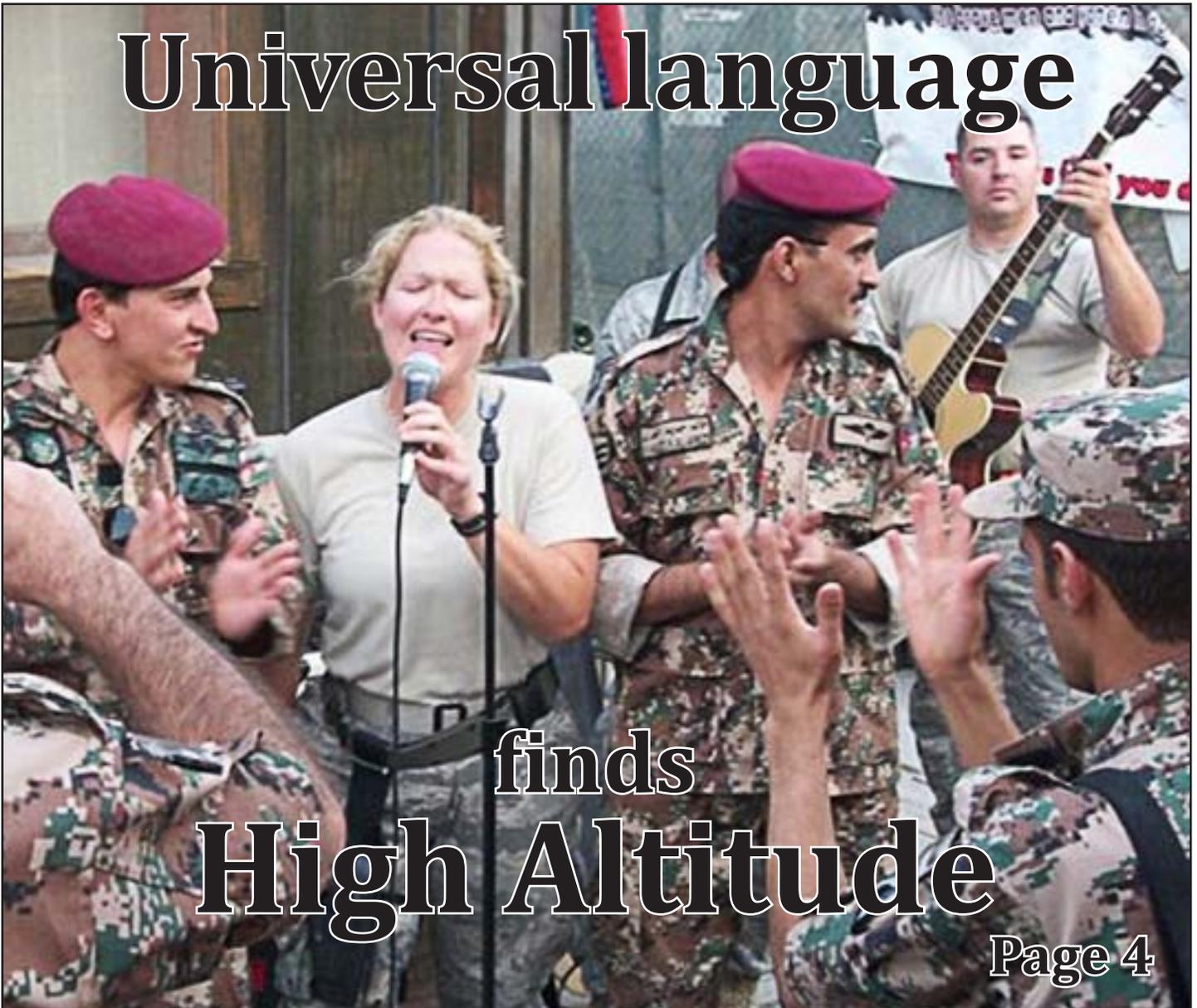


SCOPE

193rd Special Operations Wing - Pennsylvania Air National Guard - Middletown, Pa.

Universal language



finds

High Altitude

Page 4



Chief's Concerns

Airmen road map career

Page 5



Wing hails CCMSgt Hile

Page 5



SCOPE

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State Command Chief Perspective



By Chief Master Sgt. Ralph Braden

State Command Chief

One of the programs I manage as state command chief is the Senior Non-Commissioned Officer Academy package submittal process. In the three and a half years I have been administering this program I have received a very small number of SNCOA packages for the number of Airmen that the Pennsylvania Air National Guard has eligible.

I have been managing the program since 2007 and submittals have been consistent during my tenure. Pennsylvania submitted no packages in 2007, and four packages were submitted in 2008, 2009, and 2010 respectively. We have had two to three Pennsylvania Airmen selected from 2008-2010 board cycle to attend the SNCOA. During the same time frame, states of similar size to Pennsylvania have had 10 or more Airmen selected to attend the SNCOA.

Obviously, the reason Pennsylvania is not seeing more of our Airmen selected to attend the SNCOA is because very few Airmen are submitting SNCOA packages.

I am encouraging all Airmen eligible to attend this very important Senior NCO Professional Military Education to submit a package this year. I challenge each Wing to encourage their outstanding eligible Airmen to submit a package for the fiscal year 2011 SNCOA board.

Although the official request from National Guard Bureau for SNCOA packages will not come out for some time, it is never too early to start putting together your package. The package requirements have not changed significantly over the

last three years. FY 2011 SNCOA board packages are due to my office for processing by Feb. 4, 2011.

Senior Enlisted Joint Professional Military Education

The Senior Enlisted Joint Professional Military Education course prepares senior enlisted leaders for operations in the joint environment. Upon completion of the course the student will be more confident, competent and better prepared to quickly assimilate and effectively contribute in joint assignments. The student will also be able to share the joint knowledge learned and provide joint operations mentoring for junior enlisted personnel.

The SEJPME course is a stand-alone web-based course that uses multimedia instruction. The course contains a pre-test, section knowledge checks, and a final examination. In order to receive a completion certificate, all learning modules and tests must be completed, and a minimum final examination grade of 80 percent must be achieved. The course takes about 40 hours of time to complete.

I found the SEJPME course very interesting and challenging. The SEJPME course is open to the ranks of technical sergeant through chief master sergeant. I highly recommend all eligible enlisted personnel enroll in the course. If you need any further encouragement, upon completion of the course you are eligible to receive 13 retirement points.

It is my opinion that in-residence attendance at all levels of enlisted PME is extremely beneficial to our Airmen and must be encouraged whenever possible. The experience and total force exposure that our Airmen receive while attending in-residence PME courses should not be underestimated.

If you have any questions concerning the SNCOA package submittal process, please see your first sergeant or wing command chief. Please visit http://www.jfsc.ndu.edu/schools_programs/se_jpme/welcome_new.asp to learn more about the SEJPME or to enroll in the course.

ON THE COVER



Tech. Sgt. Lori McCarty, a vocalist with High Altitude, 553rd Band of the Mid-Atlantic, sings alongside members of the Jordanian army during the band's performance at the Pat Tillman Memorial USO, Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan. High Altitude toured throughout Iraq and Afghanistan during a 42-day deployment. (Photo provided by Airmen of High Altitude)




Promotions

For the month of August

Promotion to Chief Master Sergeant

Erik G. Schmidt 193 OSF

Promotion to Senior Master Sergeant

Allen P. Faust 271 CBCS
Shawn R. Crossland 193 SOS

Promotion to Master Sergeant

David P. Heine 193 SOS

Promoted to Staff Sergeant

Daniel J. Sturzen 193 SFS
Rebecca L. Donnegan 271 CBCS
Christopher A. Bailey 271 CBCS
Kurt A. Stackhouse 193 SOS
Samuel W. Zimmerman IV 193 MXS
Jacelyne N. Strine 201 RHS
Kirsten M. Murray 201 RHS
Joshua M. Hountz 112 AOS

Promoted to Senior Airman

Jehred T. Rockett 193 SOS
Elijah D. Trump 193 SOS
Christian L. Dolbin 211 EIS

Promoted to Airman First Class

Tarra A. Love 193 SF
Catherine A. Marston 193 SF

Congratulations!

News In Brief

'Wingman Project' lifts fog of suicide

Citizen-Airmen and their loved ones worry about the risks of combat, but they should know that a far greater risk lies in suicide, according to statistics compiled by the Air National Guard.

In fact, the Air Guard's suicide prevention program, "Wingman Project" at <http://www.wingmanproject.com>, states that for every one Airman killed in combat, seven Airmen take their own lives.

The Air National Guard is providing such facts, along with the resources and tools to prevent suicide, through the Wingman Project, which was named as one of the best suicide prevention programs in Air Force last year.

"We are trying to use ... Wingman Project as a way to get the word out and to get those materials out there to the field," said Air Force Col. Doug Slocum, the director of safety here at the Air National Guard Readiness Center.

To read the rest of this article by Master Sgt. Mike R. Smith, National Guard Bureau, and learn more about the "Wingman Project" please visit the Web site <http://www.ang.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123219173>.

Airmen must review their PRDA

The Air Reserve Personnel Center has completed scanning all personnel records, now available through the Personnel Records Display Action, and is scheduled to destroy the hard copies in September. **It is imperative for Airmen to review their e-records before Sept. 12 to identify any missing authorized documents.** The official list of authorized and unauthorized documents can be obtained from the 193SOW Portal or from your unit's command support staff. If you have problems with a document in PRDA contact your CSS. To access your PRDA...

From the AF Portal:

1. Log onto the AF Portal
<https://www.my.af.mil/faf/FAF/fafHome.jsp>
2. Click on the 'PRDA – Personnel Records Display' link located on the left side of the Homepage under Top Portal Links- A new internet window will open up
3. A new internet window will open up
4. Click 'PRDA' on the left side under My Sections
5. Your electronic personnel record will now populate

From AFPC Secure Applications:

1. Log onto AFPC Secure Applications
<https://w20.afpc.randolf.af.mil/AFPCSecureNet20/>
2. Click 'OK'
3. Select your CAC certificate and enter CAC PIN
4. Click 'PRDA' where all the applications are listed
5. A new internet window will open up
6. Click 'PRDA' on the left side under My Sections
7. Your electronic personnel record will now populate



High Altitude on key down range

Story by Airman 1st Class Claire Behney

Public Affairs Specialist

Armed with guitar picks, drumsticks and microphones is a different way to see Airmen touring through the desert. But for the Airmen of High Altitude, an ensemble of the 553rd Band of the Mid-Atlantic, that's how they roll – rock 'n' roll.

The ten-member group recently returned from their first deployment to the United States Central Command area of operations. Their tour schedule spanned 42 days and included 25 performances in support of the band's missions of enhancing troop morale and community relations, inspiring patriotism and advancing international relationships.

With multiple missions versatility was essential, said Tech. Sgt. Joshua Fickes, non-commissioned officer in charge of High Altitude.

During their tour, the group, who specializes in performing a range of popular music spanning over 80 years, played for a variety of audiences and venues including hospitals, United Service Organizations, embassies, and military clubs - each of which required a different sound from the band.

"Everyone is very talented and can play at least two instruments, some of them three and we really take advantage of that so we are able to accomplish the mission, whatever it may be," said Sergeant Fickes.

With the manpower of two guitar players, two trombone players, a saxophone player, a trumpet player, a pianist, a bassist, a drummer, and a vocalist High Altitude is able to create a brass band, a jazz combination, a full rock band or an all acoustic set.

"We had serious shows, fun shows and heartfelt shows which all really demonstrate the breadth of our mission," said Sergeant Fickes.

A lot of preparation went into deploying such a multifaceted group of performers. Five months prior to their deployment, the group started putting in a second weekend a month, aside from the standard drill weekend, to practice and perfect their set lists.

Sergeant Fickes' role of NCOIC has him selecting the songs that the group performs. He said he considers the median age of the people they'll be playing for so the song is something they can hear and recognize, which includes today's latest hits from the likes of Lady Gaga. High Altitude plays a variety of music from classic rock to jazz to country to top 40 hits.

But reaching their audience sometimes goes beyond performing something they can sing along to.

"There were a lot of troops who play guitar or other instruments as a hobby and they'd say 'Oh wow I know that song, can I come up and play with you guys,'" said Tech. Sgt. Lori McCarty, a vocalist with High Altitude. "We'd bring them up on stage and they'd play guitar or drums which I think gave them a little taste of home and I think it would even help them to forget where they were for a little bit."

For Sergeant McCarty this deployment confirmed that music is a language anyone can speak.

In regards to their July 4 performance at the United States Embassy in Bahrain, Sergeant McCarty said, "I really enjoyed watching the people react to our music, it let us realize how universal music really is. Some of the tunes we played they might have never heard before, but you still see people dancing and tapping their feet."

The band's performance at the Pat Tillman Memorial USO, Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan, was a memorable show for Sergeant McCarty and was another example of the impact music can have, regardless of the language someone speaks.



The U.S. Air Force Central Command band High Altitude, of the Air National Guard Band of the Mid-Atlantic, performs in the Fest Tent at Kandahar Air Field. During High Altitude's first deployment to the CENTCOM area of operations, the band belted out a mix of classic rock and pop hits. (Photo by Chief Petty Officer Brian Brannon)

Sergeant McCarty said while playing on the deck outside the USO Jordanian soldiers joined in on their performance.

"We gave them tambourines and they tried to play along with the music and at one point they were even trying to teach us some of their native dances."

For Sergeant Fickes the deployment put their missions into a global perspective.

"It does provide a great perspective to what it is that we do over there and how each individual has a role," said Sergeant Fickes. "You are able to see that it's more than just the Air Force or the United States because you see all the people over there, including all the coalition forces, and you get to meet a lot of different people."

Regardless of the impact the deployment had on the Airmen of High Altitude, they concluded their first deployment fulfilling their missions as a band of the Air National Guard. Along with meeting their mission sets, the group was able to personally gain a better sense of how their individual role plays a part in the bigger picture.

"Singing is what I'm good at and that's what I can contribute to the war and to the troops," said Sergeant McCarty.



Airmen road map career with feedback program



Story by Chief Master Sgt. James P. Porta

Material Management Superintendent

Something that I hear constantly throughout the Wing is, "Chief, I don't know why I am not being promoted." This question comes from all enlisted ranks and specialty fields throughout the Wing. My answer to this question is consistent to all that ask, "What did your feedback say?" The answer I normally hear back is, "what is a feedback?"

At all levels we, as managers search for better ways to communicate with our subordinates and keep them informed.

E-mails, community of practices, phone calls, even Facebook is now being utilized as a way to keep our people updated and informed. How often do we simply take the time to talk with them and let them know where they stand in their careers? In most cases the answer is not enough. The Air Force devised the feedback program to allow for one on one time with your subordinate. It provides the blueprint for the factors that build a complete Airman and allows the supervisor to communicate expectations as well as track progress. More importantly it provides a medium where the supervisor and subordinate have to take 30 to 60 minutes out of the busy work schedule and discuss the future of the individual's career. The give and take from that conversation can very well mean the difference between success and failure in a young Airman or non-commissioned officer's career.

This is not rocket science. Most individuals desire to know where they stand with in their organization and what their road map is for continued success. Furthermore, they really do want to know where they are lacking or when there is room for improvement. If we fail to provide these answers to our subordinates we are doing them a gross injustice in their military careers. It is incumbent on us as supervisors and managers to provide

the guidance required for our subordinates to succeed. It is an oath we swore when we became NCO's and repeated when we became senior non-commissioned officers. It is our responsibility. The response I get far too often when broaching this subject is, "I don't have the time." My answer to that is "You don't have the time not to." The time spent managing bad morale or members who have no expectations is wasted. The time spent guiding and mentoring those same troops is an investment in them as well as the unit. Subordinates may not always be happy with the feedback they receive, but they will be informed and you as a supervisor will have documented proof that you made the effort to effect change in your subordinates and keep them informed.

The requirement for an annual formal feedback on an Air Force form 931 or 932 already exists and should be on going. I highly encourage going the extra mile and completing an initial, a mid-term, and a final feedback each year, beginning a new with fresh expectations directly after the final feedback report.

I encourage subordinates that show frustration at lack of guidance to approach your supervisor with an AF 931 or 932 and ask that they conduct a feedback on you. Where open and honest communications exist production and growth will follow.



Wing gets new command chief

Brig. Gen. Eric G. Weller, 193rd Special Operations Wing commander; Command Chief Master Sgt. Steven Hile and retired Command Chief Master Sgt. Scott Keener stand at attention during the change of command ceremony Aug. 14 in the Operations Blue Room. During the ceremony Sergeant Hile was passed the title of Wing command chief from the Wing's previous command chief, Sergeant Keener. Sergeant Hile is the fifth Airman to hold the title of Wing command chief master sergeant. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Culeen Shaffer)



Command in action



Above: Brig. Gen. Eric G. Weller, 193rd Special Operations Wing commander hangs from a personal learning device Aug. 14 at the 193rd. The PLD is a training device used to learn how to unhook from a parachute should an Airman's parachute become tangled in a tree or other object. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Culeen Shaffer)

Above right and left: Col. John J. Dickinson, 193rd Special Operations Wing, Operations Group commander and Lt. Col. John R. Emrick Jr., Operations Support Flight commander, complete their physical training test along with the Wing's Right Start program trainees, July 17. (Photos by Staff Sgt. Mariko Bender)



Sounding Off

What you need to know to keep you flying...

Airmen advised in traveling to Mexico

Due to the current rise of violence in Mexico it is highly encouraged that Wing members traveling to Mexico AOR visit the Wing Intel office or Wing Antiterrorism Officer for a update on the current situation.

Please also visit www.travel.state.gov for information on travel warnings and alerts. Intel extension 2296, DSN:423-2296 Wing ATO Staff Sgt. Sherman extension 2451, DSN: 423-2452.

Discount Disney on Ice tickets available

Disney on Ice is featuring Toy Story Three at the Giant Center, Hershey. Tickets are \$20 for the shows on Friday Nov. 5 at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday Nov. 6 at 7 p.m. Children under the age of two are free.

To purchase tickets and reserve seats, please visit Sandy Scott in the Airman and Family Readiness Program Office.

YRRP event scheduled

There will be a Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program post-deployment event for the 193rd Special Operations Wing Oct. 30-31 at Split Rock Resort, Lake Harmony, Pa. Attendance is required for Airmen who have been on orders for 90 or more accumulative days within this fiscal year and have not attended a YRRP event.

You must register before Sept. 30 by going to www.jointservice-support.org, clicking the events list, select post-deployment 30 day: PaANG 193rd SOW Quarterly Post Deployment event.

To make hotel reservations call the Split Rock Resort at 570-722-9111 and use your government travel card to reserve your room by asking for Air Force Yellow Ribbon rate. Child care is also available, call 717-644-7353 to register.

Any questions or need help registering, please contact Sandy Scott at sandy.scott@ang.af.mil or extension 3155 or Tracey McCarthy at tracey.mccarthy@ang.af.mil or extension 2179.

WSO vacancy announced

The 193rd is looking to fill a vacancy for a Weapon Systems Officer. Boards will be held Oct. 16-17. Complete packages are due to Capt. Kathleen Pearson, weapon systems supervisor, no later than Oct. 5.

The package must include a cover letter, resume, official college transcripts, copy of most recent physical, copy of private pilot license (if applicable), AFOQT scores, AF FM 24, minimum of three letters of recommendation, DD 214, NBG 22, and all OPR's/EPR's (if applicable).

Please send packages to 193rd SOS/DOOW, WSO Recruiting: Capt. Kathleen Pearson, 76 Constellation Court, Middletown, Pa.

For additional information stop by the WSO section or contact Capt. Kathleen Pearson at extension 2473.

193rd Association meeting scheduled

Come join the 193rd Special Operations Wing Association on Saturday at Clancy's following drill. Membership applications will be available as well as Association clothing items for purchase.

Check your mailbox for the latest Association newsletter. The Association provided \$2,525 in assistance to Wing members in need at the end of July. Your membership dues and CFC donations helped to make this possible.

The Association is currently working on creating associate membership categories, recognizing board members from the creation of the Association, upcoming board of director position elections, and Outstanding Airmen of the Year award packages. Please visit our Web site <http://193sow.org> for more information.

What's on the Menu

**UTA Payday:
Sept. 24**

Constellation Cafe

Hours of operation 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

SATURDAY

Main Line:

Baked chicken
Pepper steak
Ginger rice
Mashed potatoes
Green beans
Mixed vegetables
Soup du jour

Snack Line:

Hamburger/cheese burger
Pizza
Baked beans

Clancy's:

Chicken steak
Meatball sub
Chips, dessert, and a drink

SUNDAY

Main Line:

Pineapple chicken
Syrian stew
Roasted potatoes
Rice
Carrots
Black eyed peas
Soup du jour

Snack Line:

Pierogies with onions
Hamburger/cheese burger
French fries
Baked beans

Clancy's:

BLT
Gyros
Chips, dessert, and a drink



ABOUT FACE

Do you remember where you were and what you were doing on Sept. 11, 2001?



Trainee Leighvon Black, Right Start trainee

"On Sept. 11th I was in my English class in 12th grade and once I heard that the towers fell I tried leaving class to call my mother, who works a couple blocks away from the Twin Towers. That morning she told me she was going to the book store in the Twin Towers. I have never been as worried as I was that day, but she happened to be running late that morning and missed the falling of the towers, so she was okay." (Trainee Black will be leaving to attend AMS on Sept. 11, 2010.)

Senior Master Sgt. Halina Monczyn, airfield management

"It was about fifteen minutes after I came into work and the safety NCO came in and said, 'Hey you might want to turn on the TV an airplane just flew into the World Trade Center.' So we turned it on and were watching it. I was just about to begin my day and then we saw the second plane and my whole unit went into lock down and we took all the security measures we had to and we had some long days to follow after that." (At the time Sergeant Monczyn was with the 129th Rescue Wing, Moffett Federal Airfield, Calif.)



Senior Airman Jason McClean, vehicle maintenance apprentice

"I was in 11th grade and I remember being in geography class and all of a sudden a teacher ran into the room saying, 'Oh my gosh, turn on the TV!' Then we turned on the TV and saw all the chaos of what was going on. I couldn't believe what I was seeing because I had never dealt with anything like that in my life before."

Airman 1st Class Keisha Brown, electronic environmental systems

"I was in my 5th grade classroom watching the whole entire thing happen on the TV, after a 6th grade teacher came down and told us to turn the TV on."



Catholic Services:
Sundays of drill at 11:15 a.m.
Building 81, commander's conference room

Protestant Service:
Sundays of drill at 1 p.m.
Building 81, commander's conference room

Both services are available by VTC at Air Stations 1 and 2