

Sandy Hoag Gazette

111th Fighter Wing

Pa Air National Guard

Willow Grove Air Reserve Station, Pa.

Volume 14 Issue 1

January 2009

**Guests, volunteers
paramount to a
successful holiday
party**

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HOLD THE DATE

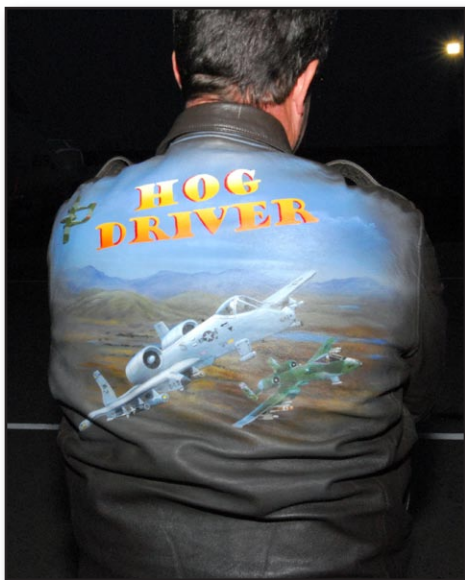
**UPCOMING
FEDERAL
JOB FAIR**

**Thurs. Feb. 5 (All Day)
Bldg. 203 HQ Auditorium
Willow Grove ARS**

More info to follow.

**111th members bring holiday cheer to
Southeastern Veterans' Home residents**

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“Hog Driver”

Lt. Col. (Ret.) Pat Foley dons a beautiful canvas featuring several A-10s on the back of his leather flight jacket here Dec. 6.

Just a symbol of how much the unit loves the A-10 Warthog.

A Reminder About Inclement Weather

In the event we experience inclement weather, you can check the status of Wing operations by calling (888) **INFO UTA** for a recorded message reporting work status for the 111th FW.

No matter what the situation is at the base, assess your particular circumstances and take an appropriate safe course of action. If the roads are unsafe, stay home, and contact your supervisor to discuss the situation.



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ABOUT SANDY HOG GAZETTE

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111TH FW MEMBERS

The Sandy Hog Gazette is no longer available in print. To have the Gazette e-mailed directly to you, please send your name and email address to: pa.111fw@pawill.ang.af.mil. Please put

“Sandy Hog” in the subject line.

RETIREES

You will continue to receive a hardcopy unless you opt for an electronic version.

CONTACT US

The Public Affairs staff can be reached during UTA weekends at (215) 443-1504. For urgent inquiries, contact the 111th FW Community Manager at (215) 443-1410.

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

The deadline for submissions to the January issue of the Sandy Hog Gazette is Jan. 16. E-mail articles and photos for consideration to: pa.111fw@pawill.ang.af.mil.

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Cover photo:

Guardsmen, family and friends enjoy an annual holiday party held in Dock. 2 on Dec. 7. They enjoyed delicious food, fun activities, crafts, and were entertained by a variety of special guests, including an appearance by Santa & Mrs. Claus.

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Alvin Farrow

Staff Sgt. Stanley L. Jones, 103rd FS, and guardsmen from the 111th FW visited residents at the Southeastern Veterans' Center, in Spring City, Pa. on Dec. 16.

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Alvin Farrow

Did You Know?

The Sandy Hog Gazette is available online on the 111th FW public website: www.111fw.ang.af.mil



U.S. Senator Barack Obama, D-Ill., center, speaks with a U.S. Soldier in Basra, Iraq, July 21, 2008, during a visit to Headquarters, Multi-National Division (South East). (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class C. J. Sheely)

National Guard to Support Presidential Inauguration

By Lt. Col. Ellen Krenke

Special to American Forces Press Service

More than 4,000 citizen-soldiers and airmen from at least eight states will provide security, medical and other support during the Jan. 20 presidential inauguration, a National Guard official said Dec. 18.

"We will be there to fill the gaps and help out the first responders," Army Maj. Kenneth Napier, deputy director of the Deliberate Operations branch for the National Guard Bureau, said.

About half of the 4,000 personnel will be dedicated to security, including crowd control, civil-disturbance missions, manning traffic-control points and assisting with the screening process.

"The states are planning and ready to support," Napier said. "Making sure that everyone is safe is the priority."

Air Force Gen. Victor E. "Gene" Renuart Jr., commander of U.S. Northern Command, told reporters Dec. 17 that another contingent on alert would be able to respond to a chemical attack.

In addition to marching units, bands

and other ceremonial support, the National Guard will provide communication, medical evacuation and explosive ordnance disposal assets.

National Guard members and re-enactors from the 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Regiment have been invited to march in the parade. The 54th represents the all-black regiment that fought in the Civil War and was memorialized in the movie "Glory."

"These organizations embody the best of our nation's history, diversity and commitment to service," President-elect Barack Obama said in a Dec. 8 statement. "Vice President-elect Biden and I are proud to have them join us in the parade."

The District of Columbia National Guard's efforts will be larger this time because of the expected crowds. "We will be involved in almost every facet of the operation," Officer Candidate Robert Albrecht, a spokesman for the D.C. Guard, said.

In addition to the Guard's on-the-ground missions, the 113th Wing at Andrews Air Force Base, Md., will lead the

air-sovereignty effort through North American Aerospace Defense Command.

The D.C. Guard participated in a media event on Dec. 18 with the Military District of Washington as well as the U.S. Park Police and other D.C.-area agencies involved in planning for the inauguration. Renuart told reporters that it is "prudent" for the military to plan for the possibility of someone trying to interrupt the inauguration.

"And how well we respond will be defined by how well we trained," Napier added.

Earlier this year, the National Guard provided similar support to the Democratic and Republican national conventions, but only about 1,500 troops were involved in each of those missions. The size and scope of this mission is much bigger.

"I can't think of anything that we've done other than natural disasters that would be comparable to this operation," Napier said.

(Air Force Lt. Col. Ellen Krenke serves in the National Guard Bureau.)

Hometown Heroes Salute

By Chief Master Sgt. Ralph C. Braden
Pa. State Command Chief

The Air National Guard (ANG) plans to start one of the largest Airmen recognition endeavors in its history in 2009. The program is called Hometown Heroes Salute (HHS) and was announced at the ANG Senior Leadership Conference held last November.

The intent of the Hometown Heroes Salute is to supplement and enhance our Wings' recognition programs. It was designed to honor our Airmen, their families and others who do not wear the uniform but support those of us that do wear the uniform.

As currently planned, HHS is a tiered program that recognizes eligible ANG members, their families, and a center of influence (employer, parent, family friend, etc.) with awards and gifts. Eligible ANG members are those that have been deployed away from home station in support of a contingency operation for over 30 consecutive days on orders.

The criteria as announced for the tiered awards would be as follows:

1st Tier Award criteria:
31-179 consecutive days

2nd Tier Award criteria:

180-365 consecutive days

3rd Tier Award criteria:

366+ consecutive days

HHS is planned to be implemented in two phases. Phase one will run from January – December 2009. Phase one is intended to be a catch up phase to recognize the Air National Guard contribution to the war efforts over the last eight years.

During phase one all eligible ANG members that were deployed since September 11, 2001, would receive the 1st Tier Award. The 1st Tier Award is a framed Hometown Heroes Salute coin and a letter of appreciation signed by the Director, ANG and the ANG Command Chief Master Sergeant. Additionally, all family members and a center of influence would be recognized with a special gift.

HHS Phase two is planned to begin in January 2010 and at that time the 2nd and 3rd Tier Awards would be distributed and presented. The 2nd Tier Award is a framed American flag. The 3rd Tier Award is an eagle statue. Additionally, all family members and centers of influence are planned to be recognized with special gifts.



CCMSgt Ralph C. Braden

The gifts that are planned to be presented to our Airmen's support system are the following: Spouses would be recognized with an engraved pen/pencil set. Children would receive a unique set of Hometown Heroes Salute dog tags. The center of influence award is a HHS logo medallion.

I look forward to participating in the Pennsylvania Air National Guard Hometown Heroes Salute recognition ceremonies. The Hometown Heroes Salute will be a great way for us to thank those in our ranks, their families, and their centers of influence for the sacrifices they make in support of this great Nation.

CHIEF'S CORNER

Another successful 111th AEF Deployment

By Chief Master Sgt. Christian J. Haas
111th Aircraft Maintenance Sq.

Yet another successful overseas deployment for the 111th Fighter Wing fighting the War on Terrorism. This deployment had a new twist to it and a slight uncertainty about it. It was a rainbow operation with our brothers and sisters from the 124th WG in Boise, Idaho and the 442nd FW, an Air Force Reserve unit from Whiteman AFB, Missouri. This was our first time deploying with an Air Force Reserve unit and we were very apprehensive about how the planning would go between the two different entities. Having just returned in September 2007 from Al Asad Air Base, Iraq, in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM, we knew this was going to be a huge undertaking. It proved to be an enormous challenge to accomplish another contingency deployment within a one year span.

We immediately started our spin up to support Operation ENDURING FREEDOM. This would take place at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan. We had a large mountain to climb with the amount of reconfiguration required for our aircraft and equipment, not to mention all of the requirements that needed to be met by our personnel

deploying. It was November 2007 and we had troops deploying with other units as soon as May 2008. Without hesitation the Wing once again jumped into action with pride and honor. The Maintenance Group repaired, inspected, modified and generated eight healthy A-10+ aircraft in an extremely short period of time, under seven months to be exact. This was an incredible accomplishment! The Medical Group and Mission Support Group prepared and processed over two hundred personnel. At the same time, the Security Forces Squadron qualified over one hundred and fifty personnel in small arms training. The Logistics Readiness Squadron flawlessly orchestrated the airlift for equipment and personnel movement to and from the AOR. Supply personnel purchased and issued required uniforms and equipment to our personnel ensuring everyone was equipped for what was ahead. This was a daunting task considering the meager Air Force wide availability of the ABU uniform. The entire endeavor was a true team effort.

It was apparent as we arrived in Afghanistan that we had a lot of work ahead of us. The 442nd and 124th had been busy laying the groundwork. The 111th was eager and excited to take over the operation and without hesitation quickly integrated with the 124th ensuring operational continuity and a smooth transition so we could successfully carry on mission responsibilities without any interruptions. It didn't take long before we were totally acclimated
(Continued on page 11)

AFSO 21

By Capt. Rebecca Selby
111th MSF, Director of Personnel

*“Gentlemen, we are out of money, therefore we will have to think.”
Winston Churchill to Parliament during the darkest period of World War II*

We have a greater challenge today than ever before to do more with less with an ever increasing ops tempo. Resource requirements continue to mount, equipment continues to age, manpower costs are rising, energy costs are escalating, and major manpower reductions have been taken across the total force.

To counter these ever increasing demands and to continue to fight and win America's wars, Air Force Smart Operations for the 21st Century (AFSO 21) was developed. Then Chief of Staff General T. Michael Moseley said, “We must fundamentally change the culture of our Air Force so that all Airmen understand their individual role in improving their daily processes and eliminating things that don't add value to the mission. For such a comprehensive effort to be successful, it has to be led by commanders at all levels - from the front.”

To help meet this challenge, I have volunteered to become an AFSO 21 facilitator. I attended a week long course and will participate in three or more week-long AFSO 21 events before I become a fully



certified facilitator. I am currently on event two, so hopefully in early spring I will earn my certification.

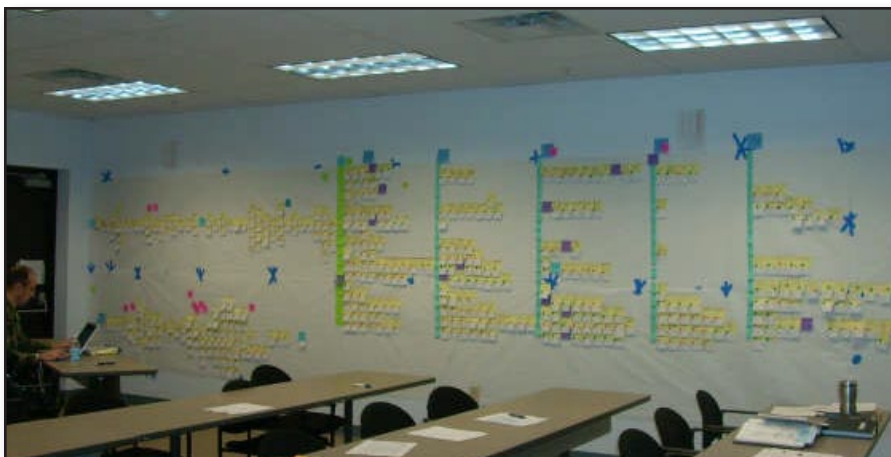
My largest event was at the 193d Special Operations Wing in Harrisburg, PA. Our team helped streamline the Maintenance Isochronal Inspection for the EC-130J. We were able to shave off ten days from the process while still meeting all safety and Air Force requirements. As you can see from the pictures it is a lot of work (and a lot of post-it-notes!) to map out every step of a process. But once a team sees the entire process for what it is, it is so easy to see the waste in the process.

The easiest way to describe AFSO 21 is that a pessimist sees a glass half empty and an optimist sees a glass half full, but in AFSO 21 we see the glass as the right

size—why waste water or empty glass space? The five desired effects from any AFSO 21 process are to: increase productivity of our most valued asset - people, a significant increase in critical equipment availability rates, improve response time and agility, sustain safe and reliable operations, and to improve energy efficiency.

Lean principles and Six Sigma are included in AFSO 21, but it is not just data analysis. It uses the experts of the process who determine the best way to get the intended product. No one sits in their office data crunching numbers and tells you how to change.

AFSO 21 is change from the bottom up. I think all of us have looked at a process and asked, “Why do we do it this way?” I know we have all been told at some point in our careers, “Because that is how it has always been done.” Those days are over. The Air Force wants us to continuously improve all our processes, develop a culture which promotes elimination of waste, and ensures that all Airmen understand their role. This will allow us to develop the ability to effect change and continuously learn new ways to improve processes in our daily activities in order to save resources and eliminate waste.



See photos from recent 111th Fighter Wing events at: <Y:\111fw Shared\Photos\2008\>



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Alvin Farrow

Donations, volunteers, guests and treats paramount to a successful Holiday Party

By Jean Moretti
Wing Family Program Coordinator

The Family Readiness Group (FRG) hosted a wonderful holiday party for all military members and their families on Dec. 7 in Dock 2.

Santa and Mrs. Claus arrived with their elves to spread holiday cheer. Many activities included face painting, crafts, bingo, music, arcade games, Jungle Joe of Animal Junction, Middle Earth Interactive and Caricaturist Al Wiesner.

Our special guests included Ronald McDonald, LuLu Klownz, Mad Dog with Philadelphia Wings, Soccer Roo with Philadelphia Kixx, Soulman with Philadelphia Football, The Philly Phanatic and Finley with the Camden River Sharks.

The FRG volunteers spent endless hours to make sure every age group would be entertained and each child would be getting a gift at the holiday party.

A very special thank you to everyone who donated the baked goods, gift baskets, money and toys. Without your support we would not have been able to do this successful event.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Marie Harmon



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Marie Harmon



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Marie Harmon



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Alvin Farrow



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Alvin Farrow



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Marie Harmon



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Marie Harmon



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Alvin Farrow

Photo by Staff Sgt. Gordon Beecroft



PECO's 'Operation Military Pride' campaign donates items to 111th FW

Representatives from PECO delivered donated goods collected during an "Operation Military Pride" campaign in November to Willow Grove Air Reserve Station Dec. 11.

Items for deploying members included: food, snacks, powdered beverages, toiletries, phone cards and leisure items such as puzzles, game books and stationary.

After the items were unloaded, they had the opportunity to learn about the A-10 during a base tour.

Operation Military Pride was sponsored by PECO's C&M Bucksmont Region. Based in Philadelphia, PECO is an electric and natural gas utility subsidiary of Exelon Corporation.



111th members bring holiday cheer to Southeastern Veterans' Home residents

Guardsmen from the 111th FW visited residents at the Southeastern Veterans' Center, in Spring City, Pa. on Dec. 16, bringing a care package of candy, toiletries, inspirational books, cheer and conversation. Cards donated to the Wing from the American Red Cross were given to the residents. Guardsmen also joined residents in singing several holiday songs.



111th MSF personnel break tradition and hold a Christmas "Breakfast Party" and gift card exchange on Dec. 6.

A new twist on a traditional Christmas party

**By Senior Master Sgt. Alice E. Jenkins
111th MSF Personnel Superintendent**



You may have heard the latest news stories of companies skipping Christmas or Holiday Parties this year. Well, the recession (that we just found out we were in) did not stop the 111th MSF Annual Christmas Party! It is all about fine-tuning or making a minor change to fit the circumstances you face at any particular time.

Instead of the normal \$25-\$30 per person dinner out at a really nice restaurant setting, with a \$20.00 White Elephant Gift Exchange and Christmas games, we scaled back.

On Saturday of December's UTA, we had a 2008 MSF Christmas "Breakfast" Party. We came in early to a menu of breakfast items (donuts, bagels, muffins, pastries, juices, eggnog, yogurt) at one third of the price and had a \$10.00 Gift Cards only as the White Elephant Gift Exchange. We still had a few Christmas games that were priceless.

Goes to show that you can still enjoy a tradition, even if you have to scale it down a little. It's called "Moving with the Cheese."

Greetings from Balad



SSgt Jason Stehly is currently deployed/assigned to the 332d Air Expeditionary Wing, Joint Base Balad, Iraq as a Chaplain Assistant. During a recent Veterans' Day capabilities display, SSgt Stehly got an up close view of a MQ-1 Predator.

The MQ-1 Predator is a medium-altitude, long endurance, unmanned aircraft system. Its primary mission is interdiction and conducting armed reconnaissance against critical, perishable targets.



Wing hosts holiday party for residents of Lynch Home

The 111th FW Chiefs' Council, along with other 111th members, hosted a holiday party for residents of the Lynch Home on Dec. 14 in Bldg. 203 HQ Auditorium.

The Lynch Home houses physically and mentally challenged children and adults. The residents had a wonderful time!

Look for your chance to help out with this event next December.



Photos by Chief Master Sgt. Edward Ratka and daughters Michelle and Lauren Ratka

MOVING UP, MOVING IN AND MOVING OUT

PROMOTIONS

To 1st Lieutenant

Daniel D. Kauffman 103rd FS
James Vallye Jr. 270th EIS

To Technical Sergeant

Talitacumi Acevedo 111th MSG
Jason T. Stehly 111th FW
Christopher S. Swisher 270th EIS
Adrien C. Tanguay Jr. 270th EIS

To Staff Sergeant

Cory M. Johnson 111th MXS
Jessica M. Noble 111th MDG
Jesse M. Odell 111th AMXS
Jesse M. Schuch Jr. 111th SFS
Sara E. Schwartzberg 111th MXS
Lena M. Sorn 111th MXS
Brian J. Soto 111th SFS

To Senior Airman

Vincent J. Hill II 111th AMXS

ASCESSIONS

Maj. Brian C. Carr 270th EIS

EXTENSIONS

TSgt Charles V. Flynn Jr. 111th SVF

ENLISTMENTS

SSgt William Green III 201st RHS Det. 1
SSgt Michael D. Metz 201st RHS Det. 1
SrA Markeeta A. Alexander 111th SVF
SrA Eric J. Faison 270th EIS
SrA Brandon H. Glover 111th CF
SrA Melissa M. Jones 111th SVF
SrA Richard W. Thomas 201st RHS Det. 1
SrA Tyler J. Wardenski 111th CF
A1C Carol A. Brown 111th SVF
A1C Richae A. Lecato 111th SVF
A1C Nicholas T. Mariotti 201st RHS Det. 1
A1C Safadeem Singleton 111th SVF

REENLISTMENTS

TSgt Sharon L. Baughman 111th LRS
TSgt Bradley M. Hughes 111th MXS
TSgt Christopher G. Winchester 111th LRS
SSgt Christopher R. Eliades 111th MDG
SSgt Duke K. Elliott-Harmon 201st RHS Det. 1
SSgt Christopher H. Falkler 201st RHS Det. 1
SSgt Wayne A. Wright 270th EIS

RETIREMENTS

CMSgt Alan Van Norman 111th CF 25 years
SMSgt John D. Spencer 111th AMXS 26 years
MSgt Ralph S. Collins 111th FW 25 years

UTA MENU (111TH DINING FACILITY)

Sat. Jan. 10

Beef stew, Stuffed fish
Rice, Egg noodles,
Brown gravy, Succotash
Soup
Assorted desserts

Sun. Jan. 11

Sheppard's pie, Rice
Vegetable medley
Soup
Assorted desserts

JANUARY UTA WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Protestant Service will be held at 8:30 a.m. in Bldg. 320 Room 228. An additional Protestant Service will be held at 10:30 a.m. in Bldg. 203 Room 203.

Catholic Service will be held at 10:00 in Bldg. 203 Auditorium.

The Chaplain's Office is located in Bldg. 203, Room 204-205 on the second floor and can be reached at (215) 443-1534.

FY09 UTAs:

10-11 January 2009
7-8 February 2009
7-8 March 2009
4-5 April 2009
16-17 May 2009
(Armed Forces Day)
6-7 June 2009
11-12 July 2009
1-2 August 2009
12-13 September 2009

**NAS JRB Willow Grove
Information, Tickets & Tours
Office located in Bldg. 2
(215) 443-6082**

• • • • •

**Tues, Thurs, Fri
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Wed & Sat 8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**

Another successful 111th AEF deployment

(Continued from page 4)

to the mission and environment with camaraderie quite evident. Aside from the flying mission there were a lot of other things that needed to be accomplished. Our personnel creatively acquired hardware and materials to construct a water shed to house pallets of drinking water. Prior to this rotation, the water was stored out in the elements and the taste was severely altered at times. We also constructed a new gazebo for the troops (both Active Duty and Guard) to utilize during break periods and picnic tables were built in the housing area to supply an area to hang out during off time and when waiting for the bus. This made things quite a bit more tolerable. During our stay we flew 623 combat missions, expending 25,780 rounds of 30mm rounds, 33 guided bombs, 48 unguided bombs, and 121 rockets. All this without missing any scheduled combat sorties. Our Fully Mission Capable aircraft rate was 90.3 percent - 10 percent higher than our successors and unheard of in that kind of combat austere environment.

As soon as we got established we were preparing to return home. Personnel from Moody AFB were trickling in and we greeted them with open arms. Taking them under our wing as the Air National Guard normally does we began the intense transfer of the operation. They were thoroughly briefed on the daily 24/7 mission. They couldn't believe the incredible turn over they received in just a few short days. The hand off was seamless and no sorties were missed during the entire transition. They were astounded by how professional and thorough the 111th was. Moody is still in touch with us weekly, trading notes and just wanting to see how we are doing and still raving about the turn over they experienced from the 111th. In closing, even in our current BRAC situation we have persevered through with loyalty, pride, teamwork and camaraderie producing yet another successful overseas deployment for the 111th Fighter Wing. May God Bless you all.



As we approach this most sacred of seasons, it is a bittersweet time for many in our organization. We welcome back the 3 1/103rd Armor from their combat tour in Afghanistan and the 1/104th Cavalry from their peacekeeping mission in the Sinai. Both organizations performed superbly. While we celebrate their return, however, nearly 6,000 more Soldiers and Airmen are preparing to deploy early next year.

During this holiday season, I ask all of you to remember our fallen who gave the last full measure of devotion. We must honor their memory and keep their families in our thoughts and prayers. We also should keep in mind our fellow Guard members who will be deployed and will not be able to share this holiday season with their loved ones. Our nation's call to duty comes with great sacrifice, and many of them will spend the holidays ensuring our safety here at home.

In closing, Chuck and I extend warmest wishes and holiday greetings to you and your loved ones. We are so fortunate to be part of the Pennsylvania National Guard and Military and Veterans Affairs family. Happy Holidays to all.

JESSICA L. WRIGHT
MG, PAARNG
The Adjutant General

Statewide News:

View newsletters of our sister units:

193rd Special Operations Wing
"The Scope"

<http://www.193sow.ang.af.mil>

171st Air Refueling Wing
"Tanker Times"

AVAILABLE ONLINE

<http://www.171arw.ang.af.mil>

Pa. Guardians Magazine

<http://guardians.aqppublishing.com>

National News:

On Guard Magazine

Published every Jan., April, July, Oct.

<http://www.ngb.army.mil/news/theonguard>

Airman Magazine

Published bi-monthly and now
available online

<http://www.airmanonline.af.mil>

**PENNSYLVANIA AIR NATIONAL GUARD
111TH FIGHTER WING (ACC)
1051 Fairchild Street
Willow Grove ARS, PA 19090-5203**

FIRST CLASS
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Permit No. 1662
Phoenix, Arizona

To the Family of:

