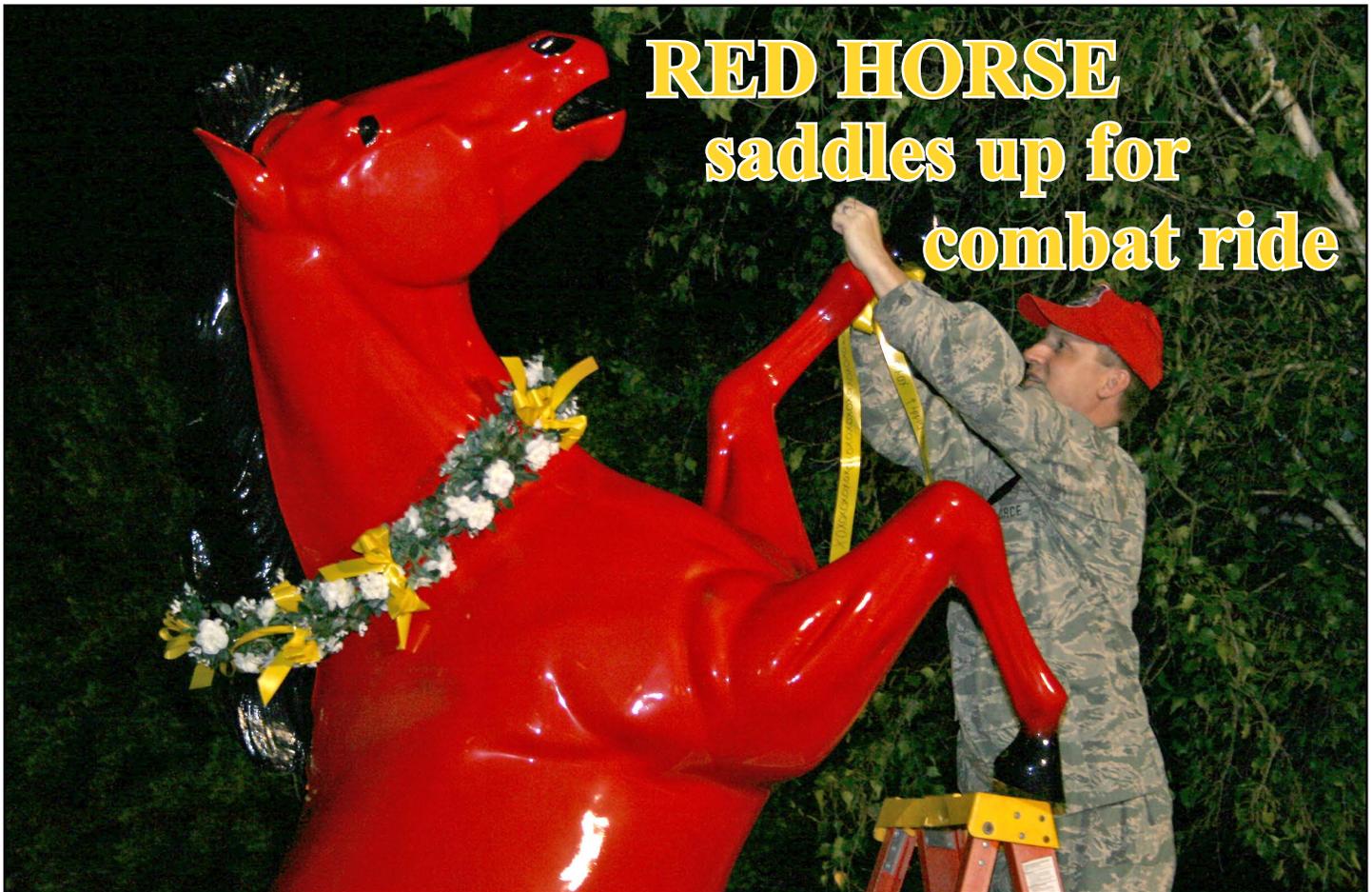


# SCOPE

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



## RED HORSE saddles up for combat ride

*Maj. Eric Mannion, operations officer for first expeditionary RED HORSE group, hangs the traditional yellow ribbon from the hoof of the red horse statue that stands outside in the 201st RHS compound. The Airmen of the 201st RHS will report to Fort McCoy, Wis., for a month of training before heading to Southwest Asia for their six-month deployment in support of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.*

*Story and photos by Airman 1st Class Claire Behney*

Public Affairs Specialist

Yellow ribbons and tearful goodbyes filled the compound of the 201st Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy Operational Repair Squadron Engineers as more than 100 RED HORSE Airmen headed for a six-month deployment in Iraq and Afghanistan.

“Ever since Sept. 11 there’s been a greater calling to serve your country and I do so with great pride,” said Master Sgt. William Meiser, 201st RHS heating, ventilation, and air conditioning supervisor. “I do it for those that have served before me and for my family.”

*See Engineers, Page 8*



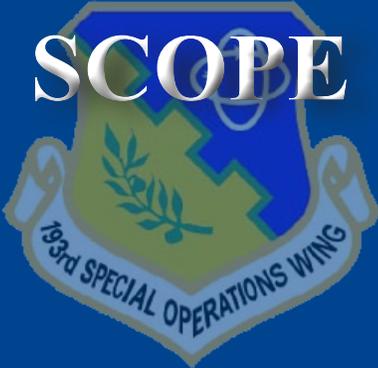
Chief says Guard cannot go back



Facebook, social media here to stay



ANG family of the year award



# SCOPE

Brig. Gen. Eric G. Weller  
Commander

Lt. Col. Susan Stuck  
Wing Executive Officer

Capt. Jay Ostrich  
Chief of Public Affairs

Senior Master Sgt. Dave Hawkins  
NCOIC for Public Affairs

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### THE VOICE OF THE QUIET PROFESSIONALS

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Middletown, PA 17057  
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## Chief says Guard cannot go back to strategic reserve

By Lt. Col. Ellen Krenke  
National Guard Bureau

The National Guard cannot go back to the days of the strategic reserve, the chief of the National Guard Bureau told conferees in Rochester, Minn., on Aug. 9.

“We must maintain the level of efficiency and effectiveness that has been achieved today,” said Gen. Craig R.

McKinley, chief of the National Guard Bureau, who spoke at the 38th annual conference of the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States.

“We can’t be relegated to obsolete and incompatible equipment like we were during the Cold War,” he said. “We have proven that that old way of doing business does not work in today’s environment.”

McKinley added that the Guard cannot return to a model of one weekend a month and two weeks a year.

“In an era of persistent conflict, we need a predictable rotational model and we must maintain proficiency and interoperability with the rest of the force,” he said. “We must modernize at a proportional rate to the active component.”

This period in history is exactly what the Guard and reserve were built for, McKinley said. “We are shock absorbers in an all-volunteer force that allows us to go to this level of tempo.”

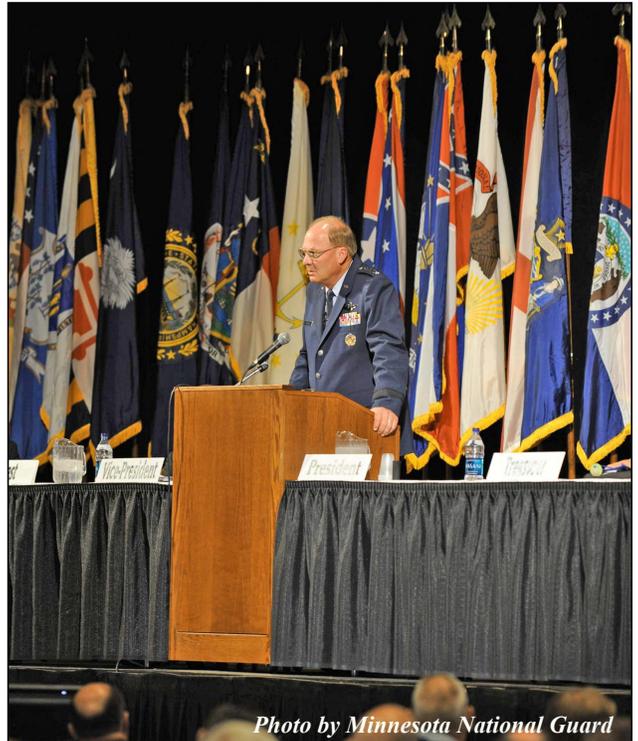
How long can the Guard remain an operational force? McKinley said he asks the same question: “If resourced with the personnel and equipment to maintain readiness, can we maintain this optempo indefinitely, including floods, fires and hurricanes that we support for our governors? So far, I am hearing the answer is, ‘Yes.’”

McKinley said the Guard proves this by enlisting high-quality recruits.

He said the better question is: What do we want to be when the war stops? “Even

though the Guard, properly resourced could sustain the optempo, our nation cannot afford to do so,” he said.

Even during steady state, the Guard will continue to have persistent requirements, McKinley said. For example, the Air National Guard flies the vast majority of air sovereignty alert missions, and “we are going to be challenged here in the near



*Gen. Craig R. McKinley, chief of the National Guard Bureau, speaks at the 38th annual conference of the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States in Rochester, Minn., recently.*

future as we retire our aging fleet.”

The Chief said persistent conflict and constrained resources will be with us for the foreseeable future.

“While I recognize this to be true, I fear our leaders may eventually become worn down in the fight for resources and lower our expectations for our Airmen and Soldiers,” McKinley said. “I fully expect you to continue to push enlisted issues up, so they are prioritized appropriately.”

About 85 percent of the Guard force is enlisted, and “central to the way I approach every issue as the chief of the National Guard Bureau, is how decisions we make affect you, the backbone of our services,” McKinley said.



# Promotions

For the month of July

## Promotion to Chief Master Sergeant

George M. Vasiloff Jr. 201 RHS

## Promotion to Senior Master Sergeant

Nancy L. Kreiser Headquarters

## Promotion to Master Sergeant

Kevin M. Karmosky 193 SOS  
 Jennifer A. Fahlbush 211 EIS  
 Kenneth E. Leitch 201 RHS  
 Mark D. Misczanski 201 RHS  
 Richard T. Banks 201 RHS  
 James R. Rutter 201 RHS

## Promoted to Technical Sergeant

Micah E. Good 193 LRS  
 Daisy M. Eyerely 193 LRS  
 Christina M. Mylonas 193 LRS  
 Robert A. Somers 211 EIS

## Promoted to Staff Sergeant

Jeremy T. Pritchett 193 LRS  
 Brian D. Sommers 193 LRS  
 Shawn M. Wiley 193 AMXS  
 Frederick J. Petritsch 193 MXS  
 Garrett H. Dawson 148 ASOS  
 John C. Norris 148 ASOS

## Promoted to Airman First Class

Seth D. Clemens 193 SF  
 Pau G. Hyne 193 SF  
 Emery A. Barrett 193 SF  
 Colt E. Stuckey 193 SF

***Congratulations!***

# News In Brief

## **NGB chief speaks on NG efforts**

The National Guard proved its relevance, value and accessibility after the manmade disaster of Sept. 11, 2001, and after the natural disaster named Katrina that hit almost four years later, the Guard's senior officer said.

"These last eight years have been a testimonial to your service, to your patriotism, to the respect that the nation has for what the National Guard can contribute," Gen. Craig McKinley told the 131st National Guard Association of the United States General Conference meeting in Nashville Tenn.

Speaking on the eighth anniversary of the terrorist attacks, Gen. McKinley recalled, "I was in the Pentagon. I watched Secretary of Defense [Donald] Rumsfeld go out and help people. A lot of Guardsmen did the same thing."

McKinley said the Air National Guard was flying patrols over the Pentagon within minutes, and other Guardsmen around the country vowed to never let another attack happen on their watch again. "That's what I go to sleep with at night," he said.

## **HRA position application extended**

The Wing HQ's has extended the receipt of applications for the position of the 193rd Wing HRA. Applications must include a letter of intent and a military resume. See ANGI 36-2110 for more details on the opportunity. Please forward packages to Lt. Col. Susan Stuck by close of business Oct. 10. Interviews will be held on Oct. 17 of drill weekend. Any questions can be directed to Chief Master Sgt. Lori Mulholland at extension 2349 or Lt. Col. Susan Stuck at extension 2202.

## **Intelligence officer position opening**

There is an open position for a traditional guardmember intelligence officer (14NX) with the 193rd Operations Support Flight/Intelligence. The position is for a captain or below, to include those eligible for commission.

If interested, please send resumes to Lt. Col. Sharon Gattens at: [sharon.gattens@ang.af.mil](mailto:sharon.gattens@ang.af.mil) by Sept. 19.

## **First sergeant position announced**

The Operations Squadron is accepting applications for a first sergeant. Applications are to be submitted to Command Chief Master Sgt. Scott Keener or 1st Sgt. Troy Schrader by close of business of September's drill. The boards for this position will be held Friday, October 16.

For further information on the position please contact Chief Keener on base at extension 2201 or speak with any available first sergeant.



# Face it: Facebook, social media here to stay

## *Be safe while driving info superhighway*

*Commentary by Capt. Jay Ostrich*  
Public Affairs Officer

Sure, my job as a public affairs officer *is* dealing with media; but like most people, I like to hang up the boots at the end of a day and concentrate more on family, household and hobbies.

Not me, not any longer. I have been sucked into the new media vortex and it looks like I am not getting out.

Like many Americans, I have voluntarily entered the realm of cyber communications through social networks, blogs and forums. Like it or not, it affects almost every aspect of my life now.

I'll admit I get a kick out of getting in touch with people from high school through tools like Facebook and e-mail. It's even a pleasant experience to keep in touch with distant relatives, college friends and even fellow Airmen and Soldiers. Heck, I'll even concede this new media has been a fantastic networking tool that has helped me in my career.

But while most agree the information age is pretty cool if not a positive social advancement, we quickly part company when we consider the effects new media has on OPSEC.

Being able to keep in contact with friends and loved ones has never been easier and the age of instant communication gratification is reality. But with the ease of such power, the opportunity for OPSEC to get into the hands of the bad guys has risen proportionally.

Much has been written from the strategic levels of the military. Not surprisingly, the guidance has varied anywhere from banning social networking like Facebook, MySpace and Twitter altogether as the Marine Corps did Aug. 3, 2009, to the Army ordering military base computer access to similar sites in May.

But in a measure that seems to be in line with Air Force standard, another approach to social media has taken root – trying to find the happy medium. While I doubt you will ever see Facebook as an internet option on USAF bases, officials have seen the potential light to use social networking as a means to pass posi-

tive military messages and help recruiting and retention.

Spearheading the happy medium approach have been heavy hitters like Maj. Gen. Henry C. "Hank" Morrow, 1<sup>st</sup> Air Force commander, who says the new media is a great tool but only if used wisely.

"The bad guys are out there, too, reading all the information you post to your personal site," said General Morrow. "They put all the bits of information together like a puzzle. It's known as



*Photo illustration by Airman 1st Class Claire Behney*

*Always take a moment and consider if something is really worth putting on the internet. You could be putting yourself at risk, as well as your fellow Airmen and your Wing family. Remember, you're not only representing yourself, but the Wing and the United States Air Force. Think before you type, post, or upload photographs.*

'data mining' and our enemies are constantly monitoring what we post to the Web."

While this might not sound like a ringing endorsement of the practice, General Morrow concedes that capitalizing on its potential is worth educating our Airmen on the best practices for this new technology.

"The rules ultimately come down to this," said General Morrow. "Choose your words wisely. Operational security should be practiced at the source. The same tactics that are exercised when disclosing information to the public should be applied to social media usage."

And therein lies the proverbial rub: "Choose your words wisely." Not only do you have a duty to be mindful of OPSEC,

*Continued on next page*



but it is crucial when representing yourself as a member of the Wing, Pennsylvania National Guard and USAF that you do so in a respectful, positive manner.

Sorry to be the Grinch who stole fun, but that means any negative opinions of leadership, the military, your commanders in chief or photos of you in uniform having beverages of choice at 0300 need to be checked at the portal door.

When you represent yourself as a member of the military, your duty to portray self and service in a positive manner is an around-the-clock duty inside or outside the gates.

“Hey, it violates my freedom of speech rights,” you say? Think again.

U.S. courts have always viewed the military as a “specialized society” and thus defer to the military by permitting it to restrict the speech of servicemembers as it deems necessary to preserve order and discipline.

Trust me, the Internet applies here but please see your experts in the Judge Advocate General office if you need more clarification.

But that’s enough of such ugliness.

The Internet and online social media networking sites can be an awesome tool both personally and professionally if you follow common sense, stay positive about your service and above all be mindful of the OPSEC rules we all know and love.

Until then, I hope to see you on the information superhighway looking sharp by continuing to make yourself and your service look the best it can.

### 193rd Media Policy

For the 193rd SOW family, a new Wing policy was implanted and signed into effect by Brig. Gen. Eric G. Weller, wing commander, July 20, and reads as follows:

1. All Airmen have a role in promoting public understanding of our service. Many of today’s issues are discussed online through blogs, chatrooms, and social networking and video hosting sites. The Internet allows Airmen to communicate instantly with people worldwide. This is an unprecedented opportunity that bears great responsibility. As we continue to engage in online dialogue, it must be done with the highest degree of professionalism and vigilance to protect sensitive information. Whether posting on an online or personal website, every Airman is responsible for his or her own conduct.
2. The same basic rules of engagement apply for any public forum, on or off the internet:
  - Abide by OPSEC rules and protect Critical Information
  - Do not post information that compromises privacy or facilitates identity theft
  - Conduct yourself professionally at all times, both in text and imagery
  - If you are unsure, seek Public Affairs guidance and refer issues beyond your expertise to PA for response.
3. The first-hand accounts Airmen provide of the challenges and rewards of serving our nation are credible and compelling to our fellow citizens. We must promote a climate of responsible public communication that encourages those personal accounts.

## *Prevention information for Airmen, families regarding H1N1*

*By Lt. Col. Kevin P. Hinkle*

OIC Public Health/Medical Intelligence

Spread of novel H1N1 virus is thought to occur in the same way that seasonal flu spreads. Flu viruses are spread mainly from person to person through coughing or sneezing by people with influenza. Sometimes people may become infected by touching something - such as a surface or object - with flu viruses on it and then touching their mouth or nose.

The greatest prevention measures remain good personal hygiene, avoidance of others who may be ill and staying home if you are sick. Symptoms include fever greater than 100, cough, and body-aches. If you feel this way then stay home,

contact your supervisor, and consult your healthcare practitioner. Do not return to work until you have been without fever for a full 24 hours (excluding fever-reducing medication).

With the beginning of the school year, it is important to apply the following protective measures at work and within your home:

- \* **Stay informed. Health officials will provide additional information as it becomes available. Visit the CDC H1N1 Flu website: [www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu](http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu)**
- \* **Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.**
- \* **Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or**

**sneeze. Alcohol-based hand cleaners are also effective.**

\* **Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth. Germs spread this way.**

\* **Try to avoid close contact with sick people.**

The 2009 influenza A (H1N1) viruses are antigenically and genetically unrelated to seasonal influenza A (H1N1) viruses, suggesting that little to no protection would be expected from vaccination with seasonal influenza vaccine. A specific vaccine for the 2009 H1N1 is still in the pre-market stage and human safety trials are in progress and should be available by late October. We will start administering the 2009 “seasonal” flu vaccines during the September UTA.

**If you have any questions or need further information, contact the Public Health Office at extension 2236 or see the current information from the CDC at: [www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu](http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu)**



# 193rd family makes volunteering common practice

By Airman 1st Class Claire Behney

Public Affairs Specialist

The spotlight was once again shown on the 193rd Special Operations Wing. This time it revealed the commitment of a devoted family.

Senior Master Sgt. Mike Kovach and his family were awarded the Air National Guard Family of the Year Award, one of the seven national awards given at The National Guard Family Program's annual National Volunteer Workshop, Dearborn, Mich., July 27-29.

Kovach, his wife Kristie, daughter Kaitlynn, and son Kurtis have been actively volunteering with the Pennsylvania Children and Youth summer programs. The family has participated in all the summer camps since the founding of the National Guard Child and Youth program in the fall of 2004.

During the summers of 2006, 2007 and 2008, Kovach fulfilled the position of boys head counselor, supervising the boy's dormitory of approximately 50 sons of National Guard servicemembers.

He also supervised the male counseling staff of 12 men.

"Fifty boys pumped up on fun is not always the easiest to manage, but Mike uses his leadership and fatherly skills to manage them well," said Janet R. Marquis, former Pennsylvania National Guard state youth coordinator.

Along with supervising the male participants, Kovach teaches all the fishing and boating lessons at the camps.

"Mike takes pride in assisting each child in catching at least one fish and will work extra hours during the day to accomplish this goal," said Marquis. "Watching Mike at the lake is quite an experience as he is



National Guard Bureau

Gen. Craig R. McKinley, chief of the National Guard Bureau, presents Senior Master Sgt. Mike Kovach and his wife, Kristie Kovach with the Air National Guard Family of the Year Award during a ceremony at the National Guard Family Program Volunteer Workshop in Dearborn, Mich. The family received the award for the outstanding dedication and voluntary efforts.

in perpetual motion running from one end of the lake to another to bait and release fish from the poles."

Due to Kovach's dedication to the camp, they have jokingly renamed the fishing grounds Kovach Lake, said Marquis.

Kurtis and Kaitlynn attended the summer camps when they were growing up, but joined the ranks as camp counselors in 2007 and 2008.

"I'm very proud that they decided to continue with the camp after being participants," said Kovach. "Now as counselors they are able to share their experiences from when they were there."

In 2008 the Kovachs not only volunteered for the summer camps, but assisted in Operation Purple Legacy Camp. This camp was a week-long and held for the families of fallen servicemembers. During Operation Purple Legacy Camp, Kristie, Kaitlynn and Kurtis worked full-time with various age groups of children. Kovach worked this camp part-time in the fishing and boating programs.

"It means we're giving back to a life that has been very good to us," said Kovach. "I have always felt the need to give back to my military family that has been so good to us."

# 193rd chapel conducts Airmen reading habit study

By Lt. Col. Robert L. Humenay

Chaplain

One of the blessings of a prosperous nation is literacy. But modern Americans are not only readers but viewers and listeners. And so, time once spent solely reading is now subdivided.

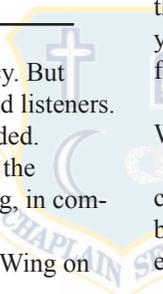
We at the Chapel, being Preachers and Purveyors of the WORD, are interested in the reading habits of the Wing, in comparison with viewing and listening.

In the months ahead we are proposing to survey the Wing on

these matters and share the results with you. How much time do you devote, on your own time, to these activities? And what in fact the members of the Wing are reading book-wise?

Next month we propose to give you a preview of the survey. We would welcome any input to make it a better instrument.

The following month we will e-mail you the survey. And after compiling the results we will share the results, including titles of books being read across the base. The results may prove of interest to us all.





# Sounding Off



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

## Retirement benefit seminar scheduled

A Guard and Reserve retirement benefit seminar will be held Saturday, Dec. 5, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Timmermann Center, Fort Dix, N.J. The seminar is free to all Guard, Reserve, spouses, and retirees. Civilian attire is authorized.

Presenters at the seminar will include the Military Service Centers, Veterans Affairs, and the Department of Labor. There will also be various military transition organizations in attendance that will cover topics from guard/reserve perspective such as: survivor benefit plan, Tricare/dental, veterans benefits, disability VA, and much more.

For more information or questions, contact Chief Currie at 757-444-7292, extension 2005 or e-mail everett.currie@navy.mil.

## Tribute to veterans scheduled

A tribute to Veterans is scheduled for Oct. 29 at Carnegie Music Hall, Pittsburgh. The tribute is western Pennsylvania's premiere event to honor those who serve our country. We want to fill Carnegie Music Hall with military personnel in uniform and their guests. There will be no charge to attend.

Please contact Halbert Mercer at 412-481-8200 extension 212 for further questions and to notify him that you're attending.

## Seminar offered for NCOs

NCO Supervisor Leadership Management Seminar:

When: Sept. 24-27 2009

Where: 201st RED HORSE squadron- Shambach Hall, Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa.

Visit the "Education/Retention Information" on the 193rd AF Portal page to register and learn more.

## Museum offers free admissions

Until Oct. 1 anyone showing military identification will get four free admission tickets to the Please Touch Museum. After Oct. 1 you will get two free admissions.

The address is for the Please Touch Museum is:

Memorial Hall, Fairmount Park

4231 Avenue of the Republic

Philadelphia, PA 19131

For more information please visit their website at, <http://www.pleasetouchmuseum.org>

## 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 Sundays 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



Oct. 2  
UTA PAYDAY

## What's on the Menu

### ~Constellation Cafe~

Hours of operation: 11:30-1:00

#### Saturday

##### Main Line:

Lemon Pepper Chicken

Buffalo Chicken

Brown Rice

Corn

Salad bar, soup du jour and desserts

*Call ahead for take out. Reserve tables. Go for seconds.*

*Make special requests (specific diets, allergies, etc.)*

\* Kettle Cuisine will be in the dining facility during lunch providing samples of soups for members to test. We are looking for ideas for the upcoming winter season. \*

**Clancy's will be open.**

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!

# Engineers answer our nation's call (continued from Page 1)



Airmen of the 201st RHS proceed through the receiving line as veterans and members of the Family Support Group send them off.

This is Meiser's third deployment with the 201st RHS. Jodi Ellis, wife of Staff Sgt. Mark Ellis, said she's doing the best she can in facing her husband's first deployment.

"This is his first time overseas, so we are doing the best we can," said Mrs. Ellis. "It's hard."

The Jodi and Ellis have a seven-month-old daughter, Amber, and a two-year-old son, Joshua.

The mission of this mobile civil engineering response force will be to build and repair military infrastructures that support missions theater wide.

"We are going to do whatever we can do to help support the efforts for ongoing operations in Iraq and Afghanistan," said Maj. Eric Mannion, operations officer for the first expeditionary RED HORSE group.

The Airmen of the 201st RHS will report to Fort McCoy, Wis., for a month of training before heading to Southwest Asia for their six-month deployment.

## Pre-activation benefit offered through TRICARE

By Tech. Sgt. Natalie A. White

Installation Personnel Readiness

National Guard and Reserve members who are issued activation orders or more than 30 days in support of a contingency operation may qualify for "early eligibility for TRICARE" beginning on the later of the date their orders were issued or 90 days before the order start date.

National Guard and Reserve members who qualify for the pre-activation benefit are covered as "active duty service members" and receive active duty medical and dental benefits. Additionally, when National Guard or Reserve members qualify for pre-activation benefits, family members who are registered in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System are also covered under this benefit. Family members become covered by TRICARE as "active duty family members" during the pre-activation period and while the sponsor is activated.

### Keep DEERS updated!

Your information must be kept up to date in DEERS.

### Enrolled in TRICARE Reserve Select?

TRICARE Reserve Select coverage ends when the sponsor is activated. This includes the pre-activation period.

### Enrolled in United Concordia?

**Pre-Activation/Activation:**  
If you are enrolled in the TRICARE Dental Program when the pre-activation period begins, your enrollment is automatically suspended. Your monthly premium charges also stop for the duration of your active duty service.

Your family's enrollment in the TRICARE Dental Program will continue when you are activated. However, they will enjoy reduced monthly premiums because they are considered "active duty family members" during that time.

**Deactivated:**  
If you were enrolled in the TRICARE Dental Program before you were acti-

vated, your TRICARE Dental Program coverage will automatically resume when you are deactivated. You will begin paying monthly premiums again. If you weren't enrolled in the TRICARE Dental Program, you can do so at anytime.

Your family's enrollment in the TRICARE Dental Program will continue uninterrupted, however, their premiums will return to the pre-activation rates.

### If your active duty orders are cancelled before you report for duty ...

Your eligibility for pre-activation benefits and your family's eligibility for pre-activation benefits end on the date your orders are cancelled.



Please call the 193rd Installation Personnel Readiness Office if you have any questions at extensions 2412 or 2290.



# Airmen must maintain individual medical readiness

By Chief Master Sgt. Kenney L. Souders  
Medical Group



I have been in the military for over twenty years now and have never seen a time when medical and dental readiness has been so important.

I remember being asked to fill out one of those old "AF Form 896s", now AF Form 507s, Health History Forms for the Medical Squadron and being told by my supervisor not to mark anything but "yes" on the form or you'll have to see the military doctor. I look back now and think "how stupid was that?" Especially now that I am in the Medical Group and asking others to complete this annual form accurately and honestly. This form lets the

Wing know that you are medically ready to deploy at a moments notice. If there is something truly medically wrong with you and you cannot perform your military duties, then it degrades the mission when you are sent home from the deployed location. In addition, deploying with a health problem puts you at risk.

Medical requirements are only half of what is expected per AFI 10-250 individual medical readiness, each year. During Desert Storm there was a huge problem with service members arriving in country with bad dental issues. There weren't enough dentists deployed during this time to handle all of the dental problems. Because of this, the Air National Guard introduced the AF Form 3215, which is required to be filled out by your personal dentist each year. This form lets the Wing know if you are dentally ready to deploy. We found out on a recent trip to meet with the Air National Guard surgeon general that only half of the population in the United States actually sees a dentist on a yearly basis. To assist with the dilemma of meeting dental requirements with a lack of personal resource, the Air National Guard provides a free dental exam each year. However, by law, the NGB/SG cannot pay for treatment of your dental issues. Therefore, the 193rd Medical Group encourages you to enroll in the Tricare Dental Plan for you and your immediate family members. Please visit the Medical Group if you would like information on the free dental

exam or a pamphlet regarding the Tricare Dental Plan.

The good news is that the Wing has done an outstanding job achieving Individual Medical Readiness compliance rates with over 75 percent of its members fully medically/dentally ready. We have been able to sustain these rates during an increase in the Wing's operations tempo.

I believe we can attribute this to strong command emphasis, competent medical support from our Medical Group, but most importantly a growing trend towards individual responsibility.

The "I" in Individual Medical Readiness stands for individual. There is no substitute for personal responsibility. Col. David Gann, 193rd Medical Group commander, has used the annual vehicle inspection as an example in many briefings. There is sticker on your vehicle that tells you when your car is due for its annual inspection. It is your responsibility to make sure that your car gets inspected within the 12 month period. Just like your medical/dental requirements, we all have to be seen in the Medical Group at least once in a 12 month period.

Kudos to those who keep up with their medical/dental readiness requirements. A special thanks to commanders, chiefs, first sergeants, unit deployment managers, medical point of contacts and supervisors who keep a close eye on their unit's medical/dental statistics. As always, we appreciate and depend upon your support.

## Series kick-off: Getting to know 193rd Association

By Senior Airman Kathleen Garrity  
193rd Association Recording Secretary

The 193rd Special Operations Wing Association will be contributing monthly to Scope to kick off the series of articles we would like to invite you to "Get to know the Association!"

- The Association's mission statement is "Dedicated to supporting and building the Air National Guard family through information, fellowship and support services to the 193rd Special Operations Wing members, retirees and their families."

- The Association began in October 2003 when the first organizational meeting was held.

- Since then the Association has received federal non-profit status, completed the base heritage museum, and has been accepted as a United Way agency.

- The Association currently has about 320 members.

- Newsletters are distributed to members three times a year.
  - The Association has sent several thousand pounds of care packages to troops in theater.
  - The Association provides financial aid through the assistance fund to members in need.
  - Funds are provided by the Association for events such as the enlisted banquet, dining outs, family day and holiday parties.
- Did you know the Association meets the first Thursday of every month at 5 p.m. in the Wing conference room? Everyone is welcome to attend.



Check out the Association on the  
web at: [www.193sow.org](http://www.193sow.org)