

WING TIPS

Scott Air Force Base

Illinois Air National Guard

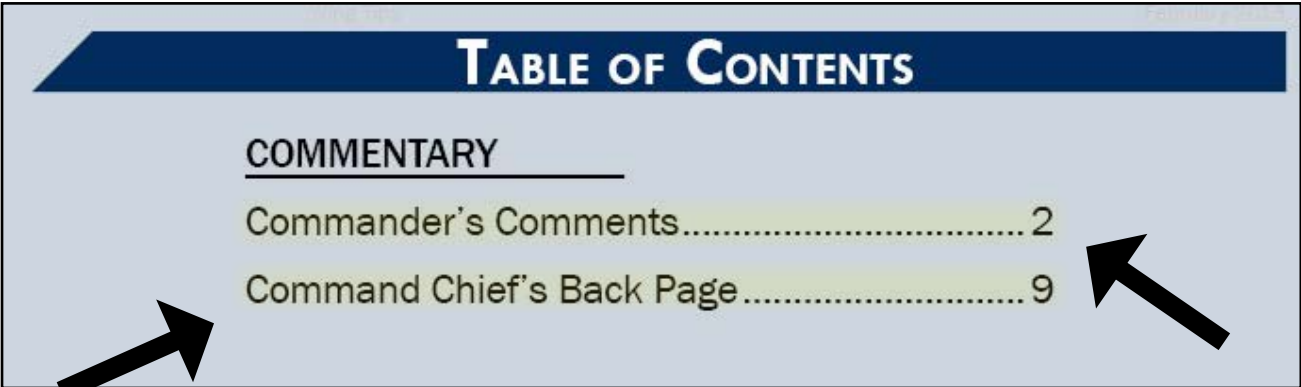


Spotlight Feature:
Education
Benefits

(Air National Guard photo by Senior Airman Mike Patterson)

GETTING AROUND

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126th Air Refueling Wing

Wing Tips

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COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

As the dog days of summer come to a close, we have a lot to reflect on over the past quarter. One of the most significant events over the last few months was the CAPSTONE evaluation in July. The Inspector General combed through the wings processes and procedures and concluded the wing is effective in all aspects of our mission. Every group received high praise from the AMC/IG. The Force Support Squadron's Readiness and Training Team stood out among the best receiving the IG's Team Recognition Award. All of you should be proud and have a sense of accomplishment that your hard work and dedication to the air force core values of integrity and excellence played a significant role in our success.

The training season is still among us. Many Airmen have deployed for training and many more have trips scheduled for this fall. Deploying with your fellow Airmen provides the opportunity to connect and build camaraderie with your coworkers and provides you with opportunities to train with different military counterparts (foreign and domestic) offering new perspectives and experiences to bring back to our wing. That training is crucial as we continuously prepare and polish our skills to support active global

campaigns. The upcoming AEF cycle, specifically our RCP (Reserve Component Period), will have a significant impact on personnel in the wing. Over 300 members will be tasked to deploy for 180+ days during the next cycle. It's important we support each other while many of our members are down field.

Military and Civic leaders, Public Servants, and the business community which encompass The Belle-Scott Committee recently held their monthly gathering here at the 126 ARW allowing us the opportunity to highlight the wings capabilities to the local community. Not only were we able to showcase our global refueling role but our expanded specific mission where we support local domestic response capabilities. Differentiating those unique roles within the United States Constitution that sets us apart from the title 10 communities at Scott AFB is a vitally important support function within our state component only the Air and Army National Guard can provide. The fact that most of you serve as Drill Status Guardsman within the community and play an integral part in local cities and communities throughout the state as permanent citizen soldiers, is not lost upon them.



Col. Peter Nezamis

Wing Commander

... our Wing

is effective

in all


aspects of

our mission.

COMMANDER'S COMMENTS



The state of Illinois continues to demonstrate their care, support, and great respect for the men and women who serve in the National Guard and that is evident not only with the Illinois Veterans Grant but their ongoing support of the Illinois National Guard Grant program where active guardsmen receive 100% free tuition at an in-state school. Coupled with the GI bill benefit, little out of pocket expense is required if you're a full-time student serving in the Illinois Air and Army National Guard. Even in these extremely challenging fiscal times the Illinois finds itself in, there is no discussion of curtailing those benefits even as others are scaling back their support of like programs within their state. It's my hope every guardsman is taking advantage of these programs and others as hundreds before you have and moved on to highly successful and rewarding civilian carriers.

Finally, this past August, our new Adjutant General of the State of Illinois officially took command. I'd like to extend a warm welcome to Major General Richard J. Hayes Jr. as the 39th Adjutant General of the state of Illinois. MG Hayes is a graduate of the University of Kansas ROTC program and was an honor graduate of both Field Artillery Officer Basic and Advance courses. 



The 126th Air Refueling Wing hosted an orientation flight for civic leaders from Illinois on July 23, 2015 at Scott Air Force Base, Ill. The leaders received the chance to witness an aerial refueling and understand the mission of the Illinois Air National Guard as a whole. (Air National Guard photo by Senior Airman Elise Stout)



Master Sgt. Judd Newcomb, a heavy operator for the 126th Civil Engineer Squadron, gives a brief overview of the response package during the Belle-Scott event at the 126th Air Refueling Wing and the 932nd Airlift Wing, Aug. 13, 2015. The event is used to showcase the military wings to civic and business leaders in the area. (Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Andrew Kleiser)

126th Medical Group trains with Navy

By: Master Sgt. Ken Stephens, 126th Air Refueling Wing

U.S. NAVY SUPPORT ACTIVITY NAPLES, Italy -- The 126th Medical Group provided two weeks of medical assistance to the U.S. Naval Hospital Naples during their annual training at Naval Support Activity Naples, Italy.

The 28 Illinois Air National Guard members from Scott Air Force Base, Illinois, experienced an opportunity to work with their active duty counterparts from a sister service over the summer.

“It has been a pleasure having the Air Guard with us for the last couple of weeks,” said U.S. Navy Captain Barth Merrill, commanding officer of the Naples hospital. “It really reinforces our surgeon general’s priorities of jointness - the services working together side by side to meet the mission.”

Air Force Col. Eric Vaughn, chief of aeromedical services for the Air National Guard unit agreed. “Right now, joint is the new push. It is going to be the future of military medicine. If you go into any major medical complex around the world and stateside, you will see air, army and navy physicians, and allied help, staffing the positions,” said Vaughn.

Working together across services is possible due to the medical field being similar around the world. According to Vaughn, both the equipment and processes are universal from one service to another.

Staff Sgt. Haley Barlow, a health services manager

with the Air National Guard unit, says this familiarity allowed the 126th to start working at the hospital quickly.

“I’ve been working in medical records doing research and filing. I helped implement an official file plan within the Naples hospital,” said Barlow. “Their processes are 90% the same as we use, the same system, they have the same filing procedures. I was able to walk in there and feel comfortable and confident, like I knew my job.”

While the work was comparable, there were some differences that led to bi-directional learning opportunities. The team not only received training from the hospital staff in areas that they do not normally practice, such as sutures, casting and molding mouth guards, but also provided training to their Navy colleagues.

Maj. Patrick McCann, a flight surgeon for the 126th, gave a talk about preventative cardiology, focusing on averting or delaying the progression of heart disease.

“I gave a summary of the most recent, up-to-date data for the providers here,” said McCann. “Overall the reception was very well received in terms of the information.”

Senior Airman Allyssa Ridings, an ophthalmic technician, said she gained some skills she would not acquire in the Air Force. Most of the eye glasses


provided by this hospital have their lenses ground by hand to fit the selected frames. While Ridings was trained on grinding the lenses and assembling the glasses with the help of a machine, this method was new to her.

“The Air Force doesn’t even do this in their hospitals,” said Ridings. “This allows me to learn a skill that I wouldn’t normally have.”

McCann believes that a vital strength of the National Guard is the training they receive in the civilian world as well as in the military.

“I think we’ve done a very good job of coming in and supporting their medical group with some of the additional specialties we bring to the table,” said McCann. He explained that the specialties of the Guard physicians, occupational health, cardiology and surgery, are a strong point.

Vaughn also said that the civilian training of the Guard members is a benefit.

“We’re practicing civilians so we’re all on the leading edge in our field. It’s a very expensive proposition to stay current. In the civilian sector, we’re out there learning everything that is current and modern. We’re bringing all the civilian expertise to the table,” said Vaughn. 

126 MDG in Italy



Geilenkirchen: International NATO mission

By: Maj. Doug Stuart, 126th Air Refueling Wing

GEILENKIRCHEN NATO AIR BASE, Germany -- As you step off the plane at Geilenkirchen NATO Air Base one of the first things you notice is the vast array of patches on the uniforms of those serving on the NATO team, and the many flags waving in the German sky. Geilenkirchen, or “GK” as it is affectionately called, is an amazing demonstration of people from around the world coming together to support a common mission. From Spain to the Netherlands to the United States, and many places in between, the NATO mission at GK brings together the best of the best to support the E-3A Component.

One of the primary missions for the 126th Air Refueling Wing during the Geilenkirchen exercise was to support the Airborne Warning and Control System pilots who were part of the training squadron. This joint exercise included numerous aerial refueling missions, both day and night, with pilots ranging in experience from several months to many, many years. The flight on August 20, 2015, included about a dozen passengers (student pilots and instructors) representing six nations. Each student had the opportunity to pilot the Sentry aircraft and experience aerial refueling, some for the first time.

Capt. Alexander Wilhelm, one of the German student pilots, has been at GK since May 2015. He’s had a lot of practice on the flight simulators, which he said can be even more sensitive than the aircraft, which can help sharpen the necessary skills during training. “If you can fly a simulator, you can fly anything,” Alexander suggested. However, he said that it was very exciting to fly so close to another aircraft, which he experienced first-hand when sharing airspace with the KC-135R Stratotanker from the 126th.

Maj. Fernando Gomez Porrua of Spain was on one of his first flights in the instructor program. This program includes a number of flights, check rides, touch and go, and learning the proper techniques to teach other pilots. Fernando has been in GK for about a year, has served in Madrid and many other locations throughout his career. He said that being an instructor pilot is one of the more exciting assignments. “Flying with a pilot who is not familiar with the jet means you must keep a strong focus. Your instructions must be clear and concise, and you need to use all of your brain for flying and teaching.” Fernando also mentioned working with NATO teammates is interesting because of the many different languages and accents.


After her time at the controls of the AWACS jet, U.S. Air Force Capt. Lanie Wolf shared some of her experiences. As a 2007 graduate of the Air Force Academy, she spent

several years with the Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System group at Robins Air Force Base. She has been at Geilenkirchen for about a year, and has enjoyed her time there. She said she’s made many friends and enjoys the international relations aspect of being in the NATO environment. When asked if she had any advice for young, aspiring pilots, she said, “Go to the Academy! It gives you better odds of achieving your goals if you want to fly.”

One of the missions during the second week of the exercise was to support numerous night refueling flights on the way to Trapani Air Base, Sicily, Italy. It was again a very diverse group; diverse in culture, experience, age and backgrounds. Maj. Eros Marrone, an instructor pilot from Italy, talked about some of his past and present experiences. He has been all around the world, to include Pisa, Italy, Germany, northern Europe and Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri. “Air refueling is very challenging,” said Eros, “but night refueling can sometimes be easier because you pay more attention to all the details”.

Eros shared that one of the things that he’s enjoyed most about working at a NATO base is the opportunity to have relationships with “professional and amazing people from everywhere.” When asked if he had words of wisdom for up and coming pilots, he said, “Study, study, study. Temper yourself and know the procedures. Being prepared on the ground makes you better in the sky.”

One of the other unique opportunities during the GK trip was to host a number of media flights with representatives from Germany, Denmark, and the Netherlands. Over the course of two days, these writers and photographers experienced a close-up and personal aerial refueling mission. For most, it was the first time to see a refueling. And for some, it was their first flight on a military aircraft. The participants were able to watch the actual refueling process from the boom, capture pictures, and interview members of the crew.

Last but certainly not least, there’s an incredible choice of places to visit for those who were able to enjoy some down time. Many locations are within driving distance or a short train ride from GK. From Paris to Prague, Aachen to Zurich, or Brussels to Amsterdam, this centrally located NATO base has something to offer for everyone. Geilenkirchen is a truly unique location and experience; rich in history, diversity and culture. 

Geilenkirchen NATO Air Base



126 LRS Deploys for training

By: Chief Master Sgt. John Meckel , 126th Logistics Readiness Squadron

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM AIR FORCE BASE, Hawaii -- The 126th Logistics Readiness Squadron was joined by 437th Supply Chain Operations Squadron personnel on a training deployment to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii from July 20 through Aug. 3, 2015. A total of 36 personnel accomplished two full weeks of training on specialized equipment.

Teamwork and productivity built steadily throughout the deployment as personnel adjusted to the differences of their new environment.

The Airmen executed a variety of projects and received unique training not available at home station. The Fuels Management personnel received training on refueling the F-22 Raptor. They worked closely with our Hawaii Air National Guard partners as well as the U.S. Navy, who maintain ownership of the fuel and fillstand facilities for the base.


The Material Management personnel performed inventory validations in the warehouse. Senior Airman Ian Shaw's attention to detail aided in correcting a \$127,087 error. Tech. Sgt. Brad Janssen assisted in reviewing multiple supply listings, reducing the workload on his Hickam counterpart. A team of four, led by Staff Sgt. Justin Thiessen, tested over 100 gas masks and brought them into compliance with the Air Force Instructions that govern shipment and storage preparation.

Personnel from Vehicle Management serviced several vehicles and trucks during this time frame. Advanced training took place on a 10K all-terrain forklift to become familiar with operating the vehicle with its articulating steering. The team also had the opportunity to become familiar with multiple M-Series vehicles. Most notably, Master Sgt. Tim Holloway provided expert assistance to the 154 LRS mechanics by bringing on-line an R-11 refueling truck that had been sitting idle till a specialist provided training.

"Our senior non-commissioned officers did a great job of leading the team" said 1st Lt. Strabley. "And I noticed some of our technical sergeants really step up as well." They led the tasks for our redeployment, such as cleaning and refueling vehicles. A special thanks to Tech. Sgt. Doug Seaton who offered designated driver services for the entire trip.

During their off time, personnel visited the Pearl Harbor Memorial to view the USS Arizona first hand in order to learn the details of what happened on December 7, 1941. Other memorials included guided tours on the deck of the Battleship Missouri and the USS Bowfin Submarine Museum.

As the chief of the squadron, I started planning for this trip about a year ago. It took many steps to accomplish the planning stages but it was worth it. My goal was to provide my personnel an opportunity to train on equipment that we do not have on station and grow from the experience from deploying. During my time I sought out the Quality Assurance Section and assisted in correcting their deficiencies identified by the Inspector General from their recent inspection.

Beyond the benefits of training with another unit and creating a lasting bond between the 126th and the 154th, were the "real world" situations tackled by everyone. Overall, the experience has been a very successful training event that has greatly benefited all three units; the 126 LRS, 437 SCOS and the 154 LRS, our host at Joint Base Pearl Harbor- Hickam, Hawaii. The Airmen of the 126 LRS have improved skills while learning about the culture and history of Pearl Harbor. 



Members of the 126th Logistics Readiness Squadron pose for a photo in front of an F-22 Raptor at Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii July 29, 2015. The 126 LRS was joined by the 437th Supply Chain Operations Squadron on this deployment for training. (Courtesy Photo)

Drink Up!

By: Senior Master Sgt. Heather Braundmeier, 126th Health Promotion Coordinator

Are you drinking enough water? Remember, your body is composed of roughly 60% water. That means when we are dehydrated – and most of us spend our days constantly dehydrated to some degree – we are affecting the performance of the majority of our body. Nearly all of our systems do not function as well without the proper water intake.

So, really, what does this mean? Why should we drink more water?

1. If you don't drink water, you will die. It's that important. Depending on our environment, we can live only a few days without water - maybe a week. We can live much longer without food. For most of us, we should prioritize the consumption of water far more than we currently do.

2. Prevent cancer. Yes, that's right – various research says staying hydrated can reduce risk of colon cancer by 45%, bladder cancer by 50%, and possibly reduce breast cancer risk, as well.

3. Be less cranky. Research says dehydration can affect your mood and make you grumpy and confused. Think clearer and be happier by drinking more water.

4. Perform better. Proper hydration contributes to increased athletic performance. Water composes 75% of our muscle tissue! Dehydration can lead to weakness, fatigue, dizziness, and electrolyte imbalance.


5. Lose weight. Sometimes we think we are hungry, when actually we are thirsty. Our body just starts turning on all the alarms when we ignore it. For those of you trying to drop some pounds, staying hydrated can serve as an appetite suppressant and help with weight loss.

6. Have less joint pain. Drinking water can reduce pain in your joints by keeping the cartilage soft and hydrated. This is actually how Glucosamine helps reduce joint pain, by aiding in cartilage's absorption of water.

7. Flush out waste and bacteria. Our digestive system needs water to function properly. Waste is flushed out in the form of urine and sweat. If we don't drink water, we don't flush out waste and it collects in our body causing a myriad of problems. Also combined with fiber, water can cure constipation.

8. Prevent headaches. Sometimes headaches can be caused by dehydration, so drinking water can prevent or alleviate that nasty head pain. Next time your head hurts, try drinking water.

9. Make your skin glow. Our skin is the largest organ in our body. Regular and plentiful water consumption can improve the color and texture of your skin by keeping it building new cells properly. Drinking water also helps the skin do its job of regulating the body's temperature through sweating.

10. Feed your body. Water is essential for the proper circulation of nutrients in the body. Water serves as the body's transportation system and when we are dehydrated things just can't get around as well. 



The 126th Air Refueling Wing hosts a retirement ceremony and change of command ceremony in the wing hangar on June 6, 2015, at Scott Air Force Base, Ill. Col. Richard Keasey (right), commander of the 126th Maintenance Group, is retiring after 30 years of service, more than half of which was assigned to the 126 ARW. Col. Peter Nezamis, commander of the Illinois National Guard wing, presided over the ceremony. (Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Andrew Kleiser)



Lt. Col. Joshua Hendrix, the Commander of the 126th Maintenance Group attached to the 126th Air Refueling Wing, was promoted to Col. on Aug. 11, 2015, at Scott Air Force Base, Ill. Hendrix was appointed the Commander of the Maintenance Group on June 6, 2015. (Air National Guard photo by Senior Airman Elise Stout)

Navigating your military education benefits

By: Airman 1st Class Clare Wallace, 126th Air Refueling Wing

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Illinois – Getting a college education is not an easy task. Academic advising, scheduling classes, arranging financial aid and paying tuition all require the services of different offices, which can cause confusion. For military members, filing to claim education benefits can cause even more headaches.

The claiming of benefits requires paperwork, and the overlap of deadlines with wait times creates pitfalls for many military students causing undue hardships.

“Everyone thinks they are doing it right but a lot of the time [not being informed] causes unneeded stress. Everyone I know has some sort of horror story,” said Senior Airman Brian Earll, a member of the 126th Civil Engineering Squadron.

To National Guard members, education benefits are a widespread incentive to join; however navigating the process to obtain these benefits can be complicated, costing students precious time and money.

“Once I checked the wrong box on a form and lost my guard grant for that semester,” said Earll. “It cost me \$3600.”

Earll joined the 126th Air Refueling Wing in December 2010 after completing his first semester of college. He was lucky enough to only be absent due

to training for one semester of the traditional college schedule. This allowed him to obtain his bachelor’s degree from SIUE in only five years, graduating this past May. However not all students are so lucky.

Many first-term Airmen find themselves awaiting basic training dates and not wanting to waste time and money, postpone college enrollment. New students just aren’t aware of things like early class completion, being able to schedule classes without having completed the prerequisites or incompletes, (reenrolling at a future date without additional expenses) that would allow them to enroll without fear of lost funds even when BMT is looming. This unfamiliarity can cause severe delays in career development and can sometimes lead to the student never returning to obtain their degree.

According to a recent study done by the National Student Clearing House Research Center only 33.7% of students make it to graduation if they are absent from higher education for more than a year.

However, more new Airmen may reach graduation if they are aware of the extent to which their fellow Airmen are here to guide them.

Offices such as the 126th Education Office, the 126th Retention Office, and the Family Readiness


and Support Office are invaluable assets to the military student. They have the resources to fully explain all education benefits and will direct you in filing your claim.

“I do a lot of things,” said Master Sgt. Jason Esker, job title of the 126th Retention Office, “but about 90 percent of the people that come to my office come in to talk about education benefits.”

For Earll the retention office was a lifesaver.

“When I came in and sat down and had everything laid out in front of me, it was the first time I felt like I got any clarity on the issue,” he said. “I thought ‘here is everything I needed and all it took was someone to do that with me.’”

College is supposed to be designed to help interested, and even not so interested people, to learn. It is supposed to be centered upon learning, yet sometimes this concept gets lost under a million pieces of paperwork, leaving you feeling buried before you even get to your first class. Fortunately for Airmen at the 126th, we have people like Esker working with us.

“The process takes time,” he says, “but that’s my job. That’s what I am here for.” 

Options of Paying for School

By: Master Sgt. Cindy Beaird, 126th Education Office

Your Air National Guard service could make you eligible for a variety of different education benefits that you can use to pay for school. All Illinois Air National Guard members are eligible for the Illinois National Guard Grant (ING) after one year of service in the ILANG. The ING pays 100% tuition for up to 120 credits (roughly 4 years) at any Illinois public school. After ten years of service, members can get an additional 60 credits of ING benefits. Only actively participating ILANG members can draw on the ING benefit. Go to [www.isac.org/students/during-college/types-of-financial-aid/grants/illinois-national-guard-\(ing\)-grant-program.html](http://www.isac.org/students/during-college/types-of-financial-aid/grants/illinois-national-guard-(ing)-grant-program.html) for program details and online application.

Members who have performed at least one year of Federal Active Duty service or have been on orders in a hostile fire area for at least one day may be eligible for the Illinois Veteran Grant (IVG). Like the ING, the IVG pays 100% tuition for up to 120 credits at any IL public school. The IVG pays mandatory fees as well. The IVG can be used anytime, even after the member separates from service. Go to [www.isac.org/students/during-college/types-of-financial-aid/grants/illinois-veteran-grant-\(ivg\)-program.html](http://www.isac.org/students/during-college/types-of-financial-aid/grants/illinois-veteran-grant-(ivg)-program.html) for program details and to download the paper application. You will have to submit DD 214s for each period of federal active duty service.

You can use most GI Bill programs along with your Grant entitlement. Upon becoming eligible for any GI Bill, the member is eligible to draw on 36 months of the benefit. If the member becomes eligible for an additional type of GI Bill, they will receive an additional 12 months of benefits. The member can use whichever program they choose, up to 36 months out of any one program for a maximum total of 48 combined months for all programs. GI Programs include:

- Chapter 1606 Montgomery GI Bill Select Reserve (MGIB-SR)

Members are eligible if they have a six year enlistment, complete Initial Active Duty Training (IADT) and have completed High School.

- Chapter 1607 Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP)


Members are eligible if they serve on active duty on or after September 11, 2001, in support of a contingency operation for 90 or more consecutive days.

- Chapter 30 Active Duty GI Bill

Members who serve on Active Duty become eligible for Chapter 30 after two years on active duty, sign up for the program and pay \$100 a month for 12 months.

- Post 9/11 GI Bill

ILANG members become eligible after serving 90 aggregate days on Federal Active Duty, or some types of Title 32 Active Duty and opt into the program. Member is fully vested and receives the 100% payment rate with 36 months of aggregate active duty service. The Post 9/11 GI Bill can be transferred to a spouse or child after the member has served at least six years of service, and commits to serve an additional four years.

Please Note- only the Department of Veteran's Affairs can tell you for sure which program(s) you are eligible for. You can contact them by phone at 1-888-GIBILL-1 or review their website at www.benefits.va.gov. You will also have to contact the school's Veteran's Affairs office, and the Financial Aid office to determine which benefit(s) are best for you. You can also use the VA's GI Bill comparison tool <http://department-of-veterans-affairs.github.io/gi-bill-comparison-tool/>. For general information about any of the Grant or GI Bill programs, please contact the Retention Office Manager, Master Sgt. Jason Esker at (618) 222-5705 or jason.m.esker.mil@mail.mil. 


Community College of the Air Force

By: Master Sgt. Cindy Beaird, 126th Force Development Superintendent

The Community College of the Air Force grants a two-year Associate of Applied Science degree in association with Air University. CCAF is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. The program combines the technical education earned from initial Technical school and follow on five level training with a core of general education from civilian institutions or CLEP/DANTES credit, and management education from Air Force Professional Military Education or civilian sources. Your CCAF degree program is based off of your Primary Air Force Specialty Code and cannot be chosen or changed unless your code changes upon retraining.

You can review your CCAF standings by logging in to the Air Force Virtual Education Center, linked off of the AF Portal, and then clicking CCAF View Progress Report. Generally, after a member has completed their


general education requirements (Oral Communication, Written Communication, Math, Social Science and Humanities), their Management requirements (met upon completion of PME or civilian management classes) and they have earned their 5 level in their Primary AFSC, they will become eligible for the degree. Civilian college credits must be submitted via an official transcript mailed or electronically sent directly from the school to CCAF. The school should mail transcripts to CCAF/DESS, 100 South Turner Blvd, Maxwell-Gunter AFB AL 36114. Once received by CCAF, transcripts can take up to 12 weeks to post to your record.

Once all requirements have been met, the member should contact the Force Development Office by email at cynthia.a.beaird.mil@mail.mil to request graduation nomination. 

What are CLEP & DANTES tests?

College Level Examination Program (CLEP) tests are a group of standardized tests designed to assess college-level knowledge in thirty-six subject areas. These tests provide a mechanism for earning college credits without taking college courses. CLEP credit can often be applied to Community College of the Air Force degree general education requirements. Find exam information at www.collegeboard.org/clep and call the 375th Education Office at (618) 641-6677 to schedule an exam.

Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support Tests (DANTES) subject standardized tests are a series of 38 exams which also allow the member to earn college credits. Whereas CLEP tests are almost exclusively used for lower level credit, DANTES are available for both upper and lower level credit. Find exam information at www.getcollegetcredit.com and call the 375th Education Office at (618) 641-6677 to schedule an exam.

Study guides and practice tests can be found at libraries, at the above sites, and on Air Force Virtual Education Center at www.my.af.mil/afvecprod/afvec/Public/StudyGuides.aspx (may require a government network or CAC reader). 

RELAXATION ANYONE?

HOSTED BY: LINDA SCHUH,
126 ARW DIRECTOR OF PSYCHOLOGICAL HEALTH

16 SEPT 2015, 1300-1400

ASF CONFERENCE ROOM, 126 MEDICAL GROUP, BLDG. 1530
SNACKS AND DRINKS PROVIDED

RSVP TO LINDA.SCHUH.1@US.AF.MIL OR
CALL (618) 256-7585 TO REGISTER MEMBERS

FAMILY MEMBERS ARE ALSO WELCOME TO ATTEND



126th Air Refueling Wing Retirements

Master Sgt. Jeffery Compton, 126th Maintenance Squadron - 24 years

Master Sgt. Theodore Brown, 126th Logistics Readiness Squadron - 23 years


Master Sgt. Lawrence Mangino, 126th Communications Flight - 21 years



The 126th Security Forces Squadron and the 126th Communications Flight performed their annual training at Camp San Luis Obispo, a California National Guard base. (Air National Guard photos by Staff Sgt. Ces White)

See more photos in the 126 ARW Flickr album.






ST. CLAIR COUNTY ARMED FORCES BALL COMMITTEE
P.O. Box 42, Belleville, IL 62222

September 3, 2015

Colonel Peter Nezamis
Commander, 126th Air Refueling Wing
126 Air Guard Way
Scott AFB, IL 62225-5503

Dear Colonel Nezamis,

On behalf of the Armed Forces Ball Committee and the generous citizens of St. Clair County, it is with great pleasure that I present this donation check in the amount of \$2,500.00 to the 126th Air Refueling Wing. It is the committee members hope that you will be able to use these funds, to support your unit Airman and Family Readiness programs.

This donation was made possible due to the proceeds of the silent auction and the numerous charitable donations from both the civic and business leaders, and chambers of commerce organizations throughout our community. The community support for the 1st Annual Armed Forces Ball was overwhelming, and provided an outstanding tribute to our military service members and veterans.

Again, the committee would like to thank you for your service and your contributions, and looks forward to your participation and support of the 2nd Annual Armed Forces Ball on April 29, 2016. The planning has already started-I am counting on your support to make 2016's event even greater!

I send along my kindest personal regards and best wishes to all members of the 126th Air Refueling Wing.

Sincerely,

MARK A. KERN, Chairman
Armed Forces Ball Committee

MARK A. KERN
Committee Chairman

MIKE LEOPOLD
Co-Chairman

JOHN P. HUGHES
Military Affairs

KURT DAESCH
Veterans Services

KATHY FEDERICO
Jack Schmitt Auto Group

PATTY GREGORY
Belleville Art on the Square

SANDRA HAKANSON
Mascoutah Chamber of Commerce

ELEN HUGHES
Member

ERIN KERN
Member

JOHN LINGERMAN
Belleville Chamber of Commerce

CATHLEEN LINDAUER
Belleville Tourism Bureau

DEBBIE ARELL-MARTINEZ
O'Fallon-Shiloh Chamber of Commerce

DOROTHY MEYER
St. Clair County

DEBRA MOORE
Director of Administration

BOB MUELLER
The Bank of Edwardsville

CAROL PIONTKOWSKY
Member

MIKE RILEY
Leadership Council Southwestern Illinois

DONNA SCHLUETER
Mascoutah Chamber of Commerce

MARY SHALAPIN
The Jerry Costello Group

CHRISTINE SPARGUR
375th AMW-Public Affairs

DALE STEWART
Southwestern Illinois
Building - Construction Trade Council

TOM TYLER
Metro East Regional Chamber
Of Commerce Fairview Heights-Swansea



The 126th Air Refueling Wing recently received a donation from the St. Clair County Armed Forces Ball Committee in support of the Airman and Family Readiness program.

Mark Kern, committee chairman, presented the check to Col. Peter Nezamis, 126th Air Refueling Wing commander, Sept. 3, 2015. (photo provided)


70-407/810

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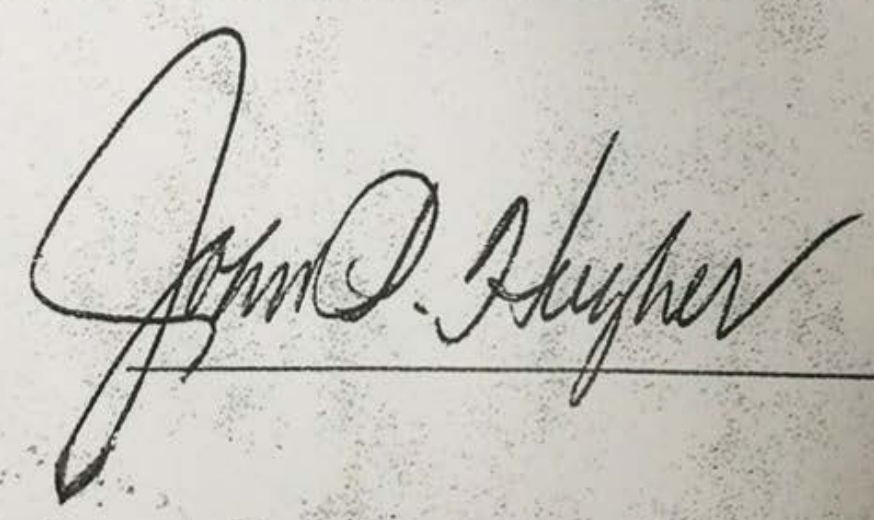
ST. CLAIR COUNTY ARMED FORCES BALL COMMITTEE
PO BOX 42
BELLEVILLE, IL 62222

DATE 3 September 2015

PAY TO 126th ARW Fund \$ 2,500.00
THE ORDER OF Two Thousand Five Hundred and 00/100 DOLLARS

 www.4thebank.com

MEMO _____



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SPECIALTY GRAY



COMMAND CHIEF'S COMMENTS

ING versus IVG!

Do you know the difference between the Illinois National Guard Grant and the Illinois Veterans Grant ? The benefits are similar however eligibility for each one is slightly different.

The Illinois National Guard Grant is available to any Illinois National Guard member that has completed 1 year of service in the Illinois National Guard (Army or Air) and are enrolled at a public Illinois 2-4 year college or university. The ING pays 100% tuition for up to 120 units/credit hours (4 years). A member can also receive an additional 60 units/credit hours once he or she has completed 10 years in the Illinois National Guard. The ING is only valid while you are serving in the Illinois National Guard.

Much like the ING, the Illinois Veteran's Grant also covers 100% tuition. To be eligible, you must have at least 1 year of federal active duty service in the Armed Forces of the United States (in nation) or any length of service in a foreign country in a time of hostilities in that country. Unlike the ING, the IVG is good for a lifetime! You may use it for 120 units/credit hours (4 years) at a public Illinois 2-4 year college or university. The IVG will also cover some mandatory fees (determined by the college).

Take advantage of all educational opportunities while serving and don't let these benefits slip away....one day you may look up and it may be too late.

For more information on both grants, visit www.isac.org/myzone/illinois-national-guard-grant-program/ or www.isac.org/myzone/illinois-veteran-grant-program/

Courtesy of Illinois Army National Guard, Education & Incentives, February 2015. 



Aircraft of the Month

Provided by the 126th Maintenance Group

APRIL 2015

Aircraft 64-4839

It had a Mission Capable rate of 87.0%, and 24 sorties flown totaling 140.7 hours. The lead crew chiefs on that aircraft are Master Sgt. John Maslanka and Master Sgt. Carlos Fernandez.


MAY 2015

Aircraft 59-1500

It had a Mission Capable rate of 91.3%, and 26 sorties flown totaling 161.6 hours. The lead crew chiefs on that aircraft are Master Sgt. Mike Jansen and Tech. Sgt. Dan Baque.

JUNE 2015

Aircraft 58-0023

It had a Mission Capable rate of 95.9%, and 15 sorties flown totaling 80.7 hours. The lead crew chiefs on that aircraft are Master Sgt. Terry Kahrhoff and Staff Sgt. Cody Harpster. 

Keeping in touch...

Don't forget to email us if you
change your email address or have
any comments about Wing Tips.

You can also provide any other
feedback to this email:

126-arw.list.pa@mail.mil

You can keep up with Wing events
on the web at these sites:

Website

www.126arw.ang.af.mil

Facebook

www.facebook.com/126arw

Flickr

www.flickr.com/photos/126arw

DVIDS Hub

www.dvidshub.net/units/126arw

Wing History

The June, 1962 front page of Wing Tips is shown in this reproduction.



STOCKING UP...SSGT Francis E. Ken-
nard, radio operator in the 126th
Air Refueling Group, gets supply of
Air National Guard book covers from
SSGT Edward Fitzner of the publica-
tions distribution office. Sgt Ken-
nard has been stumping Whiteside
County and his home town of Rock
Falls showing civic groups and school
groups films about the Illinois ANG.
He now plans to supply some of the
schools with the promotional book
covers. The Group Information Off-
ice has more of the covers available.

126th AIR REFUELING

Wing Tips

VOLUME 13 NUMBER 4

ILLINOIS AIR NATIONAL GUARD

APRIL, 1969

25,000 ACCIDENT-FREE HOURS

Over 25,000 hours without any major or minor accidents was flown by the 126th Air Refueling Group as of the end of January, it was revealed by group commander Col. Warren E. Bristow at a recent briefing for new 9th Air Force commander General O'Keefe.

To be exact, the total at the end of January was 25,101 hours. This accident free time goes back to 1 July 1961 when the group was reorganized and first got the KC 97 tankers.

It was during a Creek Party mission flight that Maj. Dean Meucci and his crew logged the 25,000th

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NAME	NEW	T.A.G.
Illinois Governor Richard Ogilvie	accepted	the resignation of Maj. Gen. Leo M. Boyle as Illinois Adjutant General and appointed Brig. Gen. Harold R. Patton as Acting Adjutant General as of 1 March 1969.
General Patton	had been	the Assistant Adjutant General.

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hour. This safety record has earned for the group the TAC Flying Achievement Award each year since 1961.

"Of the 11 KC-97L's we have, an average of 1.7 tankers were deployed from home station every day of 1968 in support of all the exercises plus the required overwater Navigational training flights," said Col. Bristow.

The 126th Air Refueling Group has a C-2 rating. Of the 15 crews authorized, 14 are assigned and 12 are operationally ready. The present pilot strength is at 100 per cent.

Exercises that the group participated in last year included: Punch Card to Alaska, Commando Elite to Hawaii plus refueling support exercises in Puerto Rico and Guard Strike as well as Creek Party in Germany.