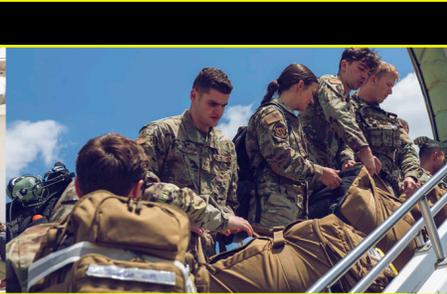
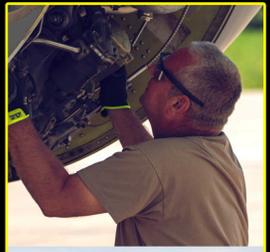
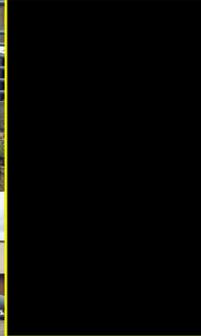


The TANKER TIMES

171ST AIR REFUELING WING, PENNSYLVANIA AIR NATIONAL GUARD



The TANKER TIMES

A year-in-review journal of the 171st Air Refueling Wing
2024 - Vol. 5

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FEATURE STORIES

Continuing the Legacy, Page 8

Written by: Master Sgt. Bryan Hoover

Tech. Sgt. Aleia Hoffman follows in her families footsteps while carving her own path at the 171st Air Refueling Wing.

It's a Family Thing, Page 24

Written by: Master Sgt. Bryan Hoover

Command Chief Master Sgt. Charles Wiley re-enlists for his final time the way he would want it to, with his hand raised and reciting the oath to a family member.

CHANGE OF COMMAND



Col. Raymond L. Hyland, presents the guidon to Col. Steven Guyton, the incoming 171st Medical Group commander, during a change of command ceremony Jan. 7, 2024 (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Zoe M. Wockenfuss)



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ON *The* COVER

The cover design showcases photos captured by 171st Public Affairs professionals of one of the wings major events of 2024, Exercise Iron Keystone. (U.S. Air National Guard photo illustration by Shawn Monk)



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State of the Wing



Raymond L. Hyland Jr. Wing Commander

As 2024 has drawn to a close, it's time to reflect on the remarkable achievements of the 171st Air Refueling Wing and look toward a future full of promise and potential. Over the past year, we have proven our resilience, adaptability, and dedication in executing critical missions, strengthening our capabilities, and enhancing our role as a vital force in defending our nation. Together, we've accomplished much, and together, we will continue to excel in the years ahead.

Executing the Mission

In 2024, the 171 ARW demonstrated its unwavering ability to adapt and thrive in dynamic and complex environments. Through your hard work and dedication, you conceptualized, planned, and executed the ANG's most complex and robust wing-level exercise to date. The IRON KEYSTONE inspection and STEEL FORGE exercise, held from June 6-12, were a powerful testament to our operational excellence. Working alongside elite units such as the 193rd

Special Operations Wing, 111th Attack Wing, and the Royal Canadian Air Force, our Airmen showcased seamless interoperability in both combined and joint operational settings. IRON KEYSTONE, hosted in Savannah, Georgia, emphasized Agile Combat Employment (ACE), AFFORGEN readiness, and Real-Time Information in the Cockpit (RTIC), while STEEL FORGE underscored the importance of our nation's nuclear deterrence.

The 171st also stood out in other areas. The 258th Air Traffic Control Squadron led the Air National Guard by controlling 15 airports and 35 square miles of airspace. They helped manage a \$14 million air traffic control facility, keeping 1,100 military flights and 71,000 general aviation flights safe.

Additionally, our support of CENTCOM operations through multiple deployments highlighted our ability to respond rapidly and effectively to global contingencies. Locally we executed 10 Operation NOBLE EAGLE alert sorties and delivered over 365,000 pounds of fuel to our mission partners. Our training efforts were nothing short of exemplary, with maintenance generating over 1,110 sorties and aircrews logging 2,556 flight hours—exceeding our annual planned training goals. A special milestone this year—66 years and over 298,000 hours of Class A mishap-free flying—further highlights the dedication to safety and professionalism that is ingrained in our culture. (A Class A mishap is when an aircraft sustains more than \$2.5 million in damages or a loss of life.)

On the DOMOPS (domestic operations) front, members of the unit's Fatality Search and Recover Team (FSRT) and Chaplain rapidly deployed in response to Hurricane Helene. These key members provided a critical role in assisting with mortuary operations. As a 171 ARW best practice, the Chaplain and a Chaplain's Assistant deployed to provide emotional and spiritual support to the

FSRT members. Sending the Chaplain Team was highlighted as a best practice by the ANG.

With the election season behind us, once again, team Pittsburgh was well seasoned and experienced with VIP movements. Sections from throughout the Wing, worked tirelessly to ensure the safe and efficient movement for over 10 VIP visits. Your continued excellence was always appreciated by our partners at the U.S. Secret Service.

Leading People

At the heart of our success is the strength of our Airmen. Throughout the year, the 171 ARW continued to place a high value on community engagement and building strong relationships with our local partners. The wing partnered with the 911th Airlift Wing to host the Honorary Commanders Program. Through this program, Pittsburgh civic and community leaders gained insight into our mission and operations. The wing also collaborated with the active duty, Air Force Reserves components, the U.S. Air Force Academy and the Air Force ROTC to do a first-of-its-kind All Star Leadership Day. As a result, the wing hosted over 450 high school aged student leaders representing 29 schools from the tri-state area (Pennsylvania, Ohio and West Virginia). This event resulted in a massive social media blitz that was generated by the students in attendance. Students were able to learn the importance of our mission while seeing firsthand what opportunities are available within the Air Force and ANG. These initiatives are critical in fostering trust and support between the military and the community, reinforcing the foundation of our mission readiness.

Squadron Leadership throughout the wing took advantage of UNITE program funds to host seven events in 2024. These morale and team building events directly benefited over 380 wing members. This is an 40% increase in participation as

compared to CY2023. While that's an impressive increase in participation, there is still a lot of money available for these types of social events. I empower and encourage everyone to take advantage of this morale and team building funding to enhance your organizations.

Improving the Unit

Innovation and modernization were central to our strategic vision this year. The MERLIN Automated Tanker Research project brought us closer to the future of autonomous aerial refueling, while aircrews took significant strides in familiarizing themselves with the new Real-Time Information in the Cockpit (RTIC) system, improving mission planning and execution. Furthermore, the activation of the Global Aircrew Strategic Network Terminal (Global ASNT) significantly enhanced our nuclear command and control capabilities, ensuring that we remain prepared for the most critical and sensitive missions.

Through the Continuous Improvement and Innovation (CI2) initiative, the Wing completed over 100 "just-do-it" projects, demonstrating our commitment to operational efficiency and continuous development. Additionally, we increased the number of Green Belt-trained personnel, reinforcing our culture of problem-solving and process improvement while empowering and enhancing our Airman.

This type of excellence in innovation was highlighted by Vehicle Maintenance Flight (VMF). Through an armor modification, VMF was able to reduce the weight of the 258 ATCS's HMMWV (a mobile air traffic control tower),

making it fully mission capable. As a result, NGB validated and promoted the benchmark process for the rest of the ANG.

Managing Resources

This year also saw key structural changes within the Wing. In accordance with the Chief of Staff of the Air Force (CSAF) guidelines, the Wing began to reorganization into an A-Staff. With this initiative, over 36 positions were reallocated or newly assigned to this unique and ever-evolving staff. While these newly assigned positions create vacancies initially, it also serves as a great recruiting and retention opportunity for all of us. I am hopeful that the Military Family Education Program (MFEP) and significant retention bonuses, can offer value to our Airman and their families. If you are unfamiliar with these amazing opportunities, please reach out to your leadership for information. These efforts will continue to provide strong value to our Airman as we strive to maintain a highly skilled and dedicated workforce.

Looking Ahead

As we prepare for 2025, we are positioned for continued success. The upcoming Functional Readiness Inspection (previously known as a UEI) in September will provide a clear opportunity to assess our readiness and compliance. I am confident that we will achieve outstanding results and demonstrate our commitment to excellence. This is your opportunity to showcase the best practices of the 171st!

CENTCOM deployments will remain a primary focus, as we continue to adapt to the AFFORGEN deployment construct. While restructuring may

bring changes to our command structure, these adjustments are designed to enhance squadron-level significance and streamline our operations, making us even more agile and effective in our mission execution.

Acknowledgement

Your collective hard work and excellence in all you do has been recognized well beyond the gates of the 171st Air Refueling Wing. Most recently, the 171st was selected as Air Mobility Command's (AMC) nomination for the 2024 USSTRATCOM Omaha Trophy! The Omaha Trophy is awarded annually to USSTRATCOM's most outstanding unit. As AMC's nominee, we have demonstrated to the entire Command that Team Pittsburgh is the "Most Outstanding" tanker unit in AMC!! This is an amazing acknowledgement and highlights your outstanding professionalism and dedication to our mission. Thank you for helping us earn such a huge accomplishment!!

Conclusion

The achievements of the 171st ARW this year reflect the extraordinary dedication, professionalism, and innovation of our Airmen. As we look ahead to 2025 and beyond, I am confident that the challenges and changes that lie ahead will only further strengthen our resolve and capabilities. Together, we remain ready, reliable, and resilient.

Here's to another year of excellence, and to the continued success of the 171st Air Refueling Wing!

Mission:

To enable global reach through superior air refueling expertise.
To provide the best mission support in domestic and international operations in the USAF.

Vision:

To be the premier flying wing in the USAF.
A unified team of Airmen who empower excellence, embrace innovation and embody the AF Core Values in everything we do.



State *of* the Enlisted



Charles W. Wiley
12th Command Chief

As I reflect on my role as the Command Chief of the 171st Air Refueling Wing, I remain humbled and honored by the opportunity to address the remarkable men and women who form the backbone of our Pennsylvania Air National Guard. Month after month, we gather—united by a shared commitment to service, resilience, and excellence. I want to take a moment to celebrate our achievements, acknowledge the challenges we’ve faced, and chart a bold and determined course for the future.

Celebrating Our Achievements

This year, the 171st Air Refueling

Wing demonstrated unparalleled excellence. Your dedication and professionalism shone brightly in every mission we undertook, from training exercises and state-level operations to our significant deployment to Savannah, Georgia, during the REV. Sending nearly one-third of our unit to complete a critical mission showcased not only the capability but the exceptionalism of the Air National Guard. Your ability to execute the mission flawlessly underscores why this wing continues to lead and inspire across the force.

Additionally, your professionalism during the national election season deserves immense recognition. Amid campaign visits, political

pressures, and media attention, you maintained integrity and composure, exemplifying the nonpartisan professionalism that is foundational to our success. This dedication reflects our shared commitment to the core values of integrity, service, and excellence.

We also saw incredible strides in recruiting and retention. Together, you embodied the motto, “We are all recruiters,” setting new benchmarks for success. Because of your efforts, the 171st recruited more members than nearly any other ANG unit—ensuring that our team remains strong and ready for future challenges.

Acknowledging Challenges

The path of service is rarely without obstacles. This year tested our resilience as we navigated personal and collective losses that left a mark on our hearts. Through these hardships, you demonstrated what it means to be a family. You rallied around one another, providing support and strength when it was needed most. Let us continue to honor those we have lost by moving forward with the same unwavering spirit they inspired in us. Challenges like these remind us that adversity is not an endpoint but an opportunity for growth. Together, we face each obstacle with unity and resolve, knowing that our strength lies in our ability to overcome.

Looking Ahead

As we look to the future, our mission demands that we remain vigilant, adaptable, and forward-thinking. The demands on our

force are constantly evolving, and we must embrace a mindset of continuous learning and professional growth.

I urge each of you to prioritize your professional development. Whether through college courses, distance learning professional military education, joint leadership training, or council involvement, seize every opportunity to propel yourself forward. You are the architect of your career, and the only obstacle standing in the way of your growth is you. Be the solution—not the barrier—to your success.

Military Bearing, Customs, and Courtesies:

As we reflect on the achievements and challenges faced by the 171st Air Refueling Wing, it is essential to highlight the critical role of military bearing, customs, and courtesies in our continued success. These principles are the foundation of our service, ensuring that every Airman upholds the highest standards of discipline, respect, and professionalism.

Military bearing is more than appearance; it is the embodiment of integrity, responsibility, and unwavering commitment in every action we take. Customs and courtesies, from saluting to addressing one another with respect, foster an environment where mutual respect and excellence thrive. Every member of our unit is a leader, and leading by example ensures that we maintain the proud traditions of the Air National Guard.

As we face future challenges, let our adherence to these core

principles guide us. Upholding military bearing, practicing customs and courtesies, and leading by example are not just expectations—they are essential elements that strengthen our wing and ensure mission success. Together, we will continue to soar to new heights, driven by our values and our commitment to service.

Recognition and Gratitude

Before I close, I want to express my deepest gratitude to all of you. Your sacrifices, your hard work, and your commitment to service define what it means to be Air National Guard strong. I also want to extend a heartfelt thank-you to your families. Their unwavering support is the foundation that allows us to perform our mission with excellence. The strength of our wing—and the strength of our nation—is built on their sacrifices.

Closing

As we move forward, let us continue to uphold the values that define us—integrity, service, and excellence. The state of our wing is strong because of you. Together, we will face the future with confidence, knowing that we are prepared for whatever challenges come our way.

Thank you for your service, your dedication, and your commitment. Let us continue to soar to new heights in the service of our nation.

Air National Guard Strong!





Continuing the Legacy

*Written and Photographed By:
Master Sgt. Bryan Hoover*

Continuing her family's legacy of military service, Tech. Sgt. Aleia Hoffman is a Services craftsman assigned to the 171st Force Support Squadron, the same squadron from which her mom retired.

Utilizing the resources available to her, Hoffman earned a bonus just for enlisting in the career field. While she progressed through her military career, she made use of the education assistance program, earning a Bachelors of Science in Nursing for free from University of California, Pennsylvania (Now PennWest University-California).

She guided her (then) boyfriend towards the 258th Air Traffic Control Squadron in Johnstown. He had found it difficult to become certified as an air traffic controller and potentially may not have been able to achieve some of his dreams without Hoffman's influence.

Now married, the two live in Atlanta where they have found great success as a registered nurse and an air traffic controller. To this day, they continue to commute to the Pittsburgh area to visit with family and continue their service in the Pennsylvania Air National Guard.

Hoffman, having fulfilled her minimum military obligation, continues to serve. She hopes that she can one day follow in her father's footsteps by commissioning and piloting one of our KC-135's as an officer, the same way he did, prior to his retirement.

TRIUMPH

for the

171st Air Refueling Wing

Public Affairs Team

Written By: Master Sgt. Bryan Hoover



A

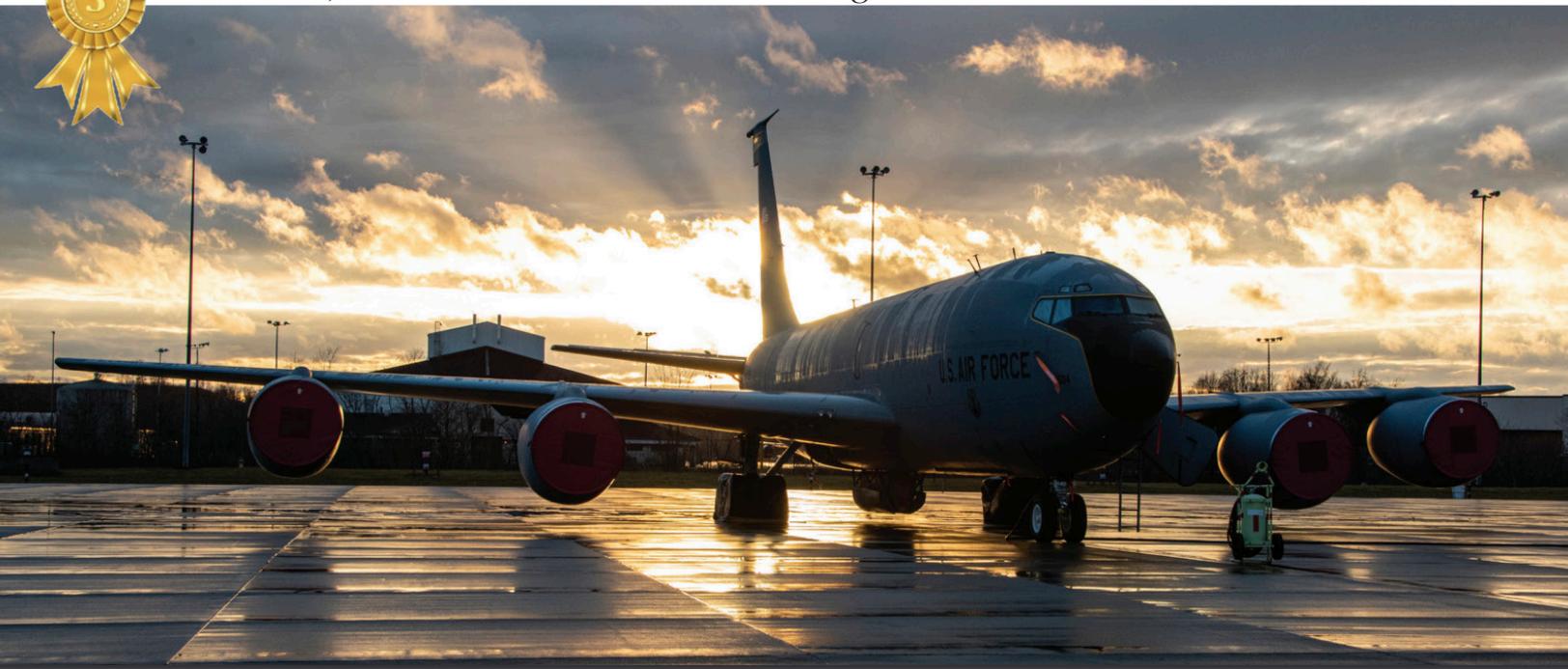
The 171st Air Refueling Wing, Pennsylvania Air National Guard's public affairs team, recently emerged victorious in the statewide Morrell Media Awards competition, securing first place in eight out of 15 categories. Master Sgt. Bryan Hoover set himself apart from other entrants by claiming four first-place awards, all while the team's overall dominance saw 16 of 33 winners hailing from the 171st.

During the submission window, the 171st public affairs team consisted of six dedicated members. Each team member found success, winning either first, second or third place awards, showcasing the team's collective talent and commitment to excellence.

Notably, Staff Sgt. Zoe Wockenfuss walked away with top honors as the 2023 Military Photographer of the Year. "I am very humbled that not only my immediate supervisors sought to recognize my work, but that my work was selected as the best in the state," said Wockenfuss. "Winning this award drives me to work harder in hopes that I can continue to demonstrate the hard work that I and the rest of the team put in here (at the 171st.)"



FEATURE PHOTO: *Senior Master Sgt. Shawn Monk*



2 FEATURE PHOTO



2 NEWS PHOTO

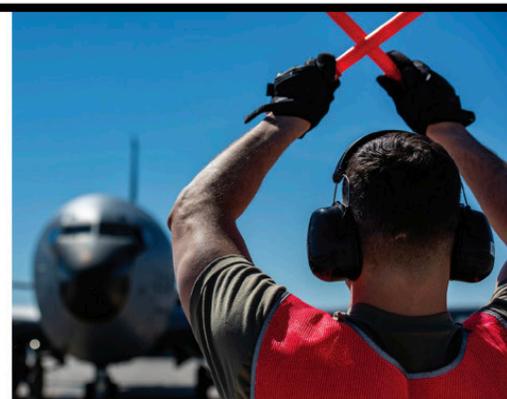


The accomplishments of the 171st public affairs team extend beyond individual achievements; they underscore the unit's commitment to effective communication, transparency, and community engagement. The team plays a vital role in bridging the gap between the military unit and the public, emphasizing the high standards upheld by the Pennsylvania Air National Guard.

Right: Pennsylvania Air Force Military Photographer of the Year, Tech. Sgt. Zoe Wockenfuss



1 AIR FORCE MILITARY PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR





NEWS PHOTO

Pennsylvania Air National Guardsmen with the 171st Air Refueling Wing's Security Forces Squadron keep watch while on a reconnaissance patrol during a large-scale readiness exercise at the base in Pittsburgh.
Photo by: Senior Master Sgt. Shawn Monk



FEATURE PHOTO



Tech. Sgt. Richard Collins, performs specialized maintenance on a vehicles under carriage
Photo by: Master Sgt. Bryan Hoover

The team's recent achievements owe much to Senior Master Sgt. Shawn Monk, who serves as the Public Affairs Operations Chief and Superintendent. He deserves recognition for his excellent guidance and leadership. Monk's influence has been crucial in shaping the team's success, laying the groundwork for their accomplishments. "It's rewarding for me to see the Airmen find pride in their art and design. It's even better to see them be rewarded for it," said Monk. "My hope is that these award-winning Airmen can one day inspire the next generation of PA (Public Affairs) Airmen."

See the entire selection of award-winning articles, photos and videos at www.171ARW.ANG.AF.MIL

Pennsylvania-Lithuania Partnership Deepens with Seven Recent Engagements

Written By: Tech. Sgt. Zoe Wockenfuss



The Pennsylvania State Partnership Program executes joint security cooperation engagements with the Republic of Lithuania in support of U.S. European Command objectives and the Department of State initiatives facilitating unity of effort in order to sustain the enduring relationship, build capacity, improve interoperability, and deter potential adversaries furthering the defense of Lithuania's sovereign borders, Euro-Atlantic security, and the homeland.

The enduring partnership between Pennsylvania and Lithuania under the State Partnership Program reached new heights as members from various Pennsylvania military units engaged in seven dynamic activities alongside their Lithuanian counterparts. From April 29 to May 2, 2024, personnel from the 193rd Special Operations Wing, 111th Attack Wing, 171st Air Refueling Wing, Pennsylvania Joint Force Headquarters, and Pennsylvania Army National Guard converged in Lithuania to participate in these collaborative endeavors.

Since its establishment in 1993, the partnership between Pennsylvania and Lithuania has exemplified the power of international collaboration in strengthening security and fostering regional stability. As one of the pioneering partnerships under the State Partnership Program, this alliance has not only flourished over the years but has also become emblematic of the program's broader success in promoting global engagement.

Within the expansive network of State Partnerships, which now comprises 88 partnerships with 100 partner nations, the Pennsylvania-Lithuania partnership stands as an example of enduring cooperation and mutual benefit. This vast network underscores the program's commitment to fostering relationships across the globe and addressing diverse security challenges through partnership and collaboration.

At the core of the Pennsylvania-Lithuania partnership are the Military-to-Military activities, which continue to evolve in scope and frequency to meet the evolving needs of both partners. These activities, tailored to support Lithuania's military mechanization efforts and National Defense goals, align closely with the strategic priorities of the U.S. European Command theater and contribute significantly to regional Security Cooperation objectives.

Utilizing a Mission Readiness Airlift (MRA) for transportation, the

Pennsylvania delegation maximized their engagement opportunities while conserving resources for future missions. The diverse range of engagements underscores the multifaceted nature of the partnership, which aims to enhance military capabilities, promote interoperability, and strengthen regional security.

The engagements included a Staff Assisted Visit with the Lithuania Air Force (LAF) to assess unit-level intel operations and ensure compliance with intelligence procedures. Additionally, the first-ever CBRN (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear) Subject Matter Expert (SME) engagement facilitated discussions on capabilities and best practices between Pennsylvania and Lithuanian military units.

Other activities included the introduction of hot pit refueling fundamentals with LAF counterparts, final planning conferences for Exercise

Right: Member from the 171st Air Refueling Wing and the Lithuanian Air Force Pose for a picture in front of a KC-135 Aircraft. (Photographed by: Tech. Sgt. Zoe M. Wockenfuss)

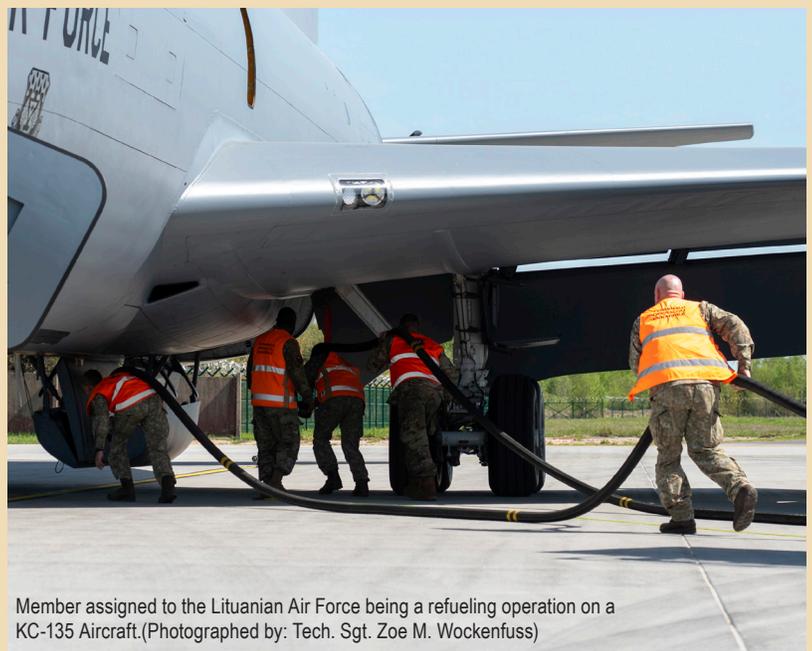


Iron Wolf 2024-I, and discussions on mobile Air Operations Center operations. Security Forces SMEs also exchanged insights on antiterrorism and force protection measures, further enhancing cooperation and readiness.

Furthermore, the engagement encompassed coordination meetings to review past event execution and plan future activities, underscoring the program's commitment to ongoing collaboration and progress.

Beyond the tangible benefits of enhanced military cooperation, the partnership has also fostered a sense of camaraderie and mutual trust among participants. By facilitating regular interactions between military personnel, policymakers, and civilian leaders, the program has created a platform for dialogue, collaboration, and friendship that transcends borders and cultural differences.

Through these engagements, the Pennsylvania-Lithuania partnership continues to thrive, serving as a beacon of international cooperation and friendship. As both parties look to the future, they remain steadfast in their commitment to advancing shared objectives and promoting regional stability in an ever-changing world.



Member assigned to the Lithuanian Air Force being a refueling operation on a KC-135 Aircraft.(Photographed by: Tech. Sgt. Zoe M. Wockenfuss)

Right: Member from the Lithuanian Air Force perform refueling operations (Photographed by: Tech. Sgt. Zoe M. Wockenfuss)





(Courtesy Photo)

Guardsmen from across Pennsylvania traveled to Lithuania between March and April to collaborate with Lithuanian chaplains on how they can improve support for military members as part of the State Partnership Program.

The partnership between Lithuania and Pennsylvania has existed for more than 30 years, but this event marks the first time the Pennsylvania Joint Resilience Team, consisting of Army and Air National Guard members, connected with Lithuanian chaplains.

“I love to build relationships. Any opportunity to build cross-cultural relationships is exciting to me,” said Chap. (Maj.) Gretchen Hulse, a chaplain

with the 171st Air Refueling Wing and part of the joint team that met with the Lithuanian chaplains.

While the SPP is designed to increase cooperation between other nations’ militaries and Army and Air National Guard units, it also provides a valuable learning opportunity.

“It’s great that we were able to learn from someone else while bringing our knowledge, skills and ability to help them prepare,” Hulse said.

The resiliency team typically consists of a chaplain, an equal opportunity officer, suicide prevention representative and mental health provider. Additionally, a sexual assault prevention and response representative or a sexual assault



FIRST

Pennsylvania Joint Resilience Team Visit to

LITHUANIA

Written By: Maj. Jodi Snyder

response coordinator may also be a part of the team. This support system is structured differently from those used by the Lithuanian military, which primarily provides support through chaplains, social workers, and psychologists.

“Part of our task was to find out what our counterparts (Lithuanians) do, how they do it and what they need,” Hulse said. “As we build these relationships and prepare for what’s going to happen next in the world, we need to support each other.”

Another part of the collaboration was at the International Scientific Conference of Military Medicine, which included a cross-discipline analysis of how to take care of troops.

“We wanted to look at how we operate as a resiliency team and how we can better support and prepare our troops for comprehensive fitness including increasing resiliency,” Hulse said.

As the Pennsylvania National Guard continues its partnership with Lithuania, more training is conducted that helps strengthen the 30-plus year relationship.

“We need each other. When we are called up to provide military support, our partners know they can trust us,” Hulse said. “Having learned more about Lithuania and their history, I feel honored and privileged to be a part of this support system. We are stronger together.”

AIR & MARINE Synergy: Enhancing Combat Efficiency

Written By: Maj. Jodi Snyder

A Guardsmen from the 258th Air Traffic Control Squadron, a geographically separated unit of the 171st Air Refueling Wing, attended a seven-week long Marine training course at Marine Corps Air Station in Yuma, Arizona.

Staff Sgt. Garrett Swanson, an air traffic control specialist, joined a Marine aviation combat squadron for the Weapons and Tactics Instructor Course with a goal of increasing operational efficiency to make different branches more interchangeable.

“Interchangeability comes down to standardization throughout air traffic control. The key point to interchangeability is that even though everywhere you go will have some differences, they also have a base level of functionality. We focus on the core concepts, which will make the interchangeability easier within all forces,” said Swanson.

The purpose of the Weapons and Tactics Instructor Course is to produce trainers with expertise in advanced air and ground tactics.

“The training is actually directed towards pilots so they can expand their air and ground tactics and take those skills back to their own units to use at their own squadron level. But for the air traffic side, we are on the ground side of it helping those in the air navigate a battle space. The biggest point for us (air traffic controllers) is to set up communication nodes so we can pass up mission updates and important environmental information to the pilots in addition to our air traffic control services,” said Swanson.

While the training focuses on operational efficiency, the course also supports the Air Force’s initiative of developing multi-capable Airmen.

“My full-time job is in a tower or a radar room talking to planes but with this training, I build off that air traffic control craft and apply it in a more austere environment. But, I’m also learning how to operate radios and set up a navigational aide devices,” said Swanson.

Being one of 10 deployable air traffic control units in the guard, these types of trainings will help the 258th in increasing their combat airfield operations.

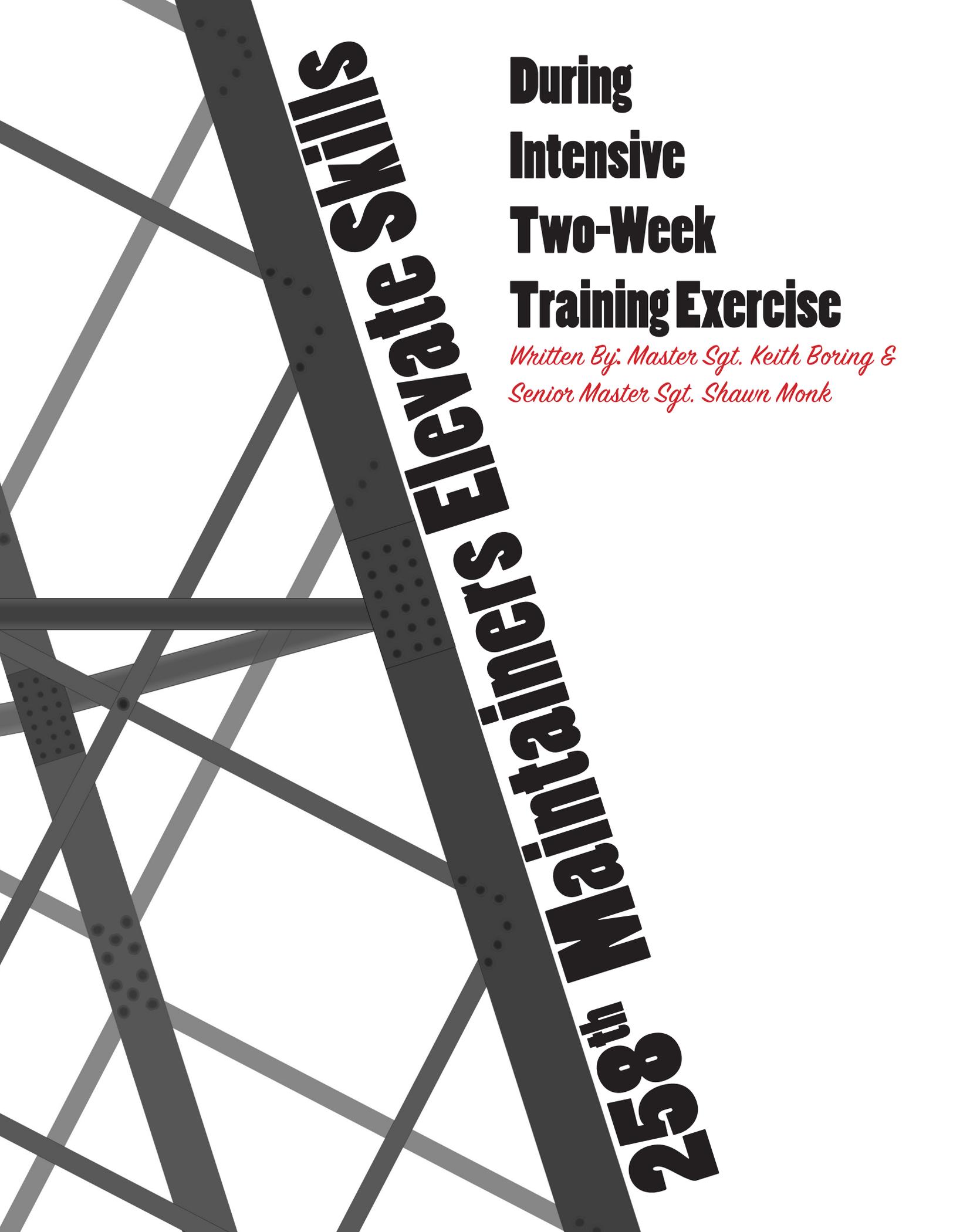
“This will help us with the Guard’s initiative of further developing landing zone safety officers,” said Swanson. “In short, we go out to a dirt strip and verify safety measures, set up the landing strip, then pass information along to the pilots allowing them to land and more importantly take back off in a safe and efficient manner.”

In addition to further developing the Air Force’s multi- capable Airmen, this training also targets the agile combat employment concept.

“These types of trainings impact total force and the ACE concept for the Air Force. This allows us to quickly get our equipment set up somewhere and then immediately move us somewhere else all within a couple hours,” said Swanson. “Overall, it allows us to be more rapidly deployable.”



A U.S. Marine with United States Marine Forces Special Operations Command, assigned to Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron One, participates in close air support exercise during Weapons and Tactics Instructor (WTI) course. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Emily Hazelbaker)



258th Maintainers Elevate Skills

**During
Intensive
Two-Week
Training Exercise**

*Written By: Master Sgt. Keith Boring &
Senior Master Sgt. Shawn Monk*



Courtesy Photo

Staff Sgt. Jeremiah Leonard, left, and Tech. Sgt. Shane Miller, right, with the 258th Air Traffic Control Squadron in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, prepare to train on a pick-off rescue while on a radar tower during their two-week training exercise

Pennsylvania Air National Guardsmen with the 258th Air Traffic Control Squadron’s Deployable Instrument Landing System Team completed a two-week annual training exercise from June 3, 2024 to June 16, 2024 that focused on their newest equipment, the AN/TRN-50 Deployable Instrument Landing System.

The new equipment is able to be packaged in shipping containers, rapidly mobilized by air, then quickly set up like an erector set by the D-ILS team. The AN/TRN-50 essentially creates a landing site with precision aircraft approach capabilities allowing aircraft to land in close proximity of mountains, bodies of water, obstructions and during inclement weather conditions with low to zero visibility.

The AN/TRN-50 comprises of an array of antennas, masts, electronics, and power generators, all assembled and erected by four Air National Guardsmen including three Radar, Airfield, and Weather Systems maintainers and one Electrical Power Production Specialist.

“This was just the first step, but it was a big one for the D-ILS team”, said Tech. Sgt. Shane Miller, the team lead for the training on the AN/TRN-50 at the 258th.

In addition to working with the new AN/TRN-50, the team of Guardsmen also partnered with the FAA and the Altoona-Blair County Airport to train on the instrument landing system currently in operation at

the airport, giving the D-ILS team an opportunity to enhance their knowledge on the operation and observe procedures of a real, in-use instrument landing system similar to the AN/TRN-50.

“It was advantageous to get the D-ILS team to the Altoona-Blair County Airport to work with the FAA on their equipment”, explained Miller. “It’s one thing to work on a piece of equipment at the Squadron. It’s something entirely different, however, to see how it works and to know that you are responsible for the lives in those planes using your equipment.”

During the two-weeks, members of the 258th also dedicated time to learn tower climbing and rescue skills necessary for building large antenna masts. The training occurred at the 258th’s radar tower located at the John Murtha Johnstown-Cambria County Airport. Members were instructed by Staff Sgt. Justin Radcliffe, a recent graduate of the Air Force’s Tower Climbing and Rescue Trainer Course. Guardsmen received new skills on how to climb and rescue people from non-standard, lattice towers such as fall arrest equipment usage and rappelling, combined with practical exercises on ground-based and structure-based rescues. Students also demonstrated their proficiency in performing a pick-off, a rescue technique where the rescuer rappels to the ground with a victim attached to their body harness.

“Without exercises like these, there is a real possibility that these young troops’ first airfield experience with the AN/TRN-50 could be during a deployment”, commented Miller.



Courtesy Photo

Senior Master Sgt. Brian Scanlan, left, and Staff Sgt. Aaron Brennsteiner, right, prepare to train on structure based rescue skills while on a radar tower during their two week training exercise

The Guardsmen completed over 60 maintenance tasks, requiring the use of sophisticated test equipment such as oscilloscopes and spectrum analyzers. In total, they logged over 600 hours of direct, hands-on maintenance and training, plus the training they received on the climbing tower.

The 258th ATCS serves an essential mission by providing air traffic services both stateside and

overseas to civil, military, and even presidential aircraft while also maintaining mobile readiness to deploy with less than a week’s notice. For more information or to schedule a tour, please contact your local Air National Guard recruiting office or the 171st Air Refueling Wing Recruiting Office at (412) 776-7636.

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It's A Family Thing

Written By: Master Sgt. Bryan Hoover

In the heart of every American service member beats a solemn commitment to safeguard, not just the nation but their beloved family as well. Yet, Amidst the valor and sacrifice is a complex tapestry of family and military ties that can unexpectedly become obstacles. Command Chief Master Sgt. Charles Wiley's 33-year military career has strengthened familial bonds while navigating challenges through the support of his own family and Air National Guard family.

Coming from a military family, Wiley always had a strong interest in serving his country. A year after Wiley's brother (Ed) had enlisted in the U.S. Navy, Wiley embarked on his own journey down a slightly different path in the U.S. Army.

In 1987, Wiley processed through the Pittsburgh Military Enlistment Processing Station, took his initial oath of enlistment, and shipped off to Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. After basic combat training and advanced individual training, Wiley relocated to Fort Ord, California. After one year of serving, he returned home to marry his high school sweetheart, Cindy Digiamdomenico.

Cindy's sister, Pauline, married Wiley's childhood friend Gary W. Hutsler Sr. He had served in the active-duty component of the Air Force before transitioning into the Pennsylvania Air National Guard. Even though they were many miles apart, Wiley and his wife kept in close contact with the Hutsler family.



As Wiley and Hutsler's military careers progressed in very different directions, fate kept their family close, even during war. During operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, Wiley, his brother

Ed Wiley, Hutsler, and his brother Mark Hutsler, a member of the PAANG, were all deployed simultaneously in the same region.

"If you have ever deployed, you know that it's easy to disconnect with family and friends to move the time along faster," said Wiley. "I chose to stay in constant contact with my brother while he was in the navy and Gary in the Air National Guard." Hutsler was a Tech. Sgt. at the 171st Air Refueling Wing at the time.

As Wiley's enlistment in the Army was coming to an end, both he and his wife wanted to start a new chapter by moving back home.

Transitioning to a civilian environment after eight years of military service was hard for Wiley. Wiley faced persistent challenges in securing full-time civilian employment to support his family. Hutsler had since commissioned to an officer position at the 171st ARW and encouraged Wiley to reenlist so he could continue his service towards a military retirement.

"He was always nagging me to get back in. Anytime I saw him, he got on my case," said Wiley.



After a four-year break in service, Wiley really started to reflect on Hutsler’s praise of the 171st. After speaking with the recruiting team, Wiley learned that he would retain his rank from the Army as an E-5 (Staff Sgt.) upon reenlisting with the ANG.

“If I’m being truthful, I missed it.”

I really wanted to get back into the military and felt that he (Hutsler) was right, it’s the right decision,” he said. “I wanted to finish what I started. My goal was to get back in, make it to E-7 (Master Sgt.) and retire.”

To rejoin the military, he had to take the oath of enlistment again. Wiley wanted it to have some meaning. Only the President, Vice President, or the officers appointed over him could administer the oath. Needing an officer, Wiley wanted his brother-in-law to do it. “He nagged me enough to recruit me,” he chuckled. “But I wanted him to do it. I’ve always felt that the oath was really special, so to have a lifelong friend and my brother-in-law deliver it to me; that made it really special. Family is really important to me, without them, it would be hard to serve.”

Shortly after enlisting as a part-time guardsman, the 171st had a full-time position open and offered Wiley a job in vehicle maintenance. This allowed him a new opportunity to grow and develop.

“I used to always tell John Campbell (the former vehicle management chief enlisted manager) that one day, I’m going to be the VM chief.” Although he has changed positions many times to reach his goal, Wiley ended up surpassing his initial Master Sgt. goal and became the chief of vehicle management.

Throughout his career, both Wiley and Hutsler watched with pride as eight immediate family members joined the 171st.

Years of mission changes, deployments, and plenty of hard work propelled Wiley forward to set new goals eventually pushing him towards the wing’s next command chief position. However, an Air Force regulation prevented him from applying. Family members must be separated by at least two levels of supervision within their unit. Command Chief Master Sgt. is considered a first-level supervisor for all enlisted members within the unit.

With two enlisted members of the family remaining in the unit, Wiley’s son, Charles Wiley Jr. and Hutsler’s youngest

daughter, Brittany Stephenson it was improbable for Wiley to apply for the command chief position.

Around 2017, Wiley Jr. decided to move on and separate from military service. And as fate would have it, Stephenson aspired to follow in her family’s footsteps and become a commissioned officer. “Both my parents, two sisters, brother, two brothers-in-law and my husband were all commissioned officers,” said Stephenson. “The running joke is that I didn’t have a seat at the dinner table unless I commissioned.”

Fortunately, when the right opportunity presented itself in 2018, she applied, interviewed, and accepted a position as an officer in the Force Support Squadron. In doing so, she claimed her seat at the Hutsler dinner table, while simultaneously clearing the way for her uncle to apply for the job he was dreaming about.

After 33 years of service, Wiley is now on his final re-enlistment. As his final oath of service approached, he knew he wanted it to be extra special. “I had a rare opportunity, my brother-in-law gave me my first oath at the beginning of my Air Force career,” exclaimed Wiley. “I believe that the oath of enlistment is special, within itself. It carries a special bond from one service member to the next, a moment that connects all enlisted members to each other,” said Wiley. “So to have my niece, 25 years after her father give me my initial oath, stand here and give me my final oath, it’s the perfect ending for me.”

Behind the camouflage and medals, family ties strengthen the unity of the ANG. Command Chief Master Sgt. Charles W. Wiley will end his military service in the ANG the same way he began it - with family.





171st
Guardsmen
Recommends
Cordia Energy to Receive
Secretary of Defense Award

Written By: Master Sgt. Bryan Hoover



Courtesy Photo

“Whenever I need time off for military duties, Cordia ensures a smooth transition so I can focus on my mission...”

Tech. Sgt. Alec Londino

Cordia, a company that operates district energy, combined heat and power, and microgrid plants across the United States, has received the Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award. This is the highest award given by the U.S. government to civilian employers for their support of employees who serve in the National Guard and Reserve.

Cordia manages 13 energy assets across nine states and provides services like steam and hot water for heating, chilled water for cooling, and electricity for microgrid applications. Their customers include downtown districts, universities, hospitals, sports arenas, and convention centers.

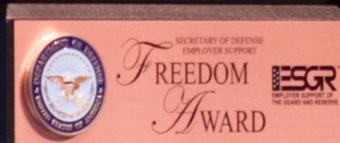
The award will be formally presented to Cordia at the Pentagon on August 22. The company was recognized for its efforts to support employees like Tech. Sgt. Alec Londino, a member of the 171st Air Refueling Wing of the Pennsylvania Air National Guard and Cordia's Health and Safety Manager.

Londino nominated the company for its strong support during his deployments and regular military duties.

“Whenever I need time off for military duties, Cordia ensures a smooth transition so I can focus on my mission,” Londino said. “Their military leave program, which includes uninterrupted benefits, PTO accrual, and pay matching, makes a big difference.”

Cordia was chosen from 1,758 nominations and is one of just 15 companies to receive the award this year. Since the award's start in 1996, only 355 employers nationwide have been honored.

The Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award is given to employers who show outstanding support for their employees who serve in the Guard and Reserve. This includes support during deployments, drill weekends, and annual training events. Cordia's commitment to its military employees serves as a model for other employers.





Courtesy Photo

The 171st Air Refueling Wing, part of the Pennsylvania Air National Guard, provides important air refueling and operational support to the U.S. Air Force. Members like Tech. Sgt. Alec Londino serve in both their military roles and as key contributors to their communities. The support of employers like Cordia is essential to their mission.

For more information about the award and the other companies selected, visit the [Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve website](https://www.esgr.mil/News-Events/Press-Releases/articleType/ArticleView/articleId/10533/ESGR-Announces-2024-Secretary-of-Defense-Freedom-Award-Recipients).



Courtesy Photo

EMERALD

Written By: Major Jodi Snyder

The Pennsylvania Air National Guard's, 258th Air Traffic Control Squadron worked with Air Force Special Operations Command to provide air traffic control and landing zone services during Exercise Emerald Warrior 2024, from March 2nd through March 18th, 2024.

Exercise Emerald Warrior is a training exercise sponsored by AFSOC that gives special operations forces, regular forces, and international partners realistic and high-level training to prepare them for changing global situations.

During the exercise, the 258th managed air traffic control operations at Wendover Airfield in Utah, Landing Zone Operations at Michael Army Airfield, and coordinated operations at Clover Control at Hill Air Force Base

To participate in the exercise, the 258th shipped over 36,000 pounds of equipment more than 4,000 miles from Pennsylvania to Utah and boarded a KC-135 aircraft, assigned to the 171st Air Refueling Wing, to transport 40 members.

“This exercise gave us a chance to manage tower, radar, and landing zone operations all at the same time. Our team’s ability to demonstrate agile combat skills in support of AFSOC’s mission is crucial for our future operations,” said 1st Lt. Andrew DiPietro, 258th ATCS Airfield Operations Officer. “These exercises and training opportunities give our personnel the important experience they need for future joint operations.”

The 258th ATCS was not alone during Exercise Emerald Warrior. They received help from Air National Guard units from North Carolina, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Active-Duty Air Force members assigned to Hill Air Force Base. This blend of participants demonstrates the air traffic control community’s ability to blend with other Airmen from different backgrounds and expertise to get the job done.

“Our team was able to take over the airfield from a special tactics team when we arrived at Wendover Airfield using our



WARRIOR

MSN-7 Mobile Air Traffic Control Tower. Then, we moved our operations into the restored World War II tower on the airfield. It was a wonderful team effort between our operations and maintenance sections to show what we can do,” said Senior Master Sgt. Justin Lewis, Air Traffic Superintendent.

“Our team worked with other operations at a civilian airport. It was not only good training for us but also made aircraft operations safer,” said Master Sgt. Tom Cogis, Tower Chief Controller.

For more information about the 258th ATCS, visit <https://www.171arw.ang.af.mil/>.



Photo Cred: 258th Air Traffic Control Squadron
Members of the 258th ATCS post in front of an Air Traffic Control Tower from the World War II Era.



CAMP DAWSON WEST VIRGINIA

Written By: Tech. Sgt. Zoe Wockenfuss



The 171st Force Support Squadron, along with Airmen from various 171st Commander's Support Staff, recently completed an intensive Expeditionary Force Support training August 4-9, 2024, at Camp Dawson, West Virginia. This training is a crucial part of the squadron's commitment to maintaining readiness and enhancing the capabilities of its members.

Throughout the week, Airmen engaged in a variety of activities, including cross-utilization AFSC (Air Force Specialty Code) training, team-building exercises, fitness drills, weapons familiarization, and

basic land navigation. These exercises were designed to enhance both technical skills and teamwork, preparing the squadron to execute missions in diverse and challenging environments.

"This year's training strengthened our squadron by building morale, fostering teamwork, and ensuring we're always mission-ready," said Lt. Col. Pamela Dove, commander of the 171st FSS. "I am proud to serve alongside each member as their commander, leading with commitment. Together, we stand stronger and more prepared."

PA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD



Guardsmen assigned to the 171st Air Refueling Wing Force Support Squadron, Pennsylvania Air National Guard, stand for a group photo during Expeditionary Force Support training Aug. 8, 2024, at Camp Dawson, West Virginia.

The training at Camp Dawson is part of their required readiness, ensuring the 171st FSS is fully prepared to support the broader mission of the Air National Guard. The successful completion of this exercise highlights the dedication of the Airmen involved, who focused intensely on both skill development and mental preparedness throughout the training.

“We adjusted our training plan this year based on our Commander’s priorities to ensure we are working to develop mission-ready Airmen with a warrior mindset,” said Chief Master Sgt. Jeremy

Rohanna, senior enlisted leader of the 171st FSS. “I could not be prouder of each of these Airmen. Their actions and effort show that they are up for any challenge the future holds, and that they take their oath to support and defend the Constitution of the United States seriously. They are mission-ready to fly, fight, and win, and I am honored to serve with them.”

The skills and cohesion developed during the training will ensure the 171st FSS remains capable of delivering effective and agile support in any situation.

(Courtesy Photo)

171st Firefighters Brave Antarctic Extremes: A Cool Mission Supporting Advanced Research

Written By: Senior Master Sgt. Shawn Monk

Four firefighters from the 171st Air Refueling Wing recently returned from a unique mission, becoming the first firefighters from the 171st to assist in Operation Deep Freeze, a long-standing mission supporting the National Science Foundation's McMurdo Research Center. This assignment, undertaken by Staff Sgt. Robbie Gregor, Staff Sgt. Daniel White, Staff Sgt. Matt Depodesta, and Tech. Sgt. Bryan McKee, showcased the diverse ways one can serve in the Air National Guard.

Operation Deep Freeze, spearheaded by the 109th Airlift Wing out of New York, involves logistical support for scientific research in Antarctica. The 171st firefighters were tasked with a crucial role: ensuring flight line safety, which included the protection and relocation of local wildlife. This unique responsibility set them apart from their usual duties, as they received specialized training to handle adélie and emperor penguins, as well as leopard and fur seals, ensuring the animals' safety and the smooth operation of airfield activities.

"This experience was unlike any other," said Tech. Sgt. Bryan McKee. "It's not every day you get to work in one of the most remote places on Earth and interact with wildlife in such a hands-on way."

The firefighters staffed two stations, McMurdo and Williams Airfield, where they ensured the safety of aircraft including C-17s, LC-130s, Twin Otters, and Baslers. Operating on ice airfields posed unique challenges, as temperatures plummeted to minus twenty degrees Fahrenheit with windchills consistently between minus thirty degrees Fahrenheit and minus forty degrees Fahrenheit. Despite these harsh conditions, the firefighters adapted to their environment,

using equipment such as Pierce fire engines and mobile aircraft rescue and firefighting apparatus fire vehicles, with waterless foam sleds pulled by tractors due to the freezing temperatures.

"Hands down this is going to be the single coolest experience of my life,"

Staff Sgt. Robbie Gregor,

who received recognition from Lt. Gen. Michael Loh, Director of the Air National Guard, and Alex Wagner, Assistant Secretary of the Air Force, for his dedication to the mission.

McMurdo Station, the hub of scientific

Pennsylvania Air National Guardsman Staff Sgt. Robbie Gregor from the 171st Air Refueling Wing gently encourages an emperor penguin to leave an active runway while supporting Operation Deep Freeze at the National Science Foundation's McMurdo Research Center, Antarctica, January, 2024.

research in Antarctica, houses roughly 800 people during the summer season, which runs from October to the end of February. Research includes studies in, astrophysics, aeronomy, biology and ecosystems, geology and geophysics, glaciology, geomorphology, ice cores, geospace sciences, and ocean and climate systems.

Firefighters not only ensured the safety of personnel and wildlife but also got to participated in once-in-a lifetime recreational activities, including arctic hiking, skiing, and wildlife spotting, providing a well-rounded experience of life on the ice.

The contributions of the 171st firefighters to Operation Deep Freeze underscore the versatile and essential roles within the Air National Guard. Their efforts not only supported critical scientific research but also demonstrated the unique opportunities available to those who serve. The Air National Guard offers more than just weekend drills and flying airplanes; it provides a platform for extraordinary experiences and impactful missions.



(Courtesy Photo)

“It is wild that one day I am working my normal nine-to-five job and within two weeks I get a phone call and seem to just teleport to Antarctica,” said Daniel White.

The 171st Air Refueling Wing’s participation in Operation Deep Freeze is a testament to the adaptability and dedication of its members. For those seeking a meaningful career that offers unique challenges and the opportunity to serve in remarkable capacities, the Air National Guard stands as a beacon of possibility.

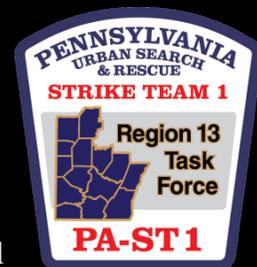
171st

FIRE FIGHTERS

Train with Pennsylvania Urban Search & Rescue Strike Team 1 to Enhance Readiness

Written By: Senior Master Sgt. Shawn Monk

Air National Guardsmen from the 171st Air Refueling Wing's Fire and Emergency Services Flight recently participated in training event with Pennsylvania Strike Team 1 aimed at enhancing skills in search and rescue and emergency response operations at the Allegheny County Fire Academy, May 8, 2024.



The Air National Guardsmen trained directly with PA ST1 in several advanced techniques that they might use when responding to an accident or disaster.



(Courtesy Photo)

Pennsylvania Strike Team 1 is a specialized group of first responders that includes firefighters, paramedics, and other emergency personnel from various agencies across the state. The team is trained to respond to large-scale emergencies and disasters, providing critical support in situations that require specialized skills and equipment. PA ST1 is designed to enhance the state's emergency response capabilities by bringing together highly trained professionals who can operate effectively in complex and high-risk environments.

“Having these relationships between the 171st FES and PA ST1 has already proven its value by engaging members of both sides to focus on the common goal of equipping our firefighters with knowledge and training on high consequence, low frequency operations.”

said Tech. Sgt. Scott Frederick, Station Chief of the 171st FES. “We were able to participate outside of the traditional scope of enlistment within the FES Flight, enhancing our overall readiness and capability.”



(Courtesy Photo)

Participants from the 171st included Tech. Sgt. Scott Frederick, Master Sgt. John Kovacic, Staff Sgt. John Firda, and Staff Sgt. Robert Gregor. The training covered three skill stations: Step Cuts, Stitch Cuts, and the use of the Stanley DS11 Concrete Saw. The Step Cuts technique, which uses a K12 concrete saw, is employed for clean breaching when a victim is in the void space below the concrete platform. This process involves making relief cuts, chiseling out squares with a hammer drill, and removing the remaining concrete to create an access point. The Stitch Cuts technique, typically used for dirty breaching when there is no victim in the void space, involves drilling a series of holes and chiseling between

them to remove a plug from the slab, providing access to the void space. The Stanley DS11 Concrete Saw, a hydraulically operated, water-cooled concrete chain saw, is used for both clean and dirty breaching. This tool allows for plunge cuts to remove concrete chunks and access void spaces below.

“We all participated in each skill station and took away different skill sets and techniques to bring back to our unit,” Frederick noted. “We are very pleased with how the training turned out.”

The collaboration with PA ST1 is part of the 171st FES’s ongoing efforts to enhance their training and readiness. The partnership allows for shared resources and expertise, providing a comprehensive training environment that benefits all participants and the communities they serve.



(Courtesy Photo)



(Courtesy Photo)

In addition to their military service, Kovacic, Gregor, and Frederick volunteer at the Harmony Fire District in Harmony, Pa., while Firda serves with the Pittsburgh Bureau of Fire. Frederick is also the Director of Emergency Services for Butler Township, Pa. These Air National Guardsmen can now bring this advanced training to their departments to better serve their local communities in the Pittsburgh area.

“We look forward to continuing this partnership,” Frederick added. “The experience was invaluable, and we are committed to maintaining the high standards of readiness and capability for our unit.”

The 171st Air Refueling Wing remains dedicated to ensuring their firefighters are well-prepared for any emergency, developing partnerships with local and state teams to enhance their training, and to always be ready.



National Guard Rifle Team Clinches Prestigious

DOGS OF WAR

Trophy at Camp Perry

Written By: Senior Master Sgt. Shawn Monk

The All National Guard six-person marksman team won the National Trophy, also known as the Dogs of War Trophy, at the National Matches in August. It was only the third time the National Guard has won this prestigious award, with previous wins in 1986 and 1977.

The National Trophy, a revered symbol of excellence in marksmanship, represents more than individual prowess; it embodies the collective discipline, skill and dedication of a team working in harmony.

“The greatest thing about it is that we are all from different states and at some point in time, every state has been part of the all-Guard rifle team,” said Sgt. 1st Class Amanda Elsenboss of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard, a shooter and coach on the team. “Those Soldiers and Airmen are taking back to their units the knowledge that they’ve gained from these national matches, and they’re sharing that wealth of knowledge with those Soldiers and Airmen back at their bases.”



The All National Guard Rifle Team poses with the target they struck from 600 yards after winning the National Trophy also known as the Dogs of War Trophy, and the Hilton Trophy during the National Matches at Camp Perry, Ohio, Aug. 2, 2024. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Master Sgt. Shawn Monk)

The atmosphere at Camp Perry, steeped in history and tradition, was charged with patriotism and honor, reflecting the connection between military service and the art of marksmanship.

Maj. Kirk Freeman, a shooter and coach from the South Carolina National Guard, emphasized

the impact and difficulty of the achievement.

“This is demonstrating the lethality that we are gaining here, being able to engage a target at 600 yards,” Freeman said. “We were able to make the correct wind call to get a hit 119 out of 120 times with six different



to the highest scoring reserve component team in the National Trophy Rifle Team Match, adding to the National Guard's legacy in the competition.

“To win this is really a big achievement,” said Master Sgt. Michael Hester, an Arkansas National Guard gunsmith and machinist for the team. “The shooters did exactly what they were supposed to do and the coaches were absolutely on point this year. It’s almost a 40-year try for this match, and this year we secured it.”

As the team members return to their respective units, they carry not just the trophy but the pride of having contributed to a tradition that spans generations. Their achievement at Camp Perry is a reminder of the National Guard's enduring role in both national defense and the preservation of America's marksmanship heritage.

shooters, shooting off a sling, not off a bi-pod, not off a bag, this was off elbows and a sling.”

Individual achievements and another team award further highlighted the team's success.

During the award ceremony, Freeman presented Sgt. Jonathan Wood of the Louisiana National Guard with the U.S. Army Distinguished Rifleman Badge. Elsenboss was awarded the Women's Rifle Trophy. The team also won the Hilton Trophy given

The All National Guard Rifle Team lines up and shakes hands with the other military service marksman teams in a time honored tradition known as the big handshake during the National Matches at Camp Perry Ohio, Aug. 2, 2024. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Master Sgt. Shawn Monk)





171st and 911th Welcome Honorary Commanders Aboard

Written By: Master Sgt. Bryan Hoover

Photographed By: Senior Master Sgt. Shawn Monk

The 171st Air Refueling Wing and the 911th Airlift Wing are excited to announce the launch of the Steel City Air Force Honorary Commanders Program, aimed at fostering strong relationships between the bases and the local community through the Steel City Honorary Commanders Association.

The Air Force honorary commanders program pairs local business and community leaders with all levels of Air Force commanders to provide a unique opportunity for collaboration and understanding. Honorary commanders will have the opportunity to participate in base events, meet with military personnel, and gain a better

understanding of the mission and operations of the reserve component of the Air Force in western Pennsylvania and around the globe.

“We are thrilled to work in partnership with the 911th Airlift Wing to launch the Air Force Honorary Commanders Program in Western PA (Pennsylvania) and





strengthen the bond between the bases and our local community,” said Colonel Ray Hyland, Wing Commander of the 171st Air Refueling Wing. “This program will not only provide valuable insights for our honorary commanders, but also create lasting partnerships that benefit both of our local Air Force bases and our local Pittsburgh community.”

The program’s goals include but are not limited to:

- Increasing public awareness of the armed forces
- Building mutual understanding and partnerships
- Encouraging service members to become more involved in the community

- Promoting a free exchange of ideas between base and community leaders

The program began in 2006, and participants can include local business, community, and civic leaders. The new class kicked off this August with a combined aerial refueling flight with several local members of the Pennsylvania state congressional delegation aboard. Honorary commanders boarded a C-17 aircraft from the 911th AW or a KC-135 aircraft from the 171st ARW and were able to observe the two planes over Ohio. Honorary commanders witness firsthand the knowledge and skill of both aircrew during the mission and engaged with members of the aeromedical

flight team during the flight. The program is open to business and community leaders in western Pennsylvania who are interested in learning more about the Air Force and supporting the men and women who serve our country. Each honorary commander will serve a two-year term, where they will complete high level engagements with both local Air Force wings.

The inaugural class of steel city honorary commanders includes:

Name, Organization, Position,
Unit Assigned To:

- John Barnes, Barnes Global Advisors, President, 171 Maintenance Group Commander
- Jenn Beer, Leadership Pittsburgh, Chief Executive Officer, 171 Mission Support Group Commander
- Katherine Byrne, PNC Bank, Vice President, 171 MSG Commander
- Christina Cassotis, Pittsburgh International Airport Executive

- Director, 911 Wing Commander
- Tim Chesleigh, Eastern Atlantic States, Executive, 171 Maintenance Squadron
- Maurissa D'Angelo, D'Angelo Technology, President, 911 MXG
- Andy Davis, Neighborhood 91, Director of Government Development, 171 Air Refueling Wing and Comptroller Flight
- James Deighan, Mega Cat Studios, CEO, 911 MXG
- Matt Gentile, My BFF Social, President, 171 Public Affairs
- Chris Heck, Pittsburgh Airport Chamber, President, 171 Operations Group Commander

- Alexander Heit, Visimo, President, 911 Communications Squadron
- Justine Kaznicka, Keystone Space Collaborative, Founder, 171 Deputy Commander
- Jeff Kotula, Washington County Chamber, President, 911 OG/CC
- Peter Lambrou, Aviation Medicine, President, 911 Medical Group
- Thomas Langston, Oil Services, President, 171 Logistics Readiness Squadron
- Margaret Larkins-Pettigrew, Allegheny Health Network, Chief Diversity, 171 Medical Group





- Douglas Leonard, Douglas Leonard Consulting, President, 171 Force Support Squadron
- Thad Magyar, Titan Robotics, President, 911 OG
- Jorge Martinez, Red Cross, CEO, 911 Security Forces Squadron
- Petra Mitchell, Catalyst Connection, CEO, 911 LRS
- Adam Murphy, Sourceree, President, 171 Communications Squadron
- Michelle Patrick, Robert Morris University, President, 911 AW/DC
- Olga Pogoda, KEF Robotics, Chief Operations Officer, 911 OG
- Bob Raida, HEBI Robotics, CEO, 171 Operations Support Squadron
- Deborah Rice-Johnson, Highmark Inc., CEO, 171 MDG

- Audrey Russo, Tech Association, CEO, 171 ARW/CC
- Michael Varholla, Local #5 Electrical Union, President, 171 Civil Engineer Squadron
- Craig Waller, Rewynder, CEO, 171 MXG
- Walt Zukowski, Sunbelt, Manager, 911 CES

Nominations will be accepted for a new honorary commander's class in 2026 when the inaugural class graduates from the full two-year program.

For more information about the 171st Honorary Commanders Association, visit the [171st ARW Public Webpage](<https://www.171arw.ang.af.mil/About-Us/Honorary-Commanders/>).

For more information about the 911th Honorary Commanders Association, visit the [911th AW Public Webpage](<https://www.pittsburgh.afrc.af.mil/About-Us/Honorary-Commanders/>).

ALL STAR

Written By: Tech. Sgt. Zoe Wockenfuss

Photographed By: Bill "Hammer" Shapiro



DAY



MACWPA HESI ROBOTICS SANDBOX P
FIND US ON THE *Aim High* APP



Over 500 students and more than 50 chaperones from 33 high schools from Ohio, West Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania attended the U.S. Air Force's All-Star Leadership Day Nov. 6, 2024, at the 171st Air Refueling Wing near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. This unique event was designed to offer hands-on leadership training and career exploration in an interactive military setting.



The All-Star Leadership Day brought together student leaders such as sports captains, club officers, and student council members, alongside counselors, teachers, and coaches. Participants had the chance to engage in a variety of activities, including teamwork exercises, leadership challenges, and interactive career exploration sessions.

Recruiters from Active Duty, Air Force Reserve, Air National Guard as well as U.S. Air Force Academy were all in attendance along with representatives from two local Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps detachments.

Students also toured Air Force aircraft, including two KC-135 Stratotankers from the 171st Air Refueling Wing in the Pennsylvania Air National Guard, a C-17 Globemaster III from the 911th Airlift Wing in the Air Force Reserve, and an F-16D Fighting Falcon from the 20th Fighter Wing, Shaw Air Force Base, an active duty Air Force base.

Students had the opportunity to learn from the "Steel Airmen" about the work and dedication involved in serving in the Air Force. The day



featured a F-16 low pass fly-over, giving students and educators a firsthand look at one of the Air Force's capabilities in action.

For a well-rounded career exploration, numerous vendors and tables were set up, creating a unique career-day environment for students to explore options within the Air Force and beyond. Organizers noted that the scope and scale of this total-force recruiting event had never been executed in this way before, making it a one-of-a-kind experience.



“I want our goal to be to shatter the narrative of what this generation thinks about the Air Force,” said Kristi Hilbert, HQE Senior Strategic Media Advisor for Total Force Accessions. “These kids see our airplanes flying over their heads everyday, I want them to understand why we’re here, and I want them to understand that they can be a part of it.”



The
YEAR *of the*
MIRA
MISSION READY AIRMAN

Written By: Master Sgt. Bryan Hoover

The Pennsylvania Air National Guard's 171st Air Refueling Wing, dove headfirst into the Air Force's push to create Mission Ready Airmen (MRA). In today's rapidly evolving global landscape, this initiative is essential to maintaining readiness and adapting to challenges. For the Guardsmen of the 171st, embracing this philosophy isn't just a concept—it's becoming a way of life.

WHY THE 171ST IS ALL-IN ON MRA

As conflicts and technologies evolve, the Air Force is adapting to keep pace. For the 171st ARW, located just outside Pittsburgh, this means ensuring every Airman can step up in a crisis. The MRA philosophy encourages members to develop skills outside their primary career fields, allowing the Wing to stay mission-ready despite manning shortages or unexpected demands.

“As Airmen, you must think differently about how we fly, fight and win. With accelerate, change, or lose, you need to think about the speed, the agility, the lethality we have that are force multipliers.

You must adapt. And we cannot do this by ourselves. In order to be successful, we have to work together.”

Gen. Charles Q. Brown Jr.,
(then) Chief of Staff of the Air Force.

With conflict in the world growing, it is important that 171st Airmen stay ready. “The Air National Guard is no longer a stay-at-home force. Yes, we are branded as the local militia, but we are very much involved in defending America's freedom,” said Col. Raymond L. Hyland Jr., 171st ARW wing commander. “What many of our communities don't realize, when you call for help from the National Guard, that includes us. We are very involved in helping our neighbors here in Pennsylvania and supporting the Defense of America.”

MRA IN ACTION AT THE 171ST

The 171st ARW has been a leader in putting the MRA philosophy into practice, finding innovative ways to bridge gaps and empower its members. Some of the most notable examples include:

Command Post Support: Boom operators, who usually manage in-flight refueling, have started working in the Command Post during manning shortages. This ensures continuity of operations while giving boom operators a deeper understanding of how command and control systems function across the wing.

Kitchen Crew Reinforcements: Personalists, administrators, and recruiters have traded their office duties for kitchen shifts, assisting the services career field during high-demand Wing-wide exercises. Their efforts have helped ensure the Wing's dietary needs are met, supporting mission readiness during critical training, exercises and unit inspections.

Exercise Iron Keystone Collaboration: Pilots rolled up their sleeves to assist maintenance crew chiefs in recovering aircraft during this large-scale exercise. Meanwhile, the Petroleum, Oils, and Lubricants

(POL) team demonstrated their versatility by performing hot pit refuels without crew chief support, showcasing a high level of adaptability and trust.

MRA IN WARFARE

In June 2024, the wing participated in Exercise Iron Keystone, an Air Mobility Command Readiness Evaluation (REV) designed to test its mobility and operational capabilities. During the exercise, the Inspector General and the Wing's Inspection Team relocated nearly a third of the wing's personnel to the Air National Guard's readiness center in Savannah, Georgia. This effort involved coordination with the Connecticut Air National Guard, North Carolina ANG and the Royal Canadian Air Force.

While aircraft from the three participating units transported personnel and cargo from Pittsburgh to Savannah, other units, including the 193rd Special Operations Wing, the 111th Attack Wing, and soldiers from the Pennsylvania National Guard, mobilized to Fort Drum, New York, and Cecil Airfield, Florida. As one of the largest Air National Guard readiness exercises to date, Iron Keystone presented Airmen and Soldiers with challenges reflective of modern conflict.

Shortages in equipment and personnel emphasized the necessity of MRA to address the demands of contemporary warfare.

CHALLENGES OF ADOPTING MRA

While the benefits of MRA are clear, implementing the philosophy comes with hurdles. Expanding skill sets requires additional training, which can place added demands on Airmen already balancing multiple responsibilities. Some worry that adding secondary duties could lead to burnout or detract from primary roles.

Despite these challenges, the 171st ARW is forging ahead, confident that MRA will make the unit—and the Air Force as a whole—more resilient and effective. Col. Hyland reassured Airmen, families, and the local community that these changes are about creating a stronger force for the future.

“The success of our wing relies on our ability to innovate and support each other as a team,”

Col. Raymond L. Hyland Jr.

“Mission Ready Airmen represent the next step in building a better, smarter, and more adaptable Air Force. These changes may be difficult, but they are essential to ensuring we remain ready for any challenge.”

As the 171st ARW continues to lead the way, the wing is proving that its commitment to innovation and excellence extends beyond Pennsylvania—and into the future of national defense.

TAKE FLIGHT WITH US 70+ Career Fields

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REQUIREMENTS, SCHOOL
LENGTHS & MORE
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AIRCRAFT MAINTINENCE

Refuel Aircraft Mait (Crew Chief)
Aerospace Propulsion
Aerospace Ground Equipment
Aircraft Fuel Systems
Aircraft Hydraulics Systems
Aircraft Electrical and Environmental
Aircraft Metals Technology
Non Destructive Inspection
Aircraft Structural Maintenance
Communication / Navigation / Mission Sys
Avionics
Maintenance Management Analysis
Maintenance Management Production
Munitions Systems

LOGISTICS

Logistics Plans
Fuels (POL)
Material Management (258 & 171)
Traffic Management
Vehicle Operations / Ground Transportation
Air Transportation

EMERGENCY

Operations Management
Fire Protection
Emergency Management
Security Forces (Police)

BUSINESS / HR

Personnel (Human Resources) (258 & 171)
Education & Training * Prior Service ONLY (258&171)
Equal Opportunity and Treatment * Prior Service ONLY
Administration (258 and 171)
Contracting
Financial Management and Comptroller

VEHICLE MAINTINENCE

Vehicle & Vehicular Equipment Maintenance
Special Vehicle Maintenance/Fire Truck
Specialized Vehicle Maintenance MHE
Vehicle Management Analysis

OPERATIONS

Mobility Force Aviator (In-Flight Refueling)
Aviation Resource Management
Air Traffic Control (258)*
Command and Control Operations
Airfield Management
Radar, Airfield & Weather Systems (258)
Cyber Defense Operations
Spectrum Operations
Operations Intelligence
Aircrew Flight Equipment
Safety *Prior Service ONLY (258 & 171)
Weather



MEDICAL ENGINEERING

Health Services Management
Medical Material
Biomedical Equipment
Bioenvironmental Engineering
Diet Therapy
Public Health
Aerospace Medical Service
Pharmacy Technician
Dental Assistant

Munitions Systems
Electrical Systems
Electrical Power Pro (258 & 171)
HVAC (258 & 171)
Pavements and Construction Equip.
Structural
Water and Fuel Systems Mait
Engineering (2 Phases)



**CONTACT A
RECRUITER**

JOURNALISM

Public Affairs

LEGAL CULINARY

Paralegal

Services

RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS

Chaplain Assistant * Prior Service ONLY









The TANKER TIMES



2024

AIRMEN *of the* YEAR



AIRMAN

**AIRMAN 1ST CLASS
MAX WILLIAMS**

**POWER PRODUCTION JOURNEYMAN
CIVIL ENGINEER SQUADRON**



NCO

**TECH. SGT.
ROBERT GREGORY**

**FIRE PROTECTION CRAFTSMAN
CIVIL ENGINEER SQUADRON**



SNCO

**MASTER SGT.
LOGAN HRADECKY**

**SECURITY FORCES CRAFTSMAN
SECURITY FORCES SQUADRON**

PROMO

ENLISTED

ARMSTRONG, JOSHUA LEE	Amn	11/1/2024	CLARK, PATRICK WALLACE	SSgt	4/8/2024
BEDEKOVICH, MATTHEW JACOB	Amn	7/24/2024	CONRAD, NICHOLAS WILSON	SSgt	7/30/2024
BLOWER, LONDON JAMES	Amn	5/8/2024	COSNEK, MICHAEL ANTHONY	SSgt	12/31/2024
BUCHELI, EMMA NEVEAH	Amn	5/16/2024	CREE, SCOTT BENJAMIN	SSgt	4/24/2024
CULVER, DYLAN XAVIER	Amn	7/24/2024	CRILLEY, SHAWN MICHAEL	SSgt	3/11/2024
HOFFMAN, MASON DAVID	Amn	7/31/2024	DZIADIK, KEEGAN JOSEPH	SSgt	7/25/2024
WIELAND, TREVOR BRUCE	Amn	7/16/2024	GRIFFITH, ZACHARY EVAN	SSgt	11/22/2024
ZELINSKY, ELLA MARIE	Amn	8/16/2024	GROSS, NICHOLAS PULEO	SSgt	11/26/2024
ALBERT, BENJAMIN THOMAS	A1C	6/20/2024	HANNAN, DIANA LYNN	SSgt	5/28/2024
COSNEK, JOSEPH ALEXANDER	A1C	8/26/2024	HARAYDA, ISIAH LUCAS	SSgt	3/1/2024
DURAN, JONATHON DAVID	A1C	2/7/2024	HODGES, MARISSA MICHELE	SSgt	11/14/2024
FULTON, JACKSON ROBERT	A1C	11/22/2024	HUTCHIN, CALEB ROBERT	SSgt	10/1/2024
KINNEY, SOPHIE MARIE	A1C	3/11/2024	LEIGHTY, CADEN ASH	SSgt	9/10/2024
MELENDEZ, EVAN LOUIS	A1C	5/1/2024	LUKITSCH, ANDREW JAMES	SSgt	2/1/2024
MILLER, MISTY JUNE	A1C	9/18/2024	MCCALLUM, JACOB DAVID	SSgt	8/27/2024
MOORE, MAXWELL DAVID	A1C	8/12/2024	MONGOLD, CALEB JOSEPH	SSgt	6/27/2024
MORGAN, OLIVIA GRACE	A1C	12/26/2024	MORGAN, SETH JOSEPH	SSgt	10/22/2024
PENDEL, CHRISTOPHER JOSEPH	A1C	3/20/2024	PRIBADI, ADRIAZKA IRHAM	SSgt	10/24/2024
RHODES, BRANDON SCOTT	A1C	1/11/2024	RISHER, CHRISTOPHER JOSEPH	SSgt	2/26/2024
SCHMADER, MADELYN MARIE	A1C	11/21/2024	SANTMYER, NICHOLAS PAUL	SSgt	5/29/2024
TOMB, BROOKLYN GRACE	A1C	5/30/2024	SHEETS, SAMANTHA SHAVER	SSgt	10/16/2024
WECKERLY, SETH ANTHONY	A1C	5/1/2024	SHU, ALLISON LI	SSgt	11/13/2024
BABINSACK, DANIEL DEAN	SrA	8/12/2024	TAYLOR, NICKLAS GARY	SSgt	10/25/2024
BENEDIK, MATTHEW MARK	SrA	6/20/2024	TKATCH, RILEY GRIFFIN	SSgt	7/31/2024
BERARDINELLI, SCOTT MATTHEW	SrA	1/22/2024	WARDMAN, JORDAN STEWART	SSgt	3/6/2024
BIRTIKIDIS, BRADY ARAN	SrA	10/3/2024	WEAVER, CLAIRE ALYCE	SSgt	3/8/2024
CORNETTO, ALYXANDRA DAILYN	SrA	11/13/2024	WIETRZYKOWSKI, MITCHELL ALAN	SSgt	4/8/2024
DROZ, OLIVIA GRACE	SrA	7/18/2024	WOODS, RYAN JAMES	SSgt	5/23/2024
DUNNICK, LONDON CONNOR	SrA	8/22/2024	ABRAHAM, TIMOTHY ALAN	SSgt	6/20/2024
DUNN, SHANE ANTHONY	SrA	9/17/2024	BAKER, SIERRA MICHELE	SSgt	10/3/2024
DUNSMORE, CHEYENNE PAIGE	SrA	6/20/2024	BEAM, JUSTIN ROBERT	SSgt	3/6/2024
EMMI, NICHOLAS JOSEPH	SrA	11/26/2024	BELL, REED SNYDER	SSgt	9/18/2024
EVANS, ELIJAH NEHEMIAH	SrA	1/8/2024	BURTNETT, AUSTIN THOMAS	SSgt	5/8/2024
FIKE, ALEXANDER DANIEL MCM	SrA	9/19/2024	BUTZ, RYAN ZACHARY	SSgt	5/3/2024
GOLDEN, JUSTIN ANDREW JR	SrA	9/20/2024	CAVANAUGH, TIMOTHY ANGELO	SSgt	11/27/2024
HAGETER, TEJA LYNN	SrA	1/4/2024	ABERNETHY, JOSHUA DEPAUL	TSgt	7/16/2024
HART, NATHAN REAGAN	SrA	3/1/2024	JONES, RYAN PATRICK	TSgt	3/1/2024
HENDERSON, ASA RUSSEL	SrA	9/17/2024	KELLY, ZACHARY ELTON	TSgt	9/25/2024
HOELLEIN, ALYSA RENEE	SrA	4/8/2024	SCOTT, CHRISTIAN JORDAN	TSgt	9/17/2024
HOOVER, ASHTON NICOLE	SrA	1/11/2024	AMICONE, NICOLAS SANTINO	TSgt	2/26/2024
HUTCHISON, LEAH NICOLE	SrA	9/17/2024	BLUM, BRIAN JAMES	TSgt	1/17/2024
JOHNSON, AIDAN ZACHARY	SrA	11/13/2024	BOGASKI, COREY TYLER	TSgt	1/29/2024
JUNKER, RONAN ARGY	SrA	2/1/2024	BUCKLEY, JENNA ELIZABETH	TSgt	2/26/2024
KLEIN, CHARLES JOHNANDREW JR	SrA	8/21/2024	BUCKNER, EMMA KATHRYN	TSgt	2/8/2024
KUBAT, ETHAN MICHAEL	SrA	12/31/2024	CAMPBELL, DEREK BECK	TSgt	8/27/2024
LEAPHART, EMILY LYNN	SrA	2/6/2024	CECOTTI, THEODORE REDSHAW	TSgt	2/26/2024
LEGIN, ALEXANDER JACOB	SrA	1/8/2024	DONNELLY, VALERIE JOY	TSgt	1/8/2024
LEIATO, KIANNA ALEXIS	SrA	7/16/2024	DUNDAS, STEVEN RICHARD	TSgt	6/4/2024
MAHI, RAVINDER SINGH	SrA	3/1/2024	FASCETTI, JORDAN MATTHEW	TSgt	5/28/2024
MARVENKO, NICHOLAS JOSEPH	SrA	11/12/2024	FIRDA, JOHNATHAN SKYLAR	TSgt	9/10/2024
OFT, NIYAH MARIE	SrA	3/25/2024	GARBINI, ALEXANDER DOMENIC	TSgt	1/11/2024
PATTERSON, JOSSELYN KATHLEEN	SrA	3/20/2024	GREGOR, ROBERT JOHN III	TSgt	9/10/2024
ROMESBURG, JOSHUA LOUIS	SrA	3/25/2024	HAMILTON, ALAYNA LEIGH	TSgt	12/3/2024
STROBEL, RYAN JAMES	SrA	11/29/2024	KISS, JACOB DANIEL	TSgt	3/25/2024
SULLENBARGER, ERIK LUKE	SrA	5/30/2024	LAUDERBAUGH, CHARLES EDWIN	TSgt	7/24/2024
SWOGGER, JAYCEE BRIANNA	SrA	4/24/2024	MANUEL, NICHOLAS JOHN	TSgt	3/28/2024
TRIMER, CHARLES DAVID III	SrA	5/3/2024	MARTIN, MICHAEL WARREN JR	TSgt	2/26/2024
WATKINS, KYLE HUNTER	SrA	3/11/2024	MASNERI, THERESA MARIE	TSgt	12/3/2024
			MCBRIDE, MAURA ASHLEY	TSgt	10/21/2024
			MCCULLOUGH, JEFFREY ROBERT	TSgt	11/7/2024

TIONS

MCINTYRE, MICHAEL PATRICK	TSgt	12/27/2024
MCLAUGHLIN, MICHAEL JOSEPH JR	TSgt	1/11/2024
NIEHAUS, JOSHUA ROBERT	TSgt	6/28/2024
NISSEN, SHANE RICHARD	TSgt	5/3/2024
NOVAK, DANIEL JACOB	TSgt	3/1/2024
PANTUSO, TANNER LAVELL	TSgt	11/13/2024
PENTZ, AUBREY ELISABETH	TSgt	3/11/2024
ROUGH, DANIEL JAMES	TSgt	3/25/2024
SABO, MICHAEL KEITH	TSgt	3/1/2024
SHEPLEY, THOMAS LEE JR	TSgt	1/12/2024
STAVISH, ANTHONY JOHN	TSgt	3/1/2024
STITT, ADAM JAMES	TSgt	1/11/2024
STOFFERAHN, AUSTIN REED	TSgt	1/29/2024
SWANSON, GARRETT JAMES	TSgt	12/3/2024
THOMAS, WESLEY ONEAL	TSgt	8/26/2024
TRUNZO, TYLER MICHAEL	TSgt	11/4/2024
WILLIAMS, DENNISON ALDEN	TSgt	5/23/2024
WILLIAMS, JEREMY THOMAS LEE	TSgt	11/13/2024
WOCKENFUSS, ZOE MARIE	TSgt	4/8/2024
ZABELSKY, ETHAN MAREC	TSgt	2/2/2024
BLAKER, ROBERT EDGAR	MSgt	4/19/2024
CHAPPELL, FRANK RUBEN	MSgt	10/4/2024
DEY, DYLAN WILLIAM	MSgt	6/6/2024
ENTWISLE, BRIAN JOSEPH	MSgt	5/5/2024
FREDERICK, SCOTT ROBERT	MSgt	12/2/2024
HYSOONG, GARRETT LEE	MSgt	12/20/2024
KIRKLAND, MAURICE RAYMONT	MSgt	6/21/2024
LAZAROW, ANTHONY JOSEPH	MSgt	3/22/2024
LEE, STEPHANIE LYNN	MSgt	2/8/2024
LESKOWAK, NICKOLAS JOSEPH	MSgt	6/27/2024
LILLY, ADAM BLAKE	MSgt	9/13/2024
LOIODICI, CHRISTOPHER	MSgt	12/17/2024
MCAFOOSE, MYKE MARTIN	MSgt	10/22/2024
MORGAN, DANIEL SCOTT	MSgt	2/7/2024
NAGEL, SCOTT DANIEL	MSgt	11/4/2024
PARSONS, GREGORY RANDALL	MSgt	9/26/2024
PTASZKIEWICZ, JOSEPH AARON	MSgt	6/6/2024
STEINMILLER, JAMIE LYNNE	MSgt	10/3/2024
WILLIAMS, SHELDON ARMOND JR	MSgt	5/6/2024
BRENT, LINDSEY MICHELLE	SMSgt	3/18/2024
MARTIN, ARLEN LEWIS	SMSgt	4/4/2024
NUNAMAKER, CRAIG WESLEY JR	SMSgt	12/17/2024
ROBEY, RIKKI ELIZABETH	SMSgt	10/23/2024
YOUNG, MANDY LEE	SMSgt	10/1/2024
ZIELINSKE, CHARLES MATTHEW	SMSgt	7/19/2024
CONLEY, RYAN JAMES	CMSgt	9/13/2024

OFFICER

BAILEY, JACOB PAUL	2nd Lt	1/19/2024
KAPFFHAMMER, ASHLEY MICHELLE	2nd Lt	3/15/2024
KAUFFMAN, DEREK EDWARD	2nd Lt	2/2/2024
NIXON, JOHNATHAN ROBERT	2nd Lt	5/10/2024
NOESKE, JOSEPH ALLEN	2nd Lt	4/13/2024
RODEN, SEAN WILLIAM	2nd Lt	4/26/2024
AVERA, STEWART LEE	1st Lt	3/11/2024
GREGG, GEORGE HAROLD	1st Lt	12/16/2024
NICHOLS, NATHAN JOHN	1st Lt	12/16/2024
PELOSI, BRANDON LEE	1st Lt	2/1/2024
BROOKS, JESSICA LYNN	Capt	10/1/2024
CLOSKY, JASON RYAN	Capt	10/16/2024
HANEY, JACK GREGORY	Capt	10/16/2024
HENDERSON, JESSICA LYNN	Capt	4/21/2024
HIRLEHEY, MEGAN SUZANNE	Capt	12/11/2024
MALONEY, THOMAS JOHN	Capt	5/22/2024
MCALEAVEY, HEATHER MICHELE	Capt	7/10/2024
WEST, BRADFORD JEFFREY	Capt	5/20/2024
HUTSLER, GARY WAYNE JR	Maj	4/14/2024
LARIS, BRYANT NEAL	Maj	2/14/2024
MALONEY, KEITH JAMES	Maj	6/28/2024
MILIUS, JOHN JOSEPH	Maj	6/20/2024
STROBEL, JENNY LYNN	Maj	1/16/2024
BUCKLEY, DENNIS ROBERT	Lt Col	11/17/2024
DYNYS, DANIEL FREDERICK	Lt Col	5/1/2024
GAITHER, MICHAEL TODD	Lt Col	12/1/2024
GUERRIERE, ROBERT JOSEPH	Lt Col	5/31/2024
KELLY, BRANDON MICHAEL	Lt Col	4/1/2024
KELLY, RICHARD JOHN	Lt Col	3/14/2024
SMITH, SKYLER COVENTRY	Lt Col	4/1/2024

“On behalf of the 171st Air Refueling Wing, the Pennsylvania Air National Guard and the United States Air Force, congratulations on your promotion! You will be challenged with more expectations and expected to lead by example.”

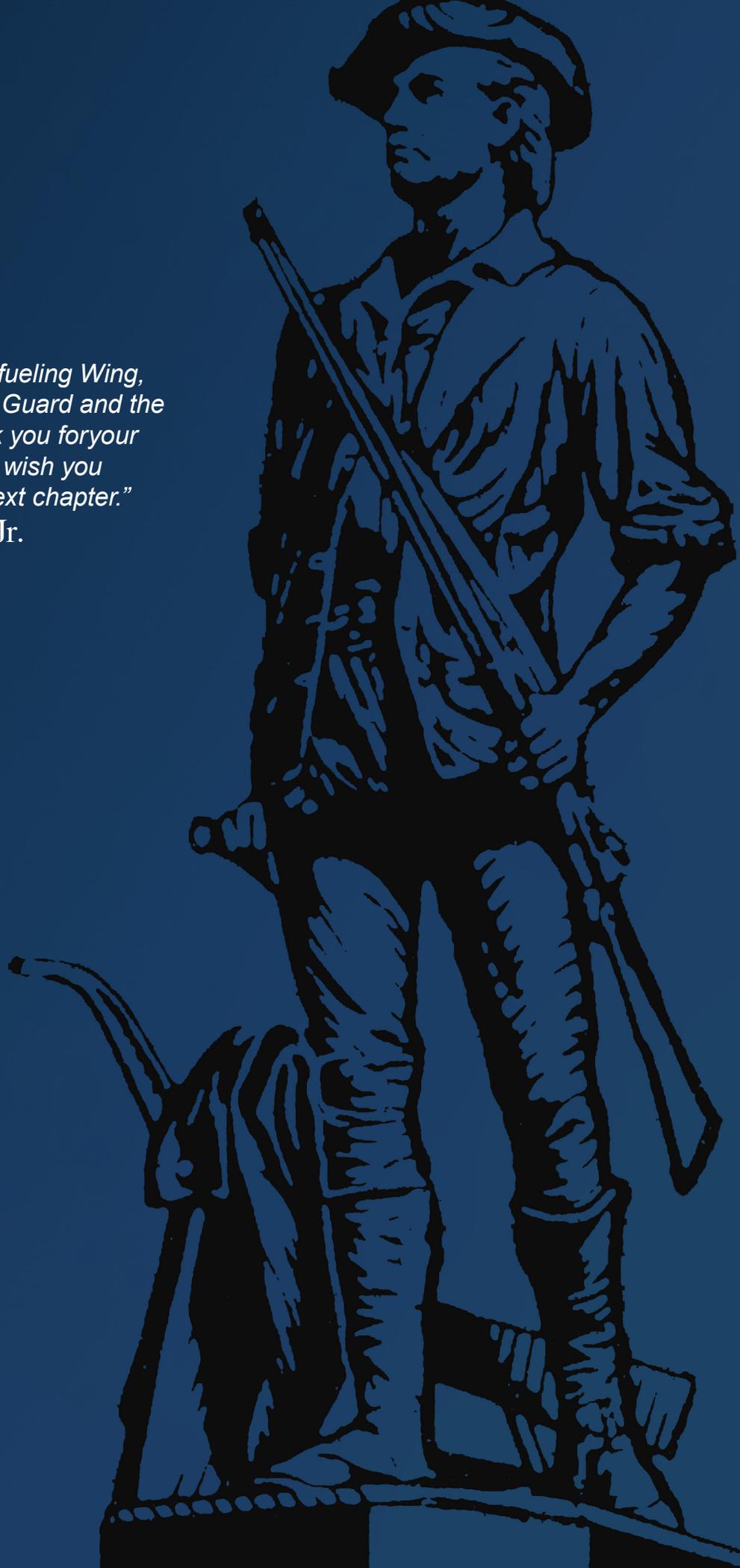
Chief Master Sgt. Charles Wiley
Command Chief, 171st Air Refueling Wing

RETIREMENTS

MSgt	Fred Nichols	1/7/24	MXS	36 Years of Service
MSgt	Gordon Cooper	1/15/24	AMXS	39 Years of Service
SMSgt	David Sparkman	1/23/24	ARW	31 Years of Service
TSgt	Daniel Baily	1/26/24	MXS	22 Years of Service
TSgt	David Kirkpatrick	2/1/24	AMXS	24 Years of Service
MSgt	Frank Sigmund	2/19/24	MOF	42 Years of Service
SSgt	Andrew Montenegro	3/1/24	258 ATCS	20 Years of Service
CMSgt	Jason Everetts	3/20/24	258 ATCS	28 Years of Service
MSgt	Moe Olivo	4/1/24	SFS	21 Years of Service
MSgt	Robert Ryden	4/15/24	CES	20 Years of Service
Capt	Nina Trexler	4/30/24	FSS	20 Years of Service
MSgt	Kevin Clancy	5/1/24	AMXS	37 Years of Service
SMSgt	Jessica Craiger	5/28/24	FSS	23 Years of Service
Lt Col	Andrew Lobl	5/31/24	MDG	20 Years of Service
SMSgt	Gary Shannon	6/2/24	CES	27 Years of Service
MSgt	Ryan Deems	6/15/24	SFS	24 Years of Service
TSgt	Brandon Amrhein	7/4/24	LRS	17 Years of Service
Lt Col	Michael List	8/1/24	147 ARS	20 Years of Service
TSgt	Renee Smith	8/1/24	MXG	21 Years of Service
MSgt	David Warren	8/8/24	LRS	39 Years of Service
Lt Col	Peter Chand	8/9/24	147 ARS	21 Years of Service
Lt Col	Brandon Loosli	9/1/24	147 ARS	20 Years of Service
SMSgt	William Long	9/7/24	CES	28 Years of Service
CMSgt	Paul Webster	9/23/24	CES	20 Years of Service
MSgt	Gilbert Ruffing	9/29/24	AMXS	39 Years of Service
SMSgt	Eric Moskal	9/30/24	SFS	22 Years of Service
SMSgt	Scott McKenzie	9/30/24	MXS	29 Years of Service
CMSgt	Jeremy Cameron	10/1/24	MDG	25 Years of Service
CMSgt	Raymond Poole	10/1/24	OSS	38 Years of Service
SMSgt	Rodney Lockwood	10/1/24	MXS	28 Years of Service
MSgt	Terry Broniszewski	10/2/24	MXS	39 Years of Service
MSgt	Mark Rauschenberg	10/3/24	CES	31 Years of Service
TSgt	Richard Zambotti	10/31/24	MXS	16 Years of Service
MSgt	Amanda Duranko	11/3/24	AMXS	15 Years of Service
CMSgt	Richard Hritz	11/6/24	MXG	22 Years of Service
TSgt	Miranda Moses	11/11/24	SFS	10 Years of Service
MSgt	Daniel Zickefoose	11/20/24	146 ARS	22 Years of Service
SMSgt	Shawn Monk	11/30/24	ARW	25 Years of Service
MSgt	Mark Kotch	11/30/24	MXG	20 Years of Service
Capt	Lisa Moretti	12/31/24	MXS	21 Years of Service
Lt Col	Deryck Castonguay	12/31/24	OSS	22 Years of Service
Lt Col	Ryan Heitmann	12/31/24	147 ARS	21 Years of Service

*“On behalf of the 171st Air Refueling Wing,
the Pennsylvania Air National Guard and the
United States Air Force, thank you for your
service. Congratulations! We wish you
nothing but the best in your next chapter.”*

Col. Raymond L. Hyland Jr.
Commander, 171st Air Refueling Wing



NEW ENLISTMENTS

GIBSON, JACOB MATTHEW	A1C	1/5/2024	SLOVICK, DYLAN ROBERT	A1C	7/31/2024
FLOWERS, WILLIE LEE	Amn	1/7/2024	LAUSO, ANTHONY JAMES	A1C	8/6/2024
EYERLY, OLIVIA SADIE	A1C	1/9/2024	SUN, LEO HUAIMO	A1C	8/7/2024
LAWRENCE, SHANE PHILLIP	Amn	12/19/2024	WALTER, BENJAMIN LYNN	A1C	8/8/2024
REICH, CARSON JAMES	AB	1/18/2024	DATES, RYAN WARREN	AB	8/9/2024
WARD, ZACK JEFFREY	A1C	1/19/2024	CONFORTI, AUSTIN JOSEPH	AB	8/13/2024
STANG, OSKAR KENNETH	A1C	6/4/2024	CLAYPOOLE, NATALIE GRACE	AB	8/14/2024
FRAZIER, BRENNAN MICHAEL	AB	2/20/2024	SIVIC, LUKE MARTIN	AB	8/15/2024
FOSTER, THOMAS MICHAEL	AB	2/22/2024	YAVA, JENIS MUFWEJ	Amn	8/20/2024
BARABAS, ASHLEE LAUREN	AB	2/26/2024	NNADOZIE, IFEANYIN PRINCEWILL	A1C	8/21/2024
BENDEN, ETHAN CHRISTIAN	AB	2/28/2024	AVERSA, ASHLEY MARIE	A1C	8/22/2024
EWING, LOGAN SAMUEL	A1C	3/7/2024	CORSO, BELAGGIO GENERRO	AB	8/26/2024
PETRO, SARA LYNN	A1C	3/13/2024	CAMPBELL, GEORGE TYLER	AB	8/28/2024
BASSO, DJ ALAN	A1C	3/15/2024	FAIT, ALEXIA NICOLE	AB	9/5/2024
GEORG, SETH AARON	AB	3/21/2024	SORRENT, XAVIER THOMAS	Amn	9/13/2024
BETTER, JARRETT ALEXANDER	A1C	3/26/2024	HARRISON, CORBIN RILEY	A1C	9/17/2024
AGYEMAN, NESTER OSEI	A1C	3/29/2024	EDINGER, CARISSA ALLESSANDR	AB	9/18/2024
WISE, CARTER RICHARD	AB	3/29/2024	CROFOOT, JONATHAN PAUL	A1C	9/23/2024
JAEGERS, OWEN MICHAEL	A1C	4/12/2024	CLITES, JOSHUA AARON	A1C	9/27/2024
GARVIN, NICHOLAS JOHN	Amn	4/26/2024	DE ALBUQUERQUE, LEO JOBBINS	AB	9/27/2024
GORDON, JAMES BRADLEY	A1C	5/31/2024	TREHAR, JAMES WILLIAM	AB	9/30/2024
ODONNELL, TREVOR JOSEPH	AB	4/30/2024	GLENN, LIAM DILIVAN	AB	10/2/2024
DALESSANDRO, DOMINIC MICHAEL	AB	5/15/2024	CRAIG, MATTHEW SCHEIDLER	A1C	10/3/2024
LEWELLYN, ETHAN OTTO	A1C	5/15/2024	HAUGHT, OLIVIA MAE	AB	10/4/2024
HAGEN, CARTER ALEXANDER	AB	5/16/2024	EVANS, TANNER RYAN	A1C	10/16/2024
OTTENBERG, IAN XAVIER	Amn	5/23/2024	CIMA, JACOB CHRISTIAN	AB	10/17/2024
MCCONNELL, AIDAN ROBERT	AB	5/28/2024	SCHOCH, SARAH GRACE	AB	10/18/2024
BOYLES, JACK FITZGERALD	A1C	6/6/2024	CHURBY, COREY MATTHEW	A1C	10/20/2024
HORKOVY, CARTER PEARCE	AB	6/13/2024	GERA, BEN CHRISTOPHE	AB	10/22/2024
SETTLES, COLBY ARNOLD	A1C	6/20/2024	SINCLAIR, ROSA MICHELLE	A1C	10/22/2024
GBOKU, MATHEW SAHR	A1C	6/21/2024	ANDERSON, ALYSSA MICHELE	A1C	11/1/2024
LY, SAY LOC	AB	6/25/2024	BUDZYNSKI, CAMILLE MONICA	AB	11/1/2024
FERGUSON, LANI RAE	AB	6/28/2024	BRUCE, BRANDON PAUL	A1C	11/12/2024
MCCLEARY, AIDEN JAMES	AB	7/10/2024	MANNS, THEODORE JAMES	Amn	11/21/2024
FRANKLIN, KENNEDI RANAE	AB	7/23/2024	KOTEWICZ, AUBIN GARRETT	A1C	11/26/2024
RAY, MARCUS WAYNE	A1C	7/24/2024	RUPP, HUNTER LAWRENCE	A1C	11/27/2024
BARTON, JACKSON BARNETT CL	AB	7/26/2024	LOVETT, ALEXANDER JAMES	A1C	12/4/2024
HEGLAND, BRANDON PAUL	AB	7/26/2024	OLIVER, JORDAN PIERCE	AB	12/5/2024
LONG, ROBERT ADAM	A1C	7/29/2024	BICKFORD, HAILEE DENISE	A1C	12/7/2024
MORROW, KAI MICHAEL	AB	7/31/2024	BASSO, BRAYDEN ANTHONY	AB	12/12/2024

“As you embark on this new journey in the Pennsylvania Air National Guard, know that you are now part of a proud tradition of excellence, service, and commitment. The transition into military life will be challenging, but you are not alone—we are a family, and we stand together.

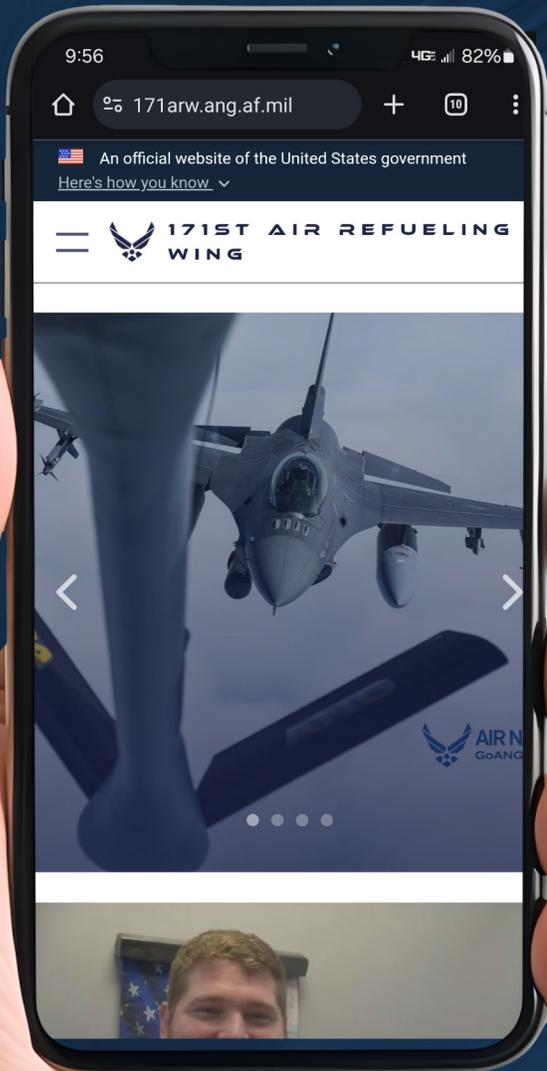
Here at the 171st, we take pride in our mission, our people, and the impact we make both at home and abroad. You will train alongside some of the finest Airmen in the country, learning skills that will shape your future and strengthen your character. Take every opportunity to grow, ask questions, and embrace the core values of Integrity First, Service Before Self, and Excellence in All We Do.

We are honored to have you join our ranks, and I look forward to seeing the contributions you will make. Welcome to the team! “

Chief Master Sgt. Charles Wiley
Command Chief, 171st Air Refueling Wing

WOW!

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