



# SCOPE

193RD SPECIAL OPERATIONS WING



## *193rd firefighters feel the heat*

*Airmen battle a ground fire as the wing engine fire blazes from the simulator aircraft. The fire department was able to use this training to get familiarized and test some newly purchased equipment specifically designed for aircraft fire protection.*

**Story and photos by Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Claire Behney**

Pushing the text books aside, feeling the heat, pumping your adrenalin and getting real life, hands-on experience is part of what makes a fire department a success. Nothing motivates an Air Force firefighter like live fire.

And while fulfilling their annual training requirements at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., simulated aircraft fire pit, the 193<sup>rd</sup> Special Operations Wing Fire Department, Middletown, Pa., was able to step out of a typical classroom education setting and do just that.

Maj. James Wymer, base civil engineer and base fire marshal

for the 193<sup>rd</sup> said to practice the way you're going to fight is imperative to the fire department because there's no way to train for a fire except to be in one.

"Once you see that fire burning you get that sense of urgency," Wymer said.

Master Sgt. Douglas Hoy, assistant chief of training of the 193<sup>rd</sup> Fire Department, echoed similar sentiments about the significance of this training.

"Any time we get the opportunity to put our firefighters in a training environment where it's controlled, they can operate

*See Firefighters, Page 5*

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# SCOPE

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**Tech. Sgt. Culeen Shaffer**

**Staff Sgt. Mariko Rauch**  
**Airman 1st Class Claire Behney**  
Scope Staff

## THE VOICE OF THE QUIET PROFESSIONALS

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# Command Chief Perspective

## Reflecting on past year at 193rd



*By CCMSgt. Scott Keener*

It's hard to believe it has been a full year since I have taken the command chief position. I want to thank everyone for their warm welcome and support when I have visited their organizations.

This past year, I traveled to many senior leadership workshops and conferences. It is with great pride that I represent the 193<sup>rd</sup>.

Our unit is very well respected from AFSOC to ACC to NGB. We are recognized many times for the outstanding work that this unit continues to do.

I have traveled and met with all the

units at Middletown, the 112<sup>th</sup> AOS at State college; the 148<sup>th</sup> ASOS, Detachment 1 (Bomb Range); 201<sup>st</sup> Red Horse; 203<sup>rd</sup> Weather flight; 211<sup>th</sup> Engineering Sq.; 271<sup>st</sup> Combat Communications Sq.; and the 553<sup>rd</sup> Air National Guard Band of the Mid- Atlantic. In addition to these units we also hold the Air National Guard Schoolhouse, consisting of the Regional Equipment Operators Training site, the Regional Training Site, Services and the Lightning Force Academy at the Gap.

As you can see we are a very diverse unit, each one of our units performing at exemplary levels. I ask our Airman from around the Wing to take time to learn the different missions that the 193<sup>rd</sup> is involved in. I think showing an interest and understanding in the different missions of our wing and our fellow Airman would serve us all by building pride and unity.

Maintaining the high standards of our Airman is crucial to the success of our missions. Respect, selflessness and commitment to excellence, will serve not only to complete our task with great distinction, but will give each of us a sense of pride in fulfillment.

Working together we can accomplish anything and never lose sight of what it is we must achieve.

***Congratulations*** to the 193rd for being selected to receive the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award based upon Meritorious Service from June 1, 2006 to Dec. 31, 2007.

*The 193rd remains one of the most deployed organizations within the Department of Defense with our involvement in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.*



# Promotions

for the month of March



## **Promotion to Chief Master Sergeant**

Gary A. Ryckman 112 SOS



## **Promotion to Master Sergeant**

Frank Mistretta III 193 AMXS

Edward L. Warren Jr 193 MXS



## **Promoted to Technical Sergeant**

Benjamin T. Arnold 193 AMXS



## **Promoted to Staff Sergeant**

Anya N. Washington 193 SOS



## **Promoted to Senior Airman**

Joshua L. Swartz 201 RHS

Bryan R. Long 201 RHS

## ***Congratulations!***

# News In Brief

## **Applying for Post-9/11 GI Bill**

The Department of Veterans Affairs began accepting applications for the Post-9/11 GI Bill on May 1. The application form for this program is available online at: <http://www.gibill.va.gov/>

The form requires that individuals currently eligible for another education benefit make an irrevocable election from their existing program to the Post-9/11 GI Bill. Typically individuals who are eligible for more than one benefit may use a combined total of 48 months of entitlement. Therefore, for those individuals eligible for the Montgomery GI Bill program please be advised that if you have entitlement remaining under the MGIB, the number of months of Post-9/11 GI Bill entitlement you will be eligible for will be equal to the number of months remaining under MGIB. However, if you exhaust all of your MGIB entitlement, then you may be entitled to a maximum of 12 additional months of entitlement under the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

Starting May 1 the VA began processing applications for Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits and you will receive a letter explaining VA's decision regarding your eligibility for the program. Payments for the Post-9/11 GI Bill will not be processed until August 1.

## **Planning improvements to uniforms**

Officials from the Uniform Program Office at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, continue to work for Airmen, researching and purchasing uniforms that provide more function, protection and comfort.

The Air Force chief of staff met with office personnel April 21 for an update on clothing issues Airmen face as they support global mission requirements.

Gen. Norton Schwartz said addressing current and near-term uniform needs takes precedence over introducing long-range new initiatives.

"It is paramount that we provide fully functional and appropriate uniforms for our Airmen as they carry out our worldwide, joint mission," Gen.Schwartz said. "It's critical that we respond to Air Force uniform needs since they affect every Airman, every day -- so we need to get it right."

Changes are also in the works for the airman battle uniform. "Too hot" is how many Airmen described the current ABU. After working with other services and industry textile experts, Air Force officials will field a lighter weight fabric for the ABU coat. Called the improved airman battle uniform, the ABU coat will be updated with a durable, lighter weight, and more comfortable fabric.



# Smooth operators dig new troop quarters

Story and photo by Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Claire Behney

Being the best has its benefits. Just ask the Airmen of the Air National Guard Schoolhouse, Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa., who provide unique proficiency upgrading training to servicemembers throughout the Department of Defense and around the world.

While the program has the very best Airmen, modern equipment and state-of-the-art classrooms, current students have been housed in less than ideal World War II barracks.

But thanks to a \$16 million federal stimulus fund presented to the Gap March 31, the gap between high speed schooling and low-grade housing will soon be filled by a new 16,000 square-foot troop quarters building.

“It really comes down to a quality of life issue here,” said U.S. Congressman Tim Holden. “We have a dedicated force that does such a great job. They’re the best at what they do, so they deserve the best facilities.”

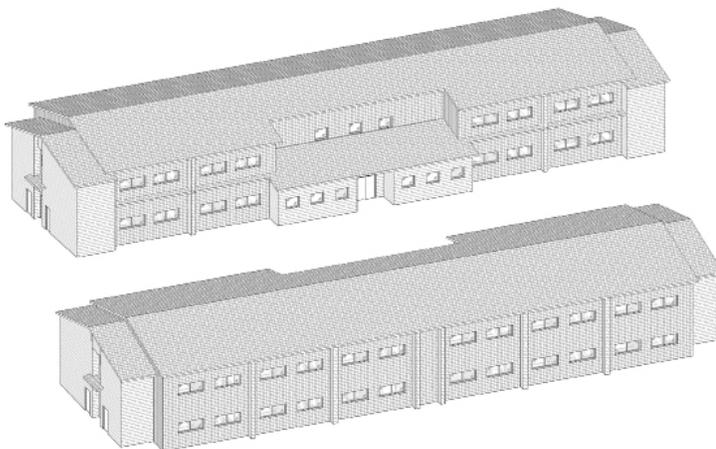
Because of their unique mission and global participation, it only seemed natural to catch the entire schoolhouse program up to the 21<sup>st</sup> century, said Holden. With the new safe and modern living facility this one-of-a-kind schoolhouse will finally be there.

This one-of-a-kind schoolhouse is made up of four different sections, the Regional Equipment Operator Training Site, Services Regional Training Site and the Lightning Force Academy, all of which are unique to the Air Force. The Regional Training Site is also a part of the schoolhouse, but there are only a total of five RTS in the Air Force.

“The program is unique to the total force because we’re the only ones in the world that have it -- not even fulltime Air Force has it,” said Chief Master Sgt. Kenneth M. Deck, Air National



*Tech. Sgt. James Lee Norton and Tech. Sgt. Jesus Romeo of the 364th Training Squadron, Sheppard Air Force Base, Tx., practice saving a fellow Airman from a tower in preparation for instructing the Advanced Tower Rescue course at the Lightning Force Academy.*



*Architects participated in drafting plans of how the building is slated to appear, finalized plans for the new quarters are still in progress. This is a recent sketch of the front and rear of the new building.*

Guard Schoolhouse commandant. “It draws students from all over the world, including Canada, England, Lithuania and Norway.”

The schoolhouse not only brings in students from across the globe, but contains equipment valued more than \$20 million and has trained more than 22,000 students to date.

The current troop quarters were built during World War II as

temporary buildings, but they have outlived their original purpose, said Deck. Upgrades were made to these structures in the late 80s and early 90s, but the 60-year-old buildings need to be retired.

As more than 2,000 students go through the school annually, providing them with safe and modern facilities is the priority, Capt. Joel D. Sattazahn, base civil engineer.

“We want to be sure to give them a quality and safe experience while visiting our facilities,” said Sattazahn.

The new troop quarters building will be two-stories and include a day room, fitness room, and elevator. The building will also have two handicap accessible rooms. All of the rooms will have a television, telephone, refrigerator, and work station, said Deck.

In providing improved housing it will allow for a better overall educational experience for the students attending the schoolhouse. The program will now be able to enjoy a modernized learning facility that ensures only the best for our best.



## Firefighters prepare for real life scenario (continued from Page 1)

safely and they can work on their basic firemen skills we take the opportunity to do that,” said Hoy.

The firefighters of the 193<sup>rd</sup> and McGuire worked hand-in-hand putting out ground fires and wing and tail engine fires on the base’s simulator aircraft.

“I think it’s a great opportunity for the Air Force as a whole,” said Master Sgt. William Ferguson, assistant chief of training at McGuire. “We get deployed together so it only makes sense to get training together before we go on an actual deployment.”



*Airmen work on putting out a fire in the tail engine of the simulator aircraft. They also covered ground and wing engine fires.*

Preparing for deployment and staying up-to-date on requirements are what annual training is all about. With experience comes knowledge and the ability to make reactions to dangerous situations second nature.

“If you’re not trying to simulate the real environment it’s just not the same thing,” said Wymer. “There are too many variables that are different and I think this training helps to eliminate some of those variables and basically get you close to the real thing.”

Gaining experience with a live fire gives the Fire Department

the opportunity to be sure they are doing what they need to do to prepare themselves for any real life situation they may encounter.

“We have a lot of young firefighters who don’t have the experience of facing different situations, either aircraft or structure fires, so this training gives them the opportunity to do some hands on training to learn from their experiences,” said Hoy.



*The two man team of a “back-up man” and a “main man” enter the pit and approach the first ground fire at the simulator aircraft.*

Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Jody Meade is a civilian volunteer firefighter with Station 230 out of Millville, Pa., and Station 120 out of Berwick, Pa. With these two fire companies he runs structure fires so being able to train on a simulated aircraft he is able to face the challenges of fighting a fuel fire as he would for the 193<sup>rd</sup>.

“When I get to come out here and do aircraft fires I feel more prepared when I come to the guard unit,” said Meade.

Wymer was able to suit up in some of the fire department’s new bunker gear to feel the heat. “We do this once a year so I wanted to get out and basically feel what they feel, see what they see, see what their issues are and really just walk a few steps in their footprints,” he said.

Wymer was able to enter the flames twice. The first time he was the back-up man, supporting the main man carrying the fire hose. The second time Wymer was the main man, operating the fire hose.

“They have a tough job,” Wymer said. “You would think walking 15 feet carrying hose doesn’t look very strenuous, but by the time you get to that distance you’re out of breath; and when you have 80 pounds of gear on you it’s difficult and it’s a lot harder than it looks.”

Wymer and Hoy both said it requires a certain type of person to be a firefighter. Someone who has strength, who’s in good condition, who is tenacious and dedicated to the mission, are just a few of the characteristics they stated.

“I think what it takes from an Airman is a willingness to do the job, to be open to learn and to be open to some constructive criticism when they’ve made a mistake,” Hoy said.

For a firefighter being able to apply what has been learned during training could mean the difference between life and death. Through completing their annual training requirements the 193<sup>rd</sup> Fire Department is able to better prepare themselves for when they’re called upon for a state or federal mission.



# Reflecting on Armed Forces Day

By Chief Master Sgt. Hayes Gearhart

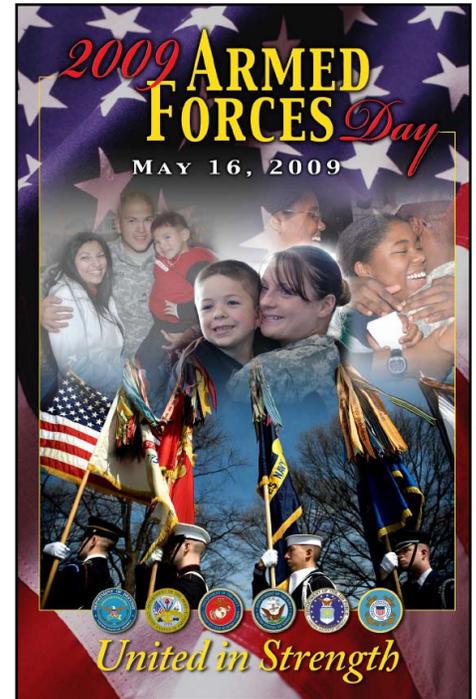
This year on May 16 our nation gives thanks to those of us who serve in the Armed Forces of the United States. Since 1949 the third Saturday in May has been set as the day to recognize, venerate, and honor Americans serving in the five services - the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, and Coast Guard. It is an honor to be on the receiving end of all that gratitude.

Being honored with our own day of observance we may ask ourselves what we did to deserve this venerable honor. We just did our duty and didn't recognize any special service above and beyond. Some of us may have bounced our way to distant lands on troop seats in a C130 or KC135 or drove a duce and a half a few hundred miles to set up a tent. We did miss our children's birthdays a few times. We weren't at home to comfort the spouse and kids suffering from the flu. We missed the clothes washing machine stalled full of dirty water. That microwave oven was just waiting for us to get out the door before

going dark and unresponsive.

The fact is we put service before self when called on. We teamed with other airmen and soldiers to get the mission accomplished. The job we do is special and deserving of recognition by our fellow citizens. Sometimes it is not so obvious that the public appreciates what we do. The popularity of the Armed Forces goes up and down with events and threats on the global scene. The defense budget rises and falls at the perceived necessities of our elected officials.

It does feel good to know that we do the best we can with what we have and someone noticed. So give yourself a pat on the back for stepping forward when your nation and state needed your assistance. Your family stepped aside and waved you on as you answered the call for help. We are the few who answer the call together. We put our civilian lives on hold to serve the greater good. Our reward is living a purpose driven life that reflects integrity, excellence and recognition on our own special day.



A joint military service event co-hosted by the City of Harrisburg and the Pennsylvania National Guard will be held at City Island, Harrisburg, Pa., May 16, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

## Looking out for severe weather Preparing for ancillary training A message from the EMO A message from IAO

By Staff Sgt. Jamie Billet

As the temperature begins to rise, so to does the likelihood of severe weather. Thunderstorms and flash flooding are just a few of the many cards Mother Nature deals us each year. Caused by the rapid rise of water along a stream or low-lying urban area, flash floods account for more fatalities than any other severe weather phenomenon. Almost half of those fatalities occur in vehicles. Never attempt to drive on flooded roadways. Two feet of water is enough to float most vehicles and rushing water can cause any vehicle to be pushed off roadways and bridges. Erosion to the roadway can also be caused by flood water, a hazard not always visible to the vehicle operator. If you come across a flooded roadway, turn around and find an alternate route to your destination.

Thunderstorms also become more common this time of year. Although you might not always see it, where there is thunder there is also lightning. Lightning causes over 80 fatalities and 300 injuries annually, with 98 percent of those people outdoors when they are struck. Remember the 30/30 lightning safety rule: go indoors if after seeing lightning, you cannot count to 30 before hearing thunder. Stay indoors for at least 30 minutes after hearing the last clap of thunder. If you can hear the thunder, the lightning is close enough to strike you.

Ancillary training can be very painful. As you know, the Information Protection Training is a yearly requirement. Many of us wait until the last minute or when the list of procrastinators gets sent to upper management for action, only then do we complete the IP training.

Be AWARE be very AWARE.

Starting this UTA, individuals will be reminded that their IP training is due within 60 days. A reminder box will pop-up during the log-in process, counting down from 60 to zero days until you go overdue for this training.

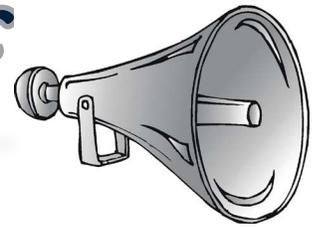
Once you go overdue, you will be locked out of your your Local Area Network account. You must contact your Information Assurance Officer (formerly named ISSO) for access. That day you must take and complete the Information Assurance training located on the ADLS web site.

When you completed the training, print your certificate and provide a copy to your IAO, this will ensure your new IP training dates will be entered into your LAN account information and your account will remain active. If you do not complete the training that day, your account will be locked out.

Contact the Information Assurance Office at extension 2420.



# Sounding Off



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

## 193rd Chief's Council food drive

The Chief's Council is proud to sponsor the first "Operation 193rd Cares" food drive. It will be held from May 14-17.

The types of items needed include: Canned tuna, canned meats and stews, soup, peanut butter, canned fruit, canned vegetables, pasta, rice, baby food, baby cereal, formula, canned and dried beans.

Collection barrels/boxes will be placed in high traffic areas in each building on base.

## Ringling Brothers Circus arrives

The Family Support Office has seats available for the Ringling Brothers Circus at the Giant Center in Hershey, Pa.

Tickets are available for Friday, May 22 at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday May 23 at 7:30 p.m. The price for all seats is \$15.00, children under the age of two are free.

If interested contact Sandy Scott at x3155 or e-mail her at [sandy.scott@paharr.af.mil](mailto:sandy.scott@paharr.af.mil)

## Red Cross sponsors children's party

There will be a children's party sponsored by the Red Cross for children of active deployed military parents called "Daddy (or Mommy) Is Deployed". The event will be held on Saturday, June 27, at the Witaker Center in Harrisburg, Pa. from noon to 4 p.m.

The party will feature, a private big science theatre show, an all-day Harsco Science Center pass, admission to one Medial Imas Theatre film, liquid nitrogen ice cream, dry ice fruit punch and a discovery gift bag.

To register call Pat Greedy at (717) 368-3598

## OMK sponsors summer camp

Operation Military Kid Hero Youth Camp will be held at Kenbrook Camp, Lebanon, Pa. from August 2-7. This camp is for ages 7-12 and the registration is from April 15 to June 15.

Contact Janet Marquis for further questions at (717) 861-6289.

You can register online at [www.pngfamilyprogram.state.pa.us](http://www.pngfamilyprogram.state.pa.us)

## Changes to scheduling passport

Due to the high volume of passport applications a schedule has been set up with Multimedia for pictures and the Readiness Office for the application process. Applications and pictures will be processed on Sudays of UTA from 1 to 3 p.m. and weekly on Thursdays from 9 to 11 a.m. Members will need to schedule an appointment with Multimedia and the Readiness Office if processing needs completed outside of this schedule.

Readiness Office: 717-948-2412

Multimedia Office: 717-948-2231

## What's on the Menu

### Saturday

#### Main Line:

BBQ Beef Cubes

Chicken Fajitas

Rice

Corn

O'Brien Potatoes

#### Snack Line:

Cheeseburgers

Fries

Chicken/Cheese Sub

Salad bar, soup du jour and desserts

### Sunday

#### Main Line:

Country Style Steak

Oven Fried Chicken

Stuffing

Mashed Potatoes

#### Snack Line:

Cheeseburgers

Fries

Fish Po Boy

## ~Constellation Cafe~

Hours of operation: 11:30-1:00

Clancy's will be open



**May 29**  
**UTA PAYDAY**

Have a story to tell? Contact your Public Affairs Office and share the good news!  
Job vacancy? SCOPE advertising works for YOU to get the word out!



# Remembering to put service before self

*Commentary by Lt. Col. Robert Haines, 963rd Expeditionary Airborne Air Control Squadron commander*

Last year I was amazed at the accomplishments and dedication of many of the Olympic competitors in the summer games. Although I enjoyed watching the events, I found many of the interviews with athletes and their personal stories more interesting. I was particularly impressed with a U.S. sprinter in the Women's 400 meter event

When asked how she felt about winning the Bronze medal, she responded "it is not about me, it is about our country." What a tremendous demonstration of service before self.

As Air and Space Expeditionary Force Rotation 7/8 draws to an end, we must remain focused on the mission at hand. As we reflect on all our personal accomplishments throughout this deployment, we must remember that it is not about us, it is about our country.

Of the U.S. Air Force core values, integrity first, service before self, and excellence in all we do; service is perhaps the most challenging to fully understand.

Integrity - got it! Excellence-I understand that! Service before self, does it mean we shouldn't set personal goals, or we shouldn't pursue our dreams, or we shouldn't think about getting back home to our families? Absolutely not!

It means we serve a greater purpose than just focusing on ourselves. As Airmen, Sailors, Soldiers and Department of

we must follow applicable Air Force Instructions and technical orders, even if there is a more personally convenient or easier way to do something. This is especially important as we transition to the next AEF cycle. Combat operations are not an excuse to take shortcuts, we must pass that lesson on to our replacements in AEF 9/10

Also, we cannot allow ourselves to become complacent because we are tired after 120 days of continuous operations and we are thinking about going home. One of the most important tools we have to guard against complacency is to pay special attention to every step in applicable checklists, and go back and carefully review AFIs and TOs. This helps keeps our mind in the game and will help us finish strong.

It is an honor to serve the United States of America in the finest wing in the area of responsibility. If we continue to do our best and do things the right way every time, every day, we should not care about the color of our medal.

Service is not about you, or me, it is about our country.

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*Air Force Core Values  
Integrity First  
Service Before Self  
Excellence In All We Do*

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Defense civilians in the 380th Air Expeditionary Wing, our focus should be on how we can best support our wing, our mission, and our country. We must remember that we "fly the flag" as a team; we manage the transition together; and that good order and discipline is about focusing on our mission, not our personal interests.

Additionally, service before self means

## State CCMSgt Perspective: Hometown Heroes Salute



*By State Command Chief Master Sgt. Ralph Braden*

The Air National Guard plans to start one of the largest Airmen recognition endeavors in its history in 2009. The program is called Hometown Heroes Salute and was announced last November.

The intent of the HHS 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 who do.

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 ANG contribution to the war efforts over the last eight years. Data collection for phase one been forwarded to National Guard Bureau for processing.

During phase one all eligible ANG members who were deployed since Sept. 11 will receive the 1<sup>st</sup> Tier Award of a framed Hometown Heroes Salute coin and a letter of appreciation signed

by the Director, ANG and the ANG Command Chief Master Sgt. Additionally, all family members and a center of influence will be recognized with a special gift.

PAANG Headquarters personnel and personnel from all three wings collected the information on our deployed Airmen that meet the plan's recognition criteria to forward to NGB.

As you can imagine this was no small task.

We have diligently worked to identify all the Pennsylvania Airmen that have deployed and met the HHS criteria for this catch up phase. Given the magnitude of this project I know some Airmen that were deployed will have been missed during this initial review.

Please know that if you are inadvertently missed during the review of our records it will be rectified and you will receive the HHS recognition you deserve. I ask that you notify your Wing's HHS POC or your wing command Chief Master Sgt. if this happens to you.

I want to send out a special word of thanks to those Airmen that have deployed, are deployed now, and will continue to deploy and serve in the future. I also send out a special thank you to the Airmen's families/support systems that serve them while they are deployed. Without the support of all the members of our PAANG extended families we cannot do what we do. Thank you for all you do!



# Photo highlights from Boss Day

April 4, 2009



*Photos by Tech. Sgt. Culeen Shaffer*