



HAPPY TRAILS SMOKEY

WE SAY GOOD BYE TO OUR VICE WING
COMMANDER.

147RW **TEXAN**
TEXAS AIR NATIONAL GUARD

APRIL 2015

THE TEXAN

147TH RECONNAISSANCE WING

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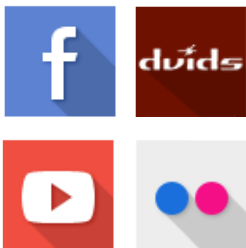


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Visit the 147th Reconnaissance Wing social media sites to stay current with what is happening at the Wing.

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COVER:
Col. Jim "Smokey" Smith's official portrait.
National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Sean Cowher



CHIEF'S CORNER

TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR CAREER

BY COMMAND CHIEF MASTER SGT. MICHAEL CORNITIUS

I have been very fortunate in my career to have mentors point me in the right direction and guide me down the path of this military. All of us at some point need that person to let us know when we start to go astray and who will get us back on point. I have had many mentors throughout my career who have been there for me and I hope I have, and can continue to, reciprocate that same guidance. One of the biggest things I heard time and time again was you must take charge of your career. Never were truer words spoken than if you let someone else make your decisions for you might not like what happens. We know our own goals and aspirations, whereas those around you may know you only as a co-worker, subordinate or friend, but don't really understand what you want to do with your career. Set your short and long term goals from the beginning and have a plan

When I first joined the Air Force, my goal was to make it through my first enlistment and see how I felt about the military after that was completed and make adjustments from there. After the first tour was done, I knew then I wanted to make a career out of it and began to set my short term goals along with the long term ones. All my plans would have been for nothing had it not been for the various supervisors I had reminding me to think about what I wanted to get out of my career and fight for it. I had my bumps going down the road, like most of us, but I never lost sight of what I wanted - to be the best person I could be to support our unit. My short term goal was to finish my upgrade training and the long term was to obtain the rank of Master Sgt. before I reached 20 years in service. Now in order to reach each of these goals, I knew there was going to have to be some sacrifices made in both my personal and professional life involving my civilian career since I was a Drill Status Guardsman at the time, but those were the things I wanted. Once I reached my goals, I reevaluated and set new ones so that I could continue to grow.

Set your goals, strive for them each day, and look for someone you respect to guide you and show you what you need to do reach your goals. I charge each of you to sit down and really think about what you want to get out of your career in the Air National Guard and go after it. Your supervisors, Chiefs, and commanders will support you, but you have to be the one to take the bull by the horns and make it happen.



147 Chaplain Corps gets first hand training

by TSgt Jeffery Boyd
147th Chaplains Assistant



The greater Houston area is fortunate to be the home of Memorial Hermann Hospital, the second busiest trauma center in the United States. The 147RW Chaplain Corps visited Memorial Hermann and shadowed the hospital Chaplains to observe how they minister to patients and hospital staff affected by trauma. The Chaplain Corps was given access to the Trauma Center, Burn Center, Emergency Room, Neonatal ICU and Neuroscience Center. Chaplains and Chaplain Assistants were allowed to observe and interact with patients and staff to learn how the hospitals

Chaplains are involved in resiliency and healing. One highlight of the visit was a tour of the Life Flight helipad and control center. The Chaplain Corps was also invited to participate in a Child Abuse Awareness event sponsored by the hospital. The day of observation greatly benefited the members of the 147RW Chaplain Corps by immersing them in similar situations they would experience when deployed with medical staff overseas or during times of natural disaster.

OPERATIONAL READINESS

Photos by 1st Lt. Alicia Lacy
147th Public Affairs Officer





1st. SERGEANT'S COMMENTS

INNOVATION AND CREATIVENESS

by SMSgt Malvin Baerga-Rivera
147th Reconnaissance Wing First Sergeant

When Airman say they want their voices to be heard, they are really saying they want leaders who will not just hear them, but really listen to them. As a supervisor, manager or superintendent seek more attention, feedback and support. Leaders must become more mindful of members needs in order to effectively inspire development and overall performance. Leaders who listen are able to create trustworthy relationships that are transparent and breed loyalty. You know the leaders who have their Airmen's best interests at heart because they truly listen to them.

As a leader, it's difficult to really know what your Airmen are thinking about, what's troubling them or how to help them get out of a performance slump – unless you take the time to listen. Listening goes well beyond being quiet and giving someone your full attention. It requires you to be aware of body language, facial expressions, mood, and natural behavioral tendencies. Listening should be a full-time job when you consider the uncertainty embedded in the work center and the on-going changes taking place.

During the early stages of my First Sergeant special duty, I had the opportunity to sit on different hiring and promotion boards. We recommended a diverse group of candidates to the various

positions. At first, all the candidates communicated effectively and quickly created an impact. But over time, their demeanor changed and I noticed that sometimes during the interview process they were less engaged and enthusiastic about the opportunity they were looking.

After the selection process and announcement I reached to those not selected. Some of them tell me that they had some personnel problems at home that impacting their ability to stay focused during the interview. They didn't want to share their personal problems with the hiring panel (nor did they have to) fearing that it would change our perception of them – especially since I was one of the panel members. Fortunately, this experience awakened me to become a better overall listener; a more compassionate leader.

As leaders, we must balance our intensity and desire to perform with compassionate attention to our Airman and Organization needs. Being mindful of another's stress and their tension points before they impact their ability to boost their emotional intelligence

Listening is a leadership responsibility that does not appear in the job description. Those who do listen to their Airman are in a much better position to lead the increasingly diverse and multigenerational work center.

The "one-approach-fits-all" way of thinking has become outdated and those who embrace the high art of listening are destined to be the better, more compassionate and over-all leader.

Six Effective forms of Listening

CARING- When you care about your Airman, they tend to work harder and aim to exceed your expectations. Airman want to be led by those who genuinely care about who they are and what they represent to the team and organization at-large.

ENGAGING- Beyond caring, engage yourself in matters important to your Airman. When they share their opinions, ask questions and encourage them to elaborate and expand upon their perspectives.

EMPATHETIC- The workplace is fueled with the stress and pressure of each day. Because every Airman stress and pressure differently, it is important that you are empathetic to how these distractors impact employee performance

DO NOT JUDGE- Leaders that judge others are not listening. Too many times leaders make harsh criticisms about those with a different style or approach

MINDFUL- Great leaders are extremely mindful of their surroundings. They know how to actively listen beyond the obvious via both verbal and non-verbal communication. They acknowledge others via body language, facial expressions and nods.

DO NOT INTERRUPT- How many times has your leader rudely interrupted your train of thought? It's fair to say this is a common occurrence. Compassionate leaders listen and don't interrupt the flow of the dialogue.

147TH WARRIOR DAY

MAY 2015

Warrior Day is on and your squadron is in the spotlight. Start talking and forming your game plan to become the “fittest squadron” in the Wing. So you ask, “how do I compete with the ASOS guys?” “They are “bad @\$es”, you think. But fitness is more than brute strength; it is a measure of physical and mental strength that not only incorporates personal strength, but more importantly, the skill to work as a team to achieve the greater goal.

SCHEDULE

1015	COMMNADERS CALL
1030-1430	EVENTS
1100	BURGER BURN
1400	EVENT FINALS

EVENTS

1030-1230	FLAG FOOTBALL	TSGT NICK OFFICER
1030-1430	KICKBALL TOURNEY	TSGT COURTNEY BOSCH
1030-1400	SPADES TOURNEY	MAJ TANYA HOWZE
1030-1400	DOMINOS	MAJ TANYA HOWZE
1030-????	TOP PT TEST	
1100-1400	FITNESS CHALLENGE	SMSGT JP PATTON
1100-1300	GOLF - CLOSEST TO THE PIN	SMSGT RICHARD WILLIAMSON
1230-1400	3-ON-3 BASKETBALL	MSGT DION FOLLEY
1230-1400	VOLLEYBALL TOURNEY	SRA KARA ADDITON
1230-1400	SOCCER	MSGT KEITH CALHOUN
1300-1400	TUG-OF-WAR	SSGT YANET GOMEZ

SCORING

For team sports - teams can make up from different areas of the Wing. However, that team must declare what squadron they are representing.

Scoring is simple:

- Each event will have its own scoring criteria.
- Each member and/or team will declare what squadron they represent when checking into the event.
- Each event's top three finishers will be recorded.
- The top three places for all the events will be tallied to determine the overall Warrior Day winner. The more events a squadron enters and places in the top three, the better odds of becoming the “fittest squadron” in the Wing.

Airman & Family READINESS PROGRAM

147TH RECONNAISSANCE WING - ELLINGTON FIELD JRB - HOUSTON, TEXAS



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Commanders Hotline Ideas | Comments | Suggestions

929-2000



AMERICAN AIRMEN | SPIRITUAL WINGMEN



147 RECONNAISSANCE WING
CHAPLAIN CORPS



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Safety Shorts



Air Force Ground Safety will sponsor Fall Protection Focus weeks from May 4-15. This initiative is a partnership with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health's campaign, "National Safety Stand-Down."

During fiscal years 2010-2014, the Air Force had 7,671 injuries from falls resulting in 44,000 lost work days at a cost of more than \$30 million; which includes three fatalities. According to OSHA, over the last 10 years, more than 3,500 workers have died from falls which remains the leading cause of death in construction, accounting for more than a third of deaths in the industry.

Throughout the two-week focus, Air Force ground safety professionals will remind all active duty, Guard, Reserve, civilians, and family members of the dangers of preventable falls.

"Fall protection or prevention is not only for activities related to heights that are encountered every day on-the-job, but also includes, for example, falls that can happen because of wet floors or obstacles on a walkway," said Bill Parsons, Air Force chief of ground safety. "We want everyone to remember that preventable falls are inexcusable and that we must continue to do all we can to protect ourselves and each other."

What's for lunch?

2 May 2015
Warrior Day
Hamburgers

10 April 2015
Fajitas (Beef or Chicken)
Burritos
Mixed Veggies
Corn
Taco Bar
Refried Beans
Chicken Wings

THERE'S NO EXCUSE

ALWAYS USE FALL PROTECTION

It'll only take a second

It's a flat roof

It's not that high

This ladder's probably ok

It takes too long

This harness is too uncomfortable

Watch this!

