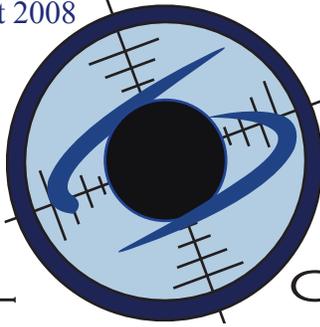




SCOPE

193RD SPECIAL OPERATIONS WING



Portrait of a hero



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Culzen Shaffer

Senior Master Sgt. Donald Koch takes one more turn at maintaining a vehicle prior to his retirement.

By Senior Airman Jennifer Klimowicz

After 38 years of service before self, Senior Master Sgt. Koch, vehicle maintenance supervisor for the 193rd, and Bronze Star, Purple Heart, and Air Force Combat Action Medal awardee, has retired.

When Koch volunteered with the active-duty Air Force in 1968, Vietnam was “hot and heavy,” said Koch. Rather than be drafted into the Army or Marines for a two-year tour, Koch chose to spend four years with the Air Force. He was primar-

ily inspired in his choice by the photographs and stories of two of his uncles who had served with the Air Force.

“I enjoyed their stories about their travels and their careers, and felt it would be a good way to see the world and serve my country at the same time,” said Koch.

He started his career in civil engineering, and during Vietnam he served on a small base near the Cambodia-Thailand border. He worked in runway arrestment, which amounted to “catching” aircraft (primarily F4s) that were battle damaged, had me-

chanical issues, or had run into problems during inclement weather. Planes coming out of North Vietnam would be diverted to this base if they experienced difficulties due to their enhanced rescue capabilities. He spent one tour and two campaigns there, returning to the U.S. for the last two years of his active-duty commitment. When Koch returned state-side, he re-trained into vehicle base maintenance, the field he has remained in for the remainder of his Air Force career.

See Portrait of Hero, Page 5

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SCOPE

Brig. Gen. Eric G. Weller
Commander

Maj. Susan Stuck
Wing Executive

Lt. Jay Ostrich
Chief of Public Affairs

Senior Master Sgt. Dave Hawkins
NCOIC for Public Affairs

Tech. Sgt. Erin Heiser
Tech. Sgt. Culeen Shaffer
Staff Sgt. Mariko Rauch

Senior Airman Jennifer Klimowicz
Senior Airman Vicki Angell
Scope Staff

THE VOICE OF THE QUIET PROFESSIONALS

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193rd Public Affairs
81 Constellation Court
Middletown, PA 17057
<http://www.paharr.ang.af.mil>



Air University introduces program

By Command Chief Master Sgt. Ralph Braden

If you have not heard, you can now earn a bachelor's degree through the Community College of the Air Force (CCAF). This is a great opportunity for Airmen to further their education. All course work may be done online when and where you choose.

The Air University Associate-to-Baccalaureate Cooperative Program (AU-ABC) became active on June 15, 2008. With AU-ABC, Airmen can now apply their Community College of the Air Force credits toward a bachelor's degree from a variety of universities and colleges. This can be done through the Air Force Virtual Education Center which links you to the new AU-ABC program.

The vision of the Air Force is to provide distance learning and bachelor's degree opportunities to all Airmen. It also meets the Air University's near-term goal of providing enhanced educational opportunities for our enlisted force. The Air Force Portal acts as the gateway to the AU-ABC program which allows students to do everything online.

To participate in the AU-ABC program, registrants must be active duty Air Force, Air Force Reserve or Air National Guard. However, degree requirements can be completed after a member retires or separates from the service.

Students use their Common Access Cards to access the Air Force Virtual Education Center (AFVEC) through the Air Force Portal. Once you access the AFVEC webpage you click on the AU-ABC link that displays information about all the AU-ABC programs.

Participating college and university homepages are also linked to the AU-ABC page. Information about admissions and AU-ABC enrollment is available on the site. Currently, there are 71 bachelor's degrees offered by the colleges and universities involved in the program that cover every CCAF degree program with more being added all the time.

At the time this article was written, none of the universities in the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) was participating in the AU-ABC program. However, it was stated by leadership from the Air University that they are adding new universities all the time. I will contact the Air University to endeavor to have at least one of the PASSHE universities added to the AU-ABC program.

Again, this is a great opportunity for you to further your education. There are costs involved in attending these universities and colleges to attain your bachelor's degree. However, if one of the PASSHE Schools was to become a participant in the AU-ABC program Pennsylvania Airmen may be able to utilize their state educational benefits to help pay for a Baccalaureate degree.

If you are interested in having one of the PASSHE universities added to the AU-ABC program, please contact the Air University to request it be added to the program.



~ 22 Aug '08 ~
UTA PAYDAY



PROMOTIONS

Promotion to Senior Master Sergeant

James B. Pace 193 SOS

Promotion to Master Sergeant

Michael A. Shoff 193 MDG

Christopher B. Grudi 193 MSF

Nathan D. Alleman 193 SOS

Michael J. Kaufman 193 CES

Boyd C. Martin 201 RHS



Promoted to Technical Sergeant

Barry R. Vitz 193 MXS

Donielle S. Markey 193 SOS

Peter A. Loree 193 MXS

Martina J. Crouse 193 MSF

Lindsay N. Stambaugh 193 MSF



Promoted to Staff Sergeant

Lucas R. Mummert 193 MXS

Zachary A. Smith 201 RHS

Matthew W. Mehalick 193 MDG



Promoted to Senior Airman

Samantha B. Quigley 193 SVF

Megan A. Brown 193 SVF

Jayson Nunez 193 LRS



Promoted to Airman First Class

Joshua Price 193 SF

Rachel E. Tarbert 193 SF

Elijah D. Trump 193 SF

Andrea T. Robertson 193 SF

Ethan O. Carl 193 SF

John Weber Jr. 193 SF

Kimberly D. Galutia 193 SF

Eric C. Bauman 193 SF

Katie A. Bailey 193 SF

Kyle M. Bevins 193 SF

Jacob R. Bachman 193 SF



JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

Looking for a great job? The 201st RHS Utilities Shop is hiring a Superintendent SMS E-8. Any one interested can send their resume to:

Chief George R. Flick
201st RHS Operations
570-764-1448.

News In Brief

Government travel card changes

DoD's current Government Travel Charge Card (GTCC) contract with Bank of America is ending this year. Citi® was awarded the contract as the new GTCC provider and will continue to support the mission needs of over 1.2 million DoD travel cardholders.

As the Travel Card Program transitions from one vendor to another, all government travel cardholders will receive new cards beginning in August 2008.

Current cards expire on Nov. 29, 2008, at 11:59 p.m. New GTCCs issued by Citi® will be ready for use on Nov. 30, 2008, at 12 a.m.

Cardholders are advised to confirm their mailing addresses on file with Bank of America® as new travel cards will be mailed to that address. Cards that are sent to an incorrect address will be returned to Citi®. If you do not receive a new travel card by Oct. 31, 2008, please notify your APC your program monitor.

PA Ed Assistance Program Update

The recent delay in processing the Pennsylvania EAP award letters has been resolved. As of Thursday, August 7, award letters were released by PHEAA to both members and educational institutions.

There has been an increase in the award amounts for the fall semester. Full-time grants for undergraduates are now \$2,679; part-time undergraduate grants are now \$1,786 and part-time grants for member's possessing a bachelor's degree is one-half of the tuition or \$893, whichever is less per semester. If you have additional concerns, please contact the ROM at (717) 948-2105.

Lithuanian soldiers tap REOTS

Soldiers from Lithuania's Water Purification Company visited the Regional Equipment Operators Training site at Fort Indiantown Gap June 23 to get a taste of our military's newest purification equipment.

They were interested in upgrading from their previous systems, which they acquired from the German military. Master Sgt. Troy Shindel, a utilities instructor at REOTS, taught the Lithuanian soldiers about the machine they were interested in buying for their Water Purification Company.

The WP Company, which is part of Lithuania's rapid-reaction brigade, expects to have the ability to purify more than 500,000 gallons of water per day using the new machines.

Each NATO country is assigned a niche capability and Lithuania's happens to be water purification. They have been called on at least twice to practice their specialty in Afghanistan and Pakistan.



Pennsylvania Guard to host first ever unity day

Fun, family, togetherness

By Senior Airman Jennifer Kilowicz



Photo by Senior Master Sgt. David Hawkins

Strength through diversity has always been a key ingredient for a 193rd family that trains and deploys together more than most units.

We have all heard the saying, “united we stand, divided we fall.” There probably isn’t another organization on earth that this truism could be more applicable to than the military. That’s why everyone should mark their calendars and prepare to attend the first Unity Day on September 18, 1100 to 1400, at Building 8-80, Fort Indiantown Gap.

What is Unity Day? This will be an annual event hosted by the Pennsylvania National Guard (Air and Army) and co-sponsored by the Department of Military Veterans’ Affairs, where military members and their families, veterans, and the local community can come together to learn about and celebrate one-another’s cultural and ethnic backgrounds.

What do we have to look forward to? There will be a myriad of booths, each one focused on a different segment of the population, including a vast array of different ethnic groups. There will be lots of information, special performances, and best of all, approximately three different traditional dishes at each table for visitors to sample. It has already been confirmed

that there will be Polish, Vietnamese, Native American, Pennsylvania Dutch, Asian, and Hispanic displays, as well as a booth highlighting the contributions of disabled veterans, one for women’s history, as well as recruiting and retention, and family support, to name a few.

Goals of Unity Day: To enhance awareness and promote cultural diversity; to foster multicultural diversity in the workplace, and to recognize the contributions, varied perspectives, and approaches individuals bring to the workforce; and to establish and strengthen a continuing a partnership with community leaders and organizations.

“We aim to get people postured for the future. People from diverse backgrounds are an untapped resource. They are a source of new ideas and may help us to find better ways of doing things,” said Senior Master Sgt. Kenneth Oden, Material Management Flight Supervisor and member of the Human Resources Program Advisory Board, which was tasked with organizing this event.

SUNDAY MENU

MAIN LINE

- Chicken, Lemon Herbed
- Sweet and Sour Pork
- Scalloped Potatoes
- Steamed Rice
- Vegetable du jor
- Chicken Corn Soup

Snack Line

- Hamburgers
- Cheeseburgers
- Chicken Caesar Wraps
- Chips

Clancy’s

- Italian Sausages
- Meatball Subs / Wraps
- Chips
- Granola Bars

Breakfast

Served Sunday Morning from 0630-0830 outside Clancy’s Catering by Maria. (Members’ pay for food)

Due to Family Day, there will be no Saturday food service.

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

On behalf of the MSG and SFS Commanders, the MSG First Sergeant will be accepting applications for a 2nd Lt Security Forces Officer position. This opportunity is open to anyone eligible for commission to 2nd Lt. Please submit cover letter & resume NLT COB. The application can be submitted via email to sherri.foy@paharr.ang.af.mil or sent to:

Master Sgt. Sherri Foy
193d MSG/CCF
81 Constellation Court
Middletown PA 17057-5086



Portrait of a hero *(continued from Page 1)*

Koch served his time and “got out,” but it wasn’t long, only two years, before Koch felt the urge to come back to the Air Force.

“When I became a full-time civilian, I realized that the camaraderie, the closeness and the taking care of one-another just wasn’t there. You’re just a number in the civilian world,” said Koch. “So I considered coming back in.”

“I saw an ad for the 193rd in Popular Mechanics Magazine and I called and talked to a recruiter, a young buck sergeant. Now that recruiter is Senior Master Sgt. Timothy Young. He didn’t tell me any lies, just all the good stuff,” said Koch.

Koch reenlisted into the “Try One” program, where the member would enlist for a year, after which they could stay in, go active, or separate if the Guard was not to their liking.

“Obviously, I liked what I saw,” said Koch. “I stayed on for another 32 years, and served under eight Commanders-in-Chiefs.”

Like the rest of us, Koch, a truck driver by trade, has learned how to strike a balance between his civilian and military careers.

In addition to the years of service he provided at the base, Koch has participated in many different kinds of deployments over the years.

In more recent times, Koch volunteered in 2004 to go to Iraq as part of the first-ever Air Force gun-tuck company. There, he participated in convoys transporting medical supplies, ammunition, food, and water from boarder to boarder all across Iraq.

“With his personality and leadership traits, he was instrumental in our five

people coming back alive, as well as countless others,” said Chief Master Sgt. Robert Sload, vehicle management branch chief for the 193rd.

“That’s no exaggeration,” said Lt. Col. Colleen Dickinson, commander of the LRS.

“What you have to do is to know all your people and to try to bring out the best in everyone,” said Koch. Get to know a bit about their family. Get that talking going. It brings everyone tighter together. Now you know something personal about each other, you’re one big family.”

“He stresses that you have to know your people,” said Sload. “He has been the key speaker at leadership seminars, and his pitch is that he talks to his people. He has this unique ability of being able to relate to all people of all ages, and he inspires them.”

“We are all losing one of the best people persons in the Wing,” said Dickinson. The Wing’s people are Donnie’s people.”

Not only is Koch one of the Wing’s most prized people-persons, he is also a highly decorated hero. Koch has been awarded a Bronze Star, Purple Heart, and the new Air Force Combat Action Medal.

“Our company survived approximately 55-60 roadside bombs, close to a thousand mortar attacks, countless rocket-propelled grenades, as well as several suicide bombers,” said Koch.

How does a senior NCO lead his troops in situations like that?

“You help people think of the positives and let go of the negatives,” said Koch. “In the civilian world, I am a truck driver salesman. If you are going to sell something, you have to believe in what you are selling.”

Koch said that one of his most memorable experiences was receiving a personal invitation to President Bush’s Inaugural Ball in 2005. Koch also said that the greatest experience he had was meeting retired Lt. Gen. Harold G. Moore, who was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for his service in Vietnam, and whose experiences were portrayed by Mel Gibson in the 2002 film “We Were Soldiers.”

Koch says one of his greatest honors was earning the Big Red One Army combat patch while running convoys with the Army in Iraq.

“It meant a lot,” said Koch. “The Army didn’t really make us feel welcome until we were awarded the Big Red One. It really is a different thing when an Air Force person has an Army combat patch.”

“We ran combat missions with the Army. I guess the battalion commander felt were good enough to wear it and put us in for it,” said Koch.

While we will certainly miss him, we have to wonder how Koch feels as this career that has spanned almost four decades draws to a close.

“I am going to miss it. The military has been a major part of my life. The LRS community is tight knit, and that’s what kept me here. It’s been more than just a uniform, it’s a family,” said Koch.

But that does not mean that we have seen the last of him. Koch plans to join the 193rd’s Association, and plans to get involved in activities that will keep him current. One of his goals is to organize a golf tournament for the Warrior Foundation.

Air Force Combat Action Medal in summary

The Air Force Combat Action Medal (CAM) was introduced April 2008. This medal recognizes Airmen that took enemy fire while in a combat zone. In order to be considered for this recognition, the incident must meet certain criteria. Airmen must have participated in land or air combat operations. Though individuals did not have to return fire to qualify, the incident did have to take place outside of a force protected base unless defensive actions were taken. Therefore, those Airmen who took mortar fire while “inside the wire” are not eligible.

Airmen must be nominated for the CAM by someone who participated in combat with them. The nomination must be submitted within two years of the incident. The award can also be given posthumously.





The Bird's Word; PA, glass houses don't mix

By Lt. Jay Ostrich

Now it's Jesse - Mr. Jackson if you're nasty, and apparently he is.

As if on cue from the Glass Houses Coalition, the good irreverent Rev. Jesse Jackson joins a long list of stone-throwing statesmen who forgot an unwritten 'Golden Rule of Public Affairs': The mic is always hot.

In case you were in a self-imposed bubble in July, a Fox News microphone caught controversial comments from Jackson that battered presumptive Democratic nominee Sen. Barrack Obama.

According to Jackson, it was meant to be a private conversation among friends. The problem with his explanation is the in-studio microphone was planted on his lapel, not in his office lamp. Bottom line: He should have known better.

To be fair, on-air gaffes are not a matter

of party politics. Foot-in-mouth disease is an equal opportunity offender. In case you are skeptical, see also Ronald Reagan's radio riff "We begin bombing in five minutes" and Newt Gingrich's mom's on-air assessment of Hillary Clinton.

The takeaway here is not who said it or what was said, but that in public affairs, if you are explaining your comments you're losing. In fact, you lost - not only your reputation, but that of your organization.

Whether you are a seasoned spokesman or Sgt. Snuffy on the spot, a few tried and true rules will always make sure your on-air appearance makes more for polished Emmy than public enemy.

First, when interviewed, assume the microphone is hot. It is easy to get pulled into side conversations and lulled into comfort while a reporter checks notes and the cameraman adjusts the lights. In military interviews, situational awareness is as important on microphone as is in combat.

Words, like bullets, can kill you.

Next, nothing and I mean NOTHING is off the record (again, see Connie Chung and Mrs. Gingrich). While most reporters are not out to get you or your organization, that doesn't mean you are immune from being a buffoon. Controversy makes for great ratings, and reporters, producers and editors will do their job even if you aren't doing yours.

Finally, unless your grandmother is Omarosa or Joan Rivers, don't say anything that would make her blush. If you keep yourself on topic, be polite and professional, you will be standing proud in front of grandma instead of tall in front of the wing commander.

So while Jesse picks up self-imposed shards and attempts to rebuild a reputation from glass and stone, remember to stay cool, because the microphones are always hot.

Maintaining a strong marriage – work that is never finished

By Lt. Mark D. Brumbach

This month I have the privilege of placing a wonderful opportunity before those of you who are married. A few months ago my Scope article focused on the importance of taking CARE of our marriages (Communication, Affection, Respect and Exercise). Today I want to encourage you to take advantage of an event being offered in September that will assist you in caring for your relationship with your spouse. Our Family Support Office has arranged for a Strong Bonds Couple's Retreat to be offered to the members of our unit. It will be held on September 19 – 20 at The Chateau Resort in the Poconos. I am not going to record all of the details here because you can receive all necessary information regarding the weekend from Sandy Scott in the Family Support Office. I simply want to highlight the quality and the value of this retreat.

The first benefit of attending the couple's retreat is that it will provide time away in a beautiful place for you and your spouse. You will have alone time during the car ride to talk and enjoy one another's company. The first evening consists of check in,

dinner and entertainment. It will be time to kick back, relax and enjoy just being together. My wife and I have come to value any time that we have alone. We dearly love our children but it is also nice to leave them at Nana's occasionally.

The second benefit is the seminars offered on Saturday. A great deal of good information will be shared. Techniques will be taught and practiced that will enhance your communication skills. Tools for managing and maintaining your relationship in the easy and in the difficult times will be offered. There will even be a spicy block on intimacy and sexuality. We cannot work on our homes without the proper tools. Possessing the right tools also enables us to build and maintain healthy marriages.

The third benefit is that you and your spouse will have to opportunity to fellowship with other members of our unit and their spouses. No one will be in uniform. This is not a military event. Sometimes it helps us greatly to simply hear from others and to share our stories with someone else. In other words I can learn from your experiences and hopefully you can learn from

mine as we spend time together.

The Strong Bonds Couple's Retreat is an incredible opportunity. A question that usually arises is, "Is this retreat for couples that are in trouble?" The answer is "no" and "yes". No, it is not just for those who are experiencing marital distress. It is first and foremost for all those who are married. Yes, because if your marriage is in distress then maybe the experiences from this weekend will help you to work through whatever issues are causing the distress. Let's face it; these are stressful times, especially for those in uniform. Deployments come and deployments go. Mixing civilian life and military life today is a great challenge that we face. Our hope is to help each of our members to maintain healthy balance in their lives and in their homes.

May God richly bless you as you labor to maintain strong marriages and healthy homes.

"A successful marriage requires falling in love many times, always with the same person."

- Mignon McLaughlin