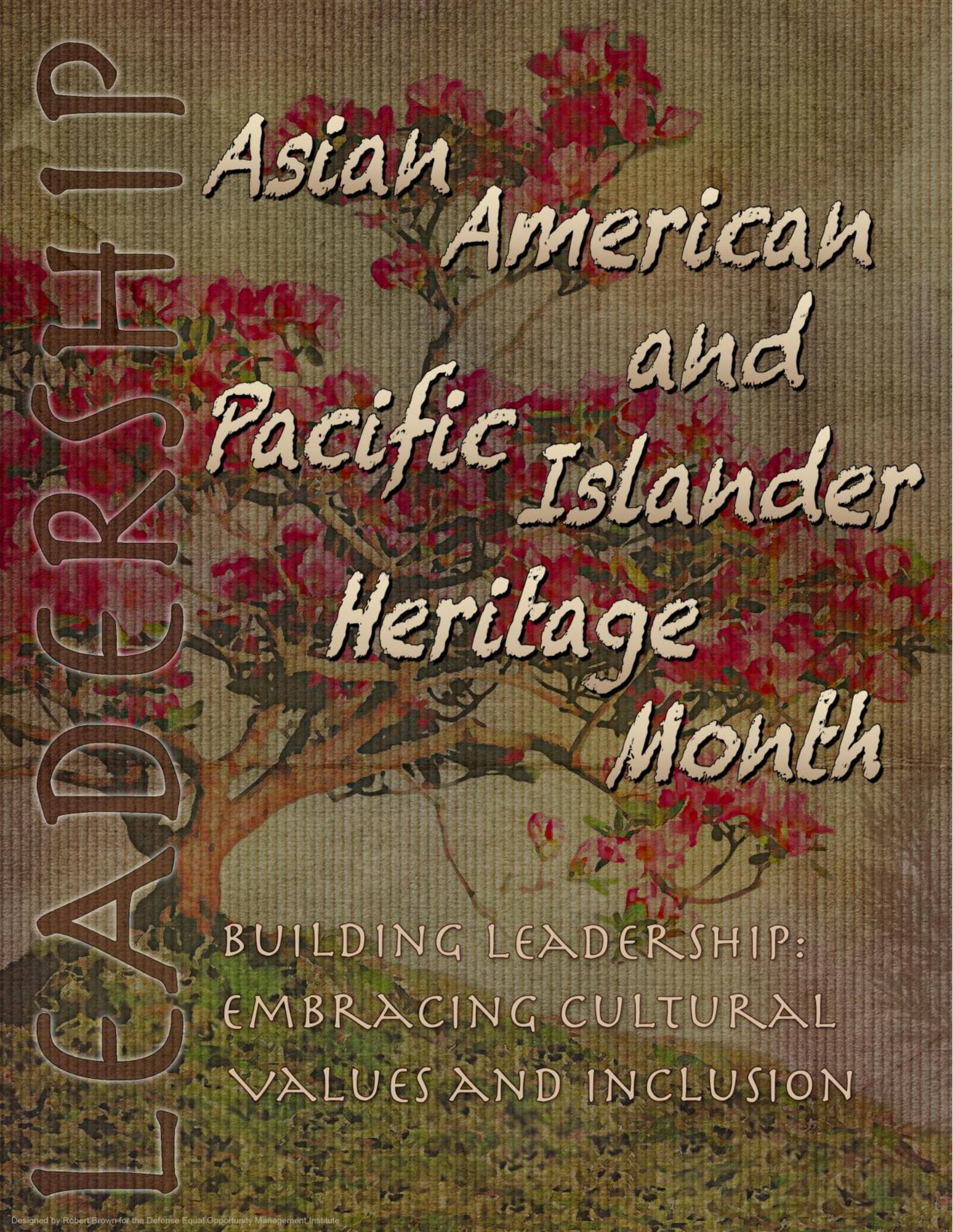
- the importation of people into the United States involving deliberate evasion of immigration laws. This offense includes bringing illegal aliens into the country, as well as the unlawful transportation and harboring of aliens already in the United States.



Homeland Security
Blue Campaign

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1-866-DHS-2-ICE
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COL KERRY GENTRY



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