

THE

Pittsburgh International Airport Air Reserve Station, Pittsburgh Pa.



# FLYOVER

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# The Flyover



## On the Cover

### Transition to social media changes face of communication at 911th

Unit members now have a new forum in which to communicate, making information more convenient and timely. See pages 8 and 9 for details.

(Cover art by 1st Lt. Shawn M. Walleck)



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Col. Jeffrey T. Pennington

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## Inside This Edition



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Month	A	B
December	4 & 5	18 & 19
January	8 & 9	22 & 23
February	5 & 6	19 & 20



# Commander's Comment

Commentary by

Colonel Jeffrey T. Pennington



## Family first, community ties paramount to unit success

The 911th Airlift Wing is a powerful force provider contributing to global contingency operations through our continual state of training, readiness and deployments. Our leadership successfully created an organization of more than 1,200 great Americans willing to sacrifice and serve for the great cause of our nation's defense and preservation of our way of life. A life that I have recently learned extends beyond our own families, duty, honor and country; and includes Steelers football, Pirates baseball and Penguins hockey!

Each and every one of you is significant. Your contributions matter, you count! I am committed to helping you keep your family first while balancing your civic roles and participation in the Reserve. Whether serving as a military or civilian member of the team, the relationships with family, community or fellow Airmen are paramount to our success.

Let's all cherish our loved ones taking time for them daily making a difference in their lives. We each should build value-adding relationships with our employers and communities. Additionally, while giving time with the 911th Airlift Wing away from family, I ask that we each give our very best. I have a high level of expectation for our performance and contributions to this team. Our nation's preservation depends on each of those contributions which incrementally add to the great cause of which we are all a part.

There are methods by which our successes and areas of improvement are measured from inspections to metrics showing compliance rates and to deploying our talented Airmen to locations around the globe on time without discrepancies. We accomplish this through the commitment we have to one another and I ask you to examine your role and contribution to each of them and each other.

We have recently returned from various deployments and are focusing on our upcoming compliance inspections scheduled for April 2011. Expect in-depth analysis of our programs, processes and procedures to ensure that we each are doing all we can to safely execute our mission. Each of you will be called to contribute, creating a pride in ownership that exudes the excellence that you have already demonstrated

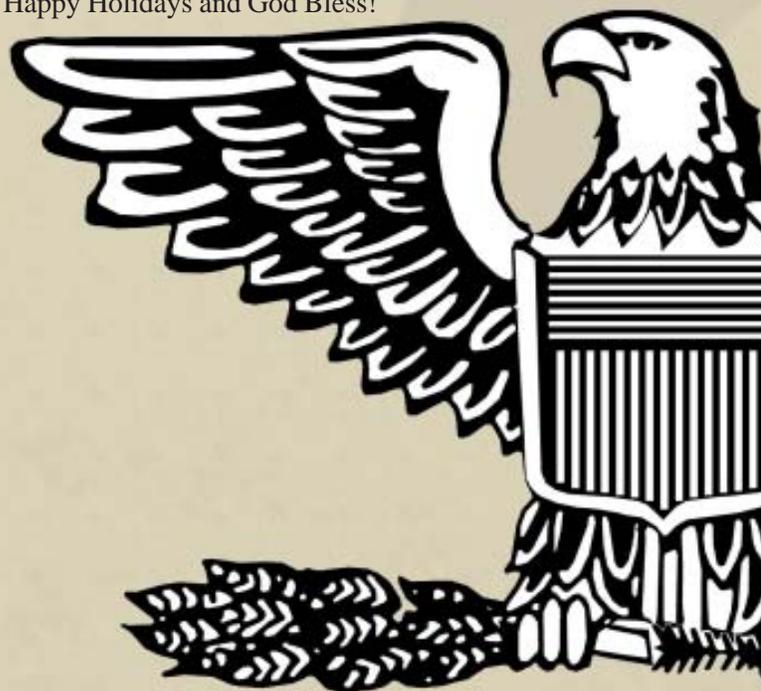
to me in my short time here.

Your leadership is committed to making the Reserve experience rewarding. I am committed to ensuring you are trained, equipped and prepared to meet the demands of winning today's fight. Additionally, as Airmen serving in today's military, I remind you that we are held to a higher standard. We receive tremendous public support for our service and that trust is built on a foundation of professionalism and excellence which must never waver or falter.

Remember, there is zero tolerance for sexual harassment, drug usage or discriminatory actions. We are part of a team of 'Airmen that act' when we see a teammate facing challenging tasks or personal adversity. Through our safety and awareness programs, we are equipped to recognize and intervene when needed in order to prevent needless injury or worse, the loss of a wingman. Be confident that our efforts make a difference!

My family and I cherish the opportunity to build long lasting relationships with you as we journey together serving our nation.

Happy Holidays and God Bless!



# New commander at helm for 911th Airlift Wing

by Senior Airman Jonathan Hehnlly  
Public Affairs

The reins of control of the 911th Airlift Wing changed hands Oct. 3 as Col. Jeffrey T. Pennington assumed command.

The ceremony was officiated by Maj. Gen. James T. Rubeor, 22nd Air Force commander. As the honor guard opened the event, Colonel Pennington's father, Brian, played the National Anthem on the trumpet.

Colonel Pennington was accompanied to Pittsburgh by his wife, Lisa, and his two daughters: Keenan, 8, and Pierce, 10.

"I'm excited about our journey here," said Col. Pennington. "Let's create memories and work together as a team with our families, civic leaders and the reserve component."

Colonel Pennington was commissioned into the United States Air Force Aug. 12, 1988. He completed undergraduate pilot training at Williams Air Force Base, Ariz., in 1989, and was initially assigned to the 344th Air Refueling Squadron at Seymour-Johnson Air Force Base, N.C.

Colonel Pennington remained at Seymour Johnson until 1994

when he was re-stationed to Travis Air Force Base, Calif. The colonel stayed at Travis Air Force Base until his most recent assignment began in 2007 as the commander of the 452nd Operations Group, Air Force Reserve Command, located at March Air Reserve Base, Calif. While there he also served as an operations officer, instructor aircraft commander and standardizations and evaluation aircraft commander.

The colonel had deployed on multiple occasions supporting Operations Desert Shield Desert Storm, Proud Return, Provide Comfort, Restore Hope and Desert Strike.

As the new installation commander, he is the senior officer responsible for the wing organization, which consists of nearly 1,350 personnel.

Colonel Pennington succeeded Col. Gordon H. Elwell Jr.

"Thank you 911th, it has been an absolute wonderful tour," said Colonel Elwell. "It is very easy to be a commander when you have a wing full of great followers and great leaders."

Colonel Elwell had been the 911th Airlift Wing

commander since July 11, 2007. The colonel and his wife, Jane, have moved to Georgia where he is chief of the Force Generation Center, Operations Division, at Robins Air Force Base.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Melissa Knox

Maj. Gen. James T. Rubeor, 22nd Air Force Commander, passes the 911th Airlift Wing guidon to new base commander Col. Jeffrey T. Pennington.

## AFRC Commander sends holiday greetings

by Lt. Gen. Charles E. Stenner Jr.  
Commander of Air Force Reserve Command

As we celebrate this holiday season and prepare for the challenges of 2011, I want to thank you for serving our nation as Citizen Airmen.

You have stepped up to meet every tasking given to you. You airlifted much needed aid to disaster victims, deployed to Afghanistan, helped usher in a new era in Iraq or supported other contingency operations overseas. Some of you didn't leave home this year but your service made it possible for us to support our nation's Total Force missions throughout the world.

Thank you for all you do. We know and appreciate the sacrifices your families and employers make to allow you to serve. Much has been asked of you and much will be asked of you in the future as we move forward as a fully operational command.

Dee and I wish all of you the happiest of holidays. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your families as we welcome a joyous New Year.

# Local employer's spend day at base, see what Reservist's do at their other job

by Tech. Sgt. Scott Pryor  
Public Affairs

Employer's Day 2010 brought more than 20 visitors to the Pittsburgh International Airport Air Reserve Station Oct. 2.

The event is designed to educate employers on their Air Force Reservist's role in the base's mission.

"Never in my wildest dreams would I have imagined the facilities and the amount of people involved," said Mike Tarquino from Nicholas Management. "I was totally impressed."

"I had a blast," said Mr. Tarquino. "I wish I could make a weekend out of this. If I could turn the clock back I would have joined up, but I missed the boat."

The visitors' day began with a continental breakfast and a briefing from senior base leadership including Col. Jeffrey T. Pennington, Col. Daryl J. Hartman and Col. Bryan J. Bly. Mr. Del Spafford, from Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, also spoke to employers about the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act.

For some visitors this was their first experience on a military base, while others have taken part in events such as this on numerous occasions. Mr. John Turek Jr., vice president of sales

for United Industrial Group, said this isn't his "first rodeo." He's toured the base six or seven times and enjoys watching it grow.

Visitors saw various displays including: a C-130 Hercules engine and propeller, two Humvees, life support equipment, various weapons of Security Forces, a chemical gear display, Honor Guard, Family Services a pallet build-up demonstration by the 32nd

*"Never in my wildest dreams would I have imagined the facilities and the amount of people involved."*



Photo by Joshua J. Seybert

Master Sgt. Brian Allison, 911th Airlift Wing Honor Guard manager, speaks to local employer's about the important role the Honor Guard and Color Guard play in the military's overall mission, Oct. 2, during Employer's Day 2010. Employer's had the opportunity to view displays, talk with Reservists, observe demonstrations, receive several briefings and fly in a C-130 Hercules cargo aircraft.

Aerial Port Squadron and a demonstration by the 911th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron.

"I was especially intrigued by how they conduct the evacuation of litters and ambulatory care," said Mrs. Celine Nista

with a large smile on her face. "It was very intense!" Mrs. Nista is the Western Region coordinator and rider-coach trainer for the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation's Motorcycle Safety Program. She will

be back on base in the spring to train prospective military personnel to teach the MSP.

After viewing a static display of a C-130 Hercules, all the employers were presented with a framed certificate from ESGR. The certificate was a statement of support for USERRA, which is a federal law that establishes the rights and

responsibilities for members of the Reserves and their civilian employers. According to [www.military.com/benefits/legal-matters/userra/faq](http://www.military.com/benefits/legal-matters/userra/faq), USERRA prohibits employers from denying any benefit of employment on the basis of an individual's membership, performance of service, or obligation for service in the uniformed services.

In the afternoon, the visitors received a safety briefing prior to a C-130 flight. The flight flew to Seven Springs, Pa., and then circled over downtown Pittsburgh before returning to the base.

Mr. Bob Grafton, of Philips Respironics, particularly enjoyed being allowed into the cockpit. He described being able to look out the windows and receiving a "guided tour" via headphones while an AES member explained what they do.

The flight was the last scheduled part of Employer's Day 2010. Some participants departed, some visited their reservist's work stations and others stayed to see an awards ceremony for the recently deployed Airman.

# Squadrons merge to maximize customer support, modernize processes, cut costs

by Tech. Sgt. Scott Pryor  
Public Affairs

The 911th Force Support Squadron was officially activated at a ceremony during the November Unit Training Assembly.

The new squadron, commanded by Lt. Col. Lowell Bingham, represents the consolidation of the 911th Mission Support Flight, 911th Services Squadron and the Civilian Personnel Office. The merger took effect Oct. 15.

The purpose behind combining these support entities is to maximize customer service, modernize processes and cut costs associated with maintaining separate organizations, said Colonel Bingham.

“I am excited and humbled to be given the opportunity to lead this amazing team of military and civilian members,” the colonel said. “This is a day of firsts and new beginnings, and with that comes

challenges that I am confident we will get through together. While the impact to our customers will be relatively transparent, most of what you have come to expect from the former Services and Mission Support Squadron will remain the same.”

The activation is part of 12-month implementation phase that will allow time to address any problems that arise.

Lt. Col. Patrick Ryan, 911th Mission Support Group commander, said, “The separate units, now one, will have to share their vast experiences, pool their resources and accept new tests together instead of as separate entities. They must plan and analyze their now common course to determine where change will occur and what traditions will necessarily endure.”

The new squadron is part of an Air Force-wide program. The transition began in 2008 with the active duty Air Force. Five Air Force Reserve Command bases have completed their one year test phase. The remaining AFRC wings are scheduled to begin their transition.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Scott Pryor

**911th Mission Support Group Commander, Lt. Col. Patrick S. Ryan (left) hands the 911th Force Support Squadron guidon to Lt. Col. Lowell Bingham to signify the standup of the new squadron.**

## Travel pay processing receives transformation

by Chief Master Sgt. Brian L. Zator  
Financial Management

What is the Air Force Financial Services Center?

It is the centralized travel pay processing center for the Air Force. During the past three years certain major commands have migrated their travel pay processing to this site. Word has come down the chain that the Air Force Reserve Command bases are set to transform the way travel pay processing will be done.

In March 2011, the switch will be flipped and your travel vouchers will be scanned and the file sent to the AFFSC at Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D. for computing and processing.

On Oct. 8, 2010, an email was set to all base personnel informing them on this transformation. The email also included the latest version of the Reserve temporary duty Checklist.

This checklist will be required to be attached to every travel voucher starting in November. By starting this process four months early; our intent is to be ahead of the learning curve when we do convert to the AFFSC. Having the next four months get you, the traveler, ready for this transformation and will save what will be countless delays of lost voucher processing time at Ellsworth AFB.

Following the seventeen question checklist should ensure the voucher will be accurate and ready for processing at the AFFSC. This checklist should not be ‘pencil whipped’ just to get it down to Finance. The Financial Services section of Finance will then be required to complete the bottom thirteen questions of the checklist before scanning and sending the file to Ellsworth AFB.

Reviewing and assuring each question is answered properly should allow the voucher to be processed and paid within the 10-day standard. Failure to follow the checklist and attach all orders and receipts can only further delay the process and payment.

This change in procedures will greatly impact our travelers, their travel pay date and payment to the government travel card if the Reserve TDY Checklist is not utilized properly.

It is stated on the checklist that “It is your responsibility to retain a copy of the travel voucher, orders, and receipts. The Finance Office will destroy submitted copies after 90 days.” Our travel section will have only view capability once the transformation begins. This affects all members when requesting items for their DD Form 214’s.

So in order to prepare this installation for this monumental change, we are mandating the use of the Reserve TDY Checklist beginning Nov. 8. Our intent is to make this a seamless transition come March 2011.

# Air Force Fitness Program guidelines at a glimpse

by Staff Sgt. Roberto Modelo  
Public Affairs

Since the new Air Force Fitness Program guidelines came out in early 2010, physical training leaders at the 911th Airlift Wing, and Airmen alike here, have been making a concerted effort to meet those new guidelines. However, there is still some confusion on how the program is administered, when it started and what are some of the details involved?

As part of the new Fitness Program, independent contractor Fitness Assessment Cells were established. These cells ensure that Airmen adhere to the new Fitness Program guidelines. However, the Air Force Reserve Command component does not have civilians who can administer it, so they rely on the PTLs to complete the function. To keep in line with the integrity of the Fitness Program, PTLs do not oversee members of their own unit.

“They are kind of like a referee,” said Lt. Col. Patrick Ryan, 911th Mission Support Group commander and PTL. “They are there to ensure that rules of the test are being followed.”

An Air Force memorandum was issued in January 2010 that outlined the frequency of the Fitness Program. Specifically, it outlined the change of the Fitness Program test frequency from one year to six months. However, the standardized rules for the program did not take effect until July 2010.

“This was an area where Airmen became confused,” said Colonel Ryan.

“If someone tested on December 31, 2009, they would not have to take their PT test again until December 31, 2010,... but if they tested January 1, 2010, they would have to test again on June 1, 2010,” said Colonel Ryan.

The standardized rules of the program are those having to deal with the pushups, sit-ups, run and waist measurement. Those rules are different than those in place prior to July 2010 and have confused many Airmen. Most of the differences have to do with the waist measurement, pushups and sit-ups.

The waist measurements are taken from the top of an Airman’s right-side hip bone, on bare skin, under normal respiration a total of three times.

With pushups, Airmen must keep their hands shoulder-width apart, coming down to a 90 degree angle with their arms. To complete the pushup, Airmen must extend their arms so that their back is flat.

For sit-ups, Airmen must start with their shoulder blades touching the ground behind them and their arms crossed. The Airmen would complete one sit-up by coming up and having their elbows touch their thigh or knee and returning to the start position.

Each of the program’s components is grouped into categories consisting of Cardiorespiratory Endurance, Body Composition and

Muscle Fitness. Category requirements are further grouped into age brackets. Airmen must pass each category, within their age bracket, in order to pass the Air Force Fitness Program test.

“It is possible to fail one single portion of the test and get an excellent score,” said Colonel Ryan. “However, it would still mean they fail the test in its entirety.”

It is important that Airmen understand the facts of the program in order to do well on their test.

Airmen are encouraged to present any questions to the designated PTLs. Airmen can visit the Air Force Fitness and Air Force Fit-to-Fight web pages to get general information on requirements. Links to these webpages are located on the Air Force Portal at [www.my.af.mil](http://www.my.af.mil)



Photo by Senior Airman Joshua J. Seybert

Members of the 911th Airlift Wing perform the 1.5 mile run segment of the new Air Force Fitness Program which began in early 2010. Under the new guidelines members will take the test every six months.



# The new face of The Flyover for 2011

By 1st Lt. Shawn M. Walleck  
Public Affairs

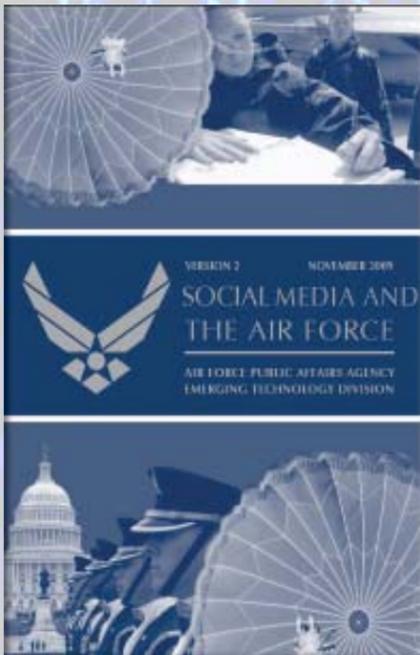
Since the base's inception in the 1940s, the 911th has used a newsletter, which then morphed into *'The Flyover'* magazine. With the explosion of computer technology, how we communicate and receive information has changed dramatically. Where we once waited for the morning paper or a monthly magazine to arrive in the mail, we can now get the most up-to-date information by simply browsing the web at a cyber café while sipping our morning mocha, or from a smart phone while riding along in the commuter carpool.

Because of this cultural shift in how people access information, in December the 911th Airlift Wing Public Affairs Office will transition how the wing communicates with Reservists and their families between Unit Training Assemblies, from the monthly mailed *'Flyover'* magazine to a newly created *'facebook'* page.

"By using this new communication tool, it will significantly improve the speed and frequency at which we disseminate information," said Lt. Shawn M. Walleck, 911th Public Affairs Officer. "The formal process of magazine production usually takes three weeks, from production to your mailbox. Now we have the capability to deliver information within minutes," the Lieutenant added.

Here's how it works: Unit members and their families must set-up a personal *facebook* account. The initial set-up process to get an account takes between five to ten minutes. From here,

users must type *'Pittsburgh Iap Ars'* into the *'FIND'* box to locate the wing's page. A note of caution: there are other sites on *facebook* that have similar names and these are unofficial sites. The only official site for the 911th is *'Pittsburgh Iap Ars'* so be sure to type the name exactly as it appears here. Once the page is located, users must send a *'friend request.'* A verification message will come to your individual page asking a couple of specific questions. Please reply to this message and from there the PA office will cross reference the *'Alpha'* Roster along with an active global e-mail account to grant access. In the case of family members, the unit member must validate on your behalf.



Download the Air Force's Social Media guide at: <http://www.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-091210-043.pdf>

"The page is structured this way for one reason only...SECURITY," said Lt. Walleck. "As members of the military we understand that Operational Security and privacy remain paramount to mission success,"

"The site was built in a unique way in order to address and manage these concerns up front."

In an effort to help users better understand how to control their privacy on *facebook*, the Public Affairs office will conduct one-hour training seminars beginning with the December UTA and offer training for full-time personnel during the week as well. Even those savvy *facebook* users should still consider attending the training as the privacy and security settings on a

personal account are continually changing and being updated. The training will also go over some *facebook* etiquette and address the Department of Defense's policy on social media usage.

"Change is inevitable, and for most leveraging *facebook* is part of everyday life," said Col. Jeffrey T. Pennington, 911th Airlift Wing commander. "There will be a bit of a transition for all of us, especially for those who are still catching up to the social media scene, but know that by participating in an interactive forum like *facebook* will create a stronger sense of community within our Reserve family, which is our goal."

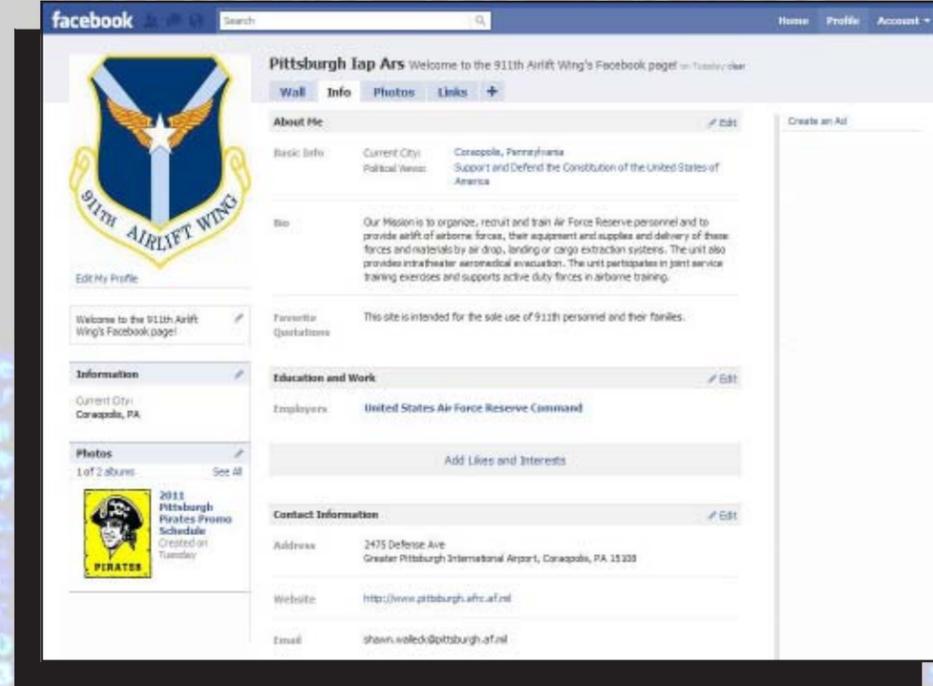
In addition to providing a forum for unit members to communicate with one another between UTAs, the page will also be a resource for unit news and community information.

"With winter upon us, the unit decided to leverage this new capability as part of our inclement weather base closure and delay plan," said Lt. Col. Pat Ryan, 911th Mission Support Group commander.

### Training Dates

ASTS Computer Training Rm. 134 (9 seats per class)

Dec 4th: 12-1 p.m. & 1-2 p.m.	Dec 5th: 9-10 a.m. & 10-11a.m.
Dec 7th: 10-11 a.m. & 1-2 p.m.	Dec 9th: 10-11 a.m. & 1-2 p.m.



## Visit us on facebook @ Pittsburgh Iap Ars

Our main source is the base's hot line; however, our *facebook* users will have the convenience of accessing the same information just by checking out our *facebook* page.

"Timeliness, convenience and community are the Wing's goals of keeping unit members informed in today's fast-paced information age," said Lt. Walleck. *Facebook* provides today's most popular social media platform to meet the Wing's communication needs. Give it a go and we hope to see those friend requests piling up," concluded Lieutenant Walleck.

## How do you feel about The Flyover switching from a magazine to Facebook?



"I don't necessarily feel it is a good thing, because not everyone has or knows how to use it."  
Kayla Hartley, 911th Airlift Wing Financial Management Office



"It will make getting information to the base populace a lot quicker."  
Lt. Col. John Ricci, Staff Judge Advocate, 911th Airlift Wing



"I don't like it because I feel the mailed copy is more personal, versus being published to an electronic medium."  
Brian Zator, 911th Airlift Wing Financial Management Office



"It will be a good thing. It gives easier access because everything has gone digital."  
Staff Sgt. Ryan Young, Personnel Employment, 911th Force Support Squadron

# Meeting energy reduction goals by...

## Reducing energy consumption one kilowatt at a time

by David Geeza  
911th Mission Support Group

The Air Force is the largest consumer of energy in the Federal Government. Every year it spends about \$1 billion just for the energy it takes to run its facilities. If the Air Force met its annual goal of saving three percent of that energy, \$30 million would be saved!

It is up to every one of us to change our culture and reduce consumption to support the Department of Defense and Presidential directives to increase our energy independence.

The Energy Awareness Month theme is: "Powering America, We're on target."

The Federal government is leading by example and pointing the way toward the target of energy security and renewed

economic prosperity.

Here are five things we can all do now to help secure a clean energy future at work and at home:

1. Choose only Energy Star appliances and office equipment.
2. Make the switch to compact fluorescent lights from incandescent.
3. Set back thermostats - This alone can save up to 25 percent of our heating and cooling costs.
4. Turn off lights, computer monitors, printers when not in use.
5. Slay the Energy Vampire (flip the switch on the power strips and unplug unused wall chargers).

Every little action we take will add up to big results. Take action this year to help us stay on target of our energy reduction goals.

## Keep an Eagle Eye out for these suspicious behaviors

submitted by Mickel Howell  
Office of Special Investigations



The Eagle Eyes program is an anti-terrorism initiative that enlists the eyes and ears of Air Force members and citizens in the war on terror.

It starts with teaching people about the typical activities terrorists engage in to plan their attacks:

- Surveillance**- Someone recording or monitoring activities.
- Elicitation**- People or organizations attempting to gain information about military operations, capabilities, or people.
- Tests of security**- Any attempts to measure reaction times to security

breaches or to penetrate physical security barriers or procedures in order to assess strengths and weaknesses.

·**Acquiring supplies**- Purchasing or stealing explosives, weapons, ammunition, detonators, timers, etc.

·**Suspicious persons out of place**- People who don't seem to belong in the workplace, neighborhood, business

establishment, or anywhere else.

·**Dry run**- Putting people into position and moving them around according to their plan without actually committing the terrorist act.

·**Deploying assets**- People and supplies getting into position to commit the act.

Armed with this information, anyone can recognize elements of potential terror planning when they see it.

You and your family are encouraged to learn these categories of suspicious behavior and stay attuned to your surroundings. If you observe something suspicious, report your observations using our 24-hour phone number: (412) 474-8250. Or contact OSI at (412) 474-8824.

## Fetal Health Program helps member, fetus



by Capt. Tracy Noling  
Aeromedical Staging Squadron

Are you pregnant or planning to become pregnant? The Fetal Health Program exists to ensure that both the member and the fetus are cared for appropriately and that precautions are taken to minimize any risk factors that may negatively impact a pregnancy.

In order to accomplish this, it is necessary for members to report all known pregnancies at the earliest possible time. This is done by notifying your immediate supervisor and coming

in to the clinic to meet with the Fetal Health Monitor.

The current points of contact for this are Capt. Tracy Noling and Staff Sgt. Timothy Woody. They will enter you into the program and have you seen by a provider who will place you on a profile for the duration of your pregnancy.

The 911th Aeromedical Staging Squadron wants to provide you with the best possible care, so remember to report all pregnancies as early as possible.

# 32nd APS places second in Port Dawg Challenge

by Tech. Sgt. Scott Pryor  
Public Affairs

The Steel City Port Dawgs of the 32nd Aerial Port Squadron overcame last-minute team changes and still performed well enough to place second overall at the first Air Force Reserve Command Port Dawg Challenge, held Oct. 25-29 at Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Ga.

The Port Dawg Challenge takes elements from the Air Mobility Command's Rodeo and tailors it to a competition for Reservists. The competition featured 22 aerial port squadrons from 22nd, 10th and 4th Air Forces. Each team had six members competing in 11 events, and overall there were 200-300 people involved in the challenge.

"Facing adversity and then coming out the way the team did was awesome," said Master Sgt. Owen Meier, 32nd APS flight chief of cargo processing and team mentor for the challenge. "We had to change two team members just two weeks before the competition. They responded just absolutely amazing."

The Steel City Port Dawgs placed first in the Engine Running On/Offload competition, and placed in the top three in the Joint Inspection and Passenger Service Intransit Visibility events.

Other events included Cargo Intransit Visibility, Load Planning and Palletizing



Photo by Staff Sgt. Michael Boehm

**Tech. Sgt. Richard Mosser, left, and Tech. Sgt. Christopher Scott take part in the Palletizing Cargo event during the Port Dawg Challenge. This was one of 11 events the Steel City Port Dawgs competed in. The 32nd Aerial Port Squadron placed second overall at the Port Dawg competition.**

Cargo, Halverson Driving, Cargo Restraint, 10K Driving, Fit to Fight, and Air Force Instruction 10-100 and AFI 24-101 Trivia.

"We are going to incorporate what we learned at the challenge into our monthly training and upgrade training," said Sergeant Meier.

As team mentor, Sergeant Meier scheduled team training, helped build team esprit de corps and supervised team

training.

Team members included: Tech. Sgt. Christopher Scott, team chief; Tech. Sgt. Richard Mosser, joint inspector; Tech. Sgt. Christopher Hooten, team member; Staff Sgt. Matthew Smith, team member; Staff Sgt. Geoffrey Monsour, team member; and Staff Sgt. Michael Boehm, alternate.

Lt. Col. James Klein, 32nd APS commander, said, "Once again, the Steel City Port Dawgs demonstrated their professional competence in a tough environment and achieved success. Whether in a deployed location, and now a major competition, the men and women of 32nd APS will get the mission done correctly and safely."

The role of 32nd APS is to maintain airlift in an area of operation. They are responsible for the acceptance of cargo and passengers, the onload and offload of passengers, proper documentation of hazardous materials and the safe operation of material handling equipment.

The next AFRC Port Dawg Challenge will be held in 2012 at March Air Force Base, Calif.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Michael Boehm

**Steel City Port Dawg's, Staff Sgt. Geoffrey Monsour, Tech. Sgt. Richard Mosser, Tech. Sgt. Christopher Scott, Staff Sgt. Matthew Smith and Tech. Sgt. Christopher Hooten place second overall in the Air Force Reserve Command Port Dawg Challenge, held Oct. 25-29 at Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Ga. All are members of the 32nd Aerial Port Squadron.**

# When old man winter finally arrives

## *Inclement weather procedures for delays, closures*

by Tech. Sgt. Scott Pryor  
Public Affairs

February 2010 brought Pittsburgh 48.7 inches of snow, breaking the “most snow in a month” record of 42.2 inches set in 1978. The month also included Pittsburgh’s fourth largest snow storm, which happened to be during the Unit Training Assembly weekend.

Many Airmen put their safety at risk that February UTA attempting to travel to the 911th Airlift Wing after encountering incorrect messages that the base was open and operational during a snow storm that left some areas with up to 21.1 inches of snow. Since that time, the procedures for inclement weather have been reviewed to correct any problems with the communication of closure and delay notices.

“No one fully anticipated the record snow fall seen here in Pittsburgh last February. As a result of that some of the standard means of communicating broke down. We’ve identified those problem areas and we’ve developed a plan to resolve those issues moving forward,” said Lt. Col. Patrick Ryan, 911th Mission Support Group commander.

Safety is always a concern during the winter months, but is especially important when traveling in hazardous conditions.

“When we are faced with potentially dangerous weather, it is the responsibility of each of us to evaluate our own personal safety and use common sense and good



Photo by Staff Sgt. Robert Modelo

The Pittsburgh area receives a record snowfall of 48.7 inches during February 2010. It was the most snow recorded in a month since 1978. More than 21 inches of snow fell on the February unit training assembly weekend. Many reservists were misinformed or did not know the proper inclement weather procedures for delays and closures. To obtain information call the Inclement Weather Hotline at 412-474-8732.

judgment when traveling to work. Safety of our Airmen is and always has been our number one priority.” “I ultimately make the call to delay work or shut down the base and I’m committed to giving our Reservists as much advanced notice as possible,” said Col. Jeffrey Pennington, 911th Airlift Wing commander.

When calling the base for delay or closure updates, DO NOT call other working base numbers to obtain information. Call the Inclement Weather Hotline at 412-474-8732. It is recommended that personnel program this

number into a speed dial option in both home and cell phones.

Telephone communication is the primary means of getting up-to-date information on delays and closures. Due to the high volumes of calls placed during inclement weather, there may be telecommunication saturation and lines will often return busy signals; so call early!

As a secondary way of getting updates to 911th Airlift Wing personnel, local media outlets will also be contacted with updates on delays or closures:

KDKA

KDKA Storm Center: 412-575-2551

Website: <http://kdka.com/closings>

WPXI

School Closing Hotline:

412-237-1313

Website:

[http://www.wpxi.com/](http://www.wpxi.com/11schoolclosings)

[11schoolclosings](http://www.wpxi.com/11schoolclosings)

WTAE

Website: [http://](http://www.thepittsburghchannel.com)

[www.thepittsburghchannel.com](http://www.thepittsburghchannel.com)

## Inclement Weather Hotline

412-474-8732

or join the wing Facebook page at  
Pittsburgh Iap Ars  
to view updates

# A matter of choice, decision, consequence

## Remain drug-free or pay the penalty

by Senior Airman Jonathan Hehnlly  
Public Affairs

The 911th Airlift Wing upholds the Air Force's zero tolerance policy on drugs with random drug testing of all military members and civilian employees in designated testing positions.

A defense.gov article explains why the Department of Defense implemented a zero tolerance policy on drugs. The primary purpose of the policy is to reduce demand for and the use of illegal drugs within the department. There has been an increase of testing across all the services — active, National Guard and Reserve.

"It's very important, because all of our men and women in uniform and civilian members of DoD are involved in this war effort, said Andre Hollis, deputy assistant secretary of defense for counternarcotics in the article. "It's critical that we all give 100 percent and that we're drug-free and able to help the secretary and the president in this war on terror."

Hollis said the policy also calls for minimum, across-the-board consequences for anyone in DoD — military or civilian — caught using drugs. Previously rules had varied across the services regarding drug use. For example, he explained, in the past service members of different branches found using drugs under the same circumstances might have received different punishments. DoD has improved the sense of fairness, but also the clarity of the message: Drug use is incompatible with military service or DoD civilian employment.

"The 911th will not tolerate drug use. Random testing ensures our Airmen are making the right choices for the health and safety of both themselves and fellow wingmen," said Col. Jeffrey T. Pennington, 911th Airlift Wing base commander. "Those who choose to ignore this policy and make bad decisions will then face all the negative consequences that result from their actions," said the commander.

According to the base legal office, those consequences can vary.

"Members identified for illegal drug abuse could be subject to dishonorable discharges, dismissals, prison time, fines and criminal records," said Lt. Col. John Ricci, 911th Deputy Staff Judge Advocate.

The Department of Defense has taken a proactive stance against drug usage by increasing the random testing of military and civilian employees.

"In fiscal year 2010, the 911th randomly tested 325 military

members and 67 civilian employees," said Master Sgt. Diane Douty, 911th Airlift Wing drug demand reduction specialist. "In fiscal year 2011, the testing of 79 military members and 37 civilians has already been conducted," said Sergeant Douty.

While the increase in random testing is occurring, the Air Force has also increased its testing abilities. Upgraded laboratory technology enables testers to detect a subject's drug use further back in time than was previously possible and for a larger variety of drugs.

"As a member of the Air Force Reserve, unit members are expected to remain drug free and adhere to the Air Force's zero tolerance drug policy," said Colonel Pennington. "This includes all illegal drugs and misuse of prescription drugs as well.

Most often, we see a direct link between excessive alcohol use coupled with bad decision making, which then leads to drug usage. It's up to you to know and understand your limits, in order to prevent you from making a military career ending decision," said Colonel Pennington.

Drug-Use Is Life Abuse  
Drug-Use Is Self-Abuse  
Drugs Destroy Dreams

## Military Quarterly Award Winners

The 911th Airlift Wing has announced the 3rd Quarter Award Winners.

The winners are:

Senior Noncommissioned Officer

Master Sgt. Lester Jones, 32nd Aerial Port Squadron

Noncommissioned Officer

Staff Sgt. Robert Marshall, 32nd Aerial Port Squadron

Airman

Airman 1st Class Ashley Wiley, 911th Maintenance Squadron

## Civilian Quarterly Award Winners

Coleen M. Czachowski, 911th Services Squadron

Mark K. Moulden, 911th Mission Support Group

# Alarming trend places awareness training at forefront in battle against suicide rates

by James A. Roy  
Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force

An alarming trend is happening in our Air Force, and we need your help. We've had a drastic increase this year in the number of suicides among our total force Airmen – active duty, guard, reserve and civilians. Last year we lost 84 Airmen by suicides; this year, we've nearly reached that number, and it is only October. Even one suicide is too many!

We all take Suicide Awareness training, but that's just the first step – we must take immediate action and get involved. We need to look out for each other and understand that we're not alone. Be ready and willing to assist your Wingman and ask for help when you need it. We must all take the time to care about those around us. That's what good Wingmen do, and that's what our Air



Force needs.

Supervisors at every level must act now. Get to know your Airmen better and understand their personal and professional challenges. This is not a time to sit idle and think this won't happen in your unit. No one is immune. Suicides range the spectrum of ages, locations, MAJCOMs and career fields. The two most common factors we've seen are problems with relationships and finances.

We need to be good Wingmen for others and also need to develop and maintain trusted relationships and friendships where we can talk openly and honestly about things happening in our own lives. We need to feel comfortable exchanging ideas, views and experiences with those who are closest to us. There is always someone available for you.

So many people care about you – more than you may think; family, friends, co-

workers, supervisors, first sergeants, commanders, chaplains, medical professionals and senior leaders are ready and willing to listen and help. Just give them a chance. Don't ever think you are alone or that no one will understand. We will understand, and we will help you. It doesn't matter whether you write, call or e-mail, please reach out. We are an Air Force family and you mean a lot to all of us. If you feel you are at the end of your road, you are not – talk with someone. We care about you and will ensure you receive the help you need.

You should never be afraid of seeking help for fear of reprisal. Our lives should be the priority. The Air Force also has many resources to help. Military and family life consultants, chaplains and medical professionals are all available. Also, Military One Source counselors are always available by calling 800-342-9647 or visiting their website by copying [militaryonesource.com](http://militaryonesource.com) into your web browser.

With everyone's help, we can and must step up and reverse this devastating trend.

## 2011 Wings Over Pittsburgh air show dates announced

by 1st Lt. Shawn M. Walleck  
Public Affairs

It's official. The 2011 Wings Over Pittsburgh air show is scheduled for September 10 & 11, 2011. Hosting record crowds, coupled with perfect weather were among the top reasons credited for the events tremendous success this past year. Additionally, numerous attendees of the event also expressed their gratitude to 911th Airlift Wing members for hosting such a patriotic event on a date that holds a significant place in American history. As with this past year's show, planners of the 2011 air show will incorporate a similar patriotic theme since the weekend event will be held on the ten-year anniversary of 9/11.

"I had the opportunity to attend this past year's air show and it was inspiring to see the tremendous community support the event received. After seeing that support first-hand I wanted the community to know that we are committed to the event and appreciate their continued support," said Col. Jeffrey T. Pennington, 911th Airlift Wing commander.

Headline performers will not be announced until after the



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Scott Pryor

The Wings Over Pittsburgh air show hosts record crowds September 11 & 12, 2010.

International Council of Air Shows convention, which will be held in early December this year in Las Vegas, Nevada. Those interested in getting the most current and up-to-date information are encouraged to join the Wings Over Pittsburgh facebook page @ Wings-Over-Pittsburgh-Air-Show.

# News Briefs

## New hours for finance

Please be advised that the new operating hours for the Finance Military Pay and Travel Pay Offices are 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.. We will also be closed from 11:30 a.m. until noon each day for lunch.

These new hours were discussed and agreed upon as optimal during the AFSO21 Event.

The contact numbers for Military Pay are 412-474-8541 and X8500.

The contact numbers for Travel Pay are X8554 and X8551.

## Transfer of Education Benefits

For Airmen who meet the minimum requirements for Post 9/11 GI Bill eligibility, the law does allow the transfer of benefits (TEB) to an eligible dependent. To transfer benefits to a spouse, the member must have completed at least six years active duty and/or selected reserve.

To transfer benefits to children, the member must have completed at least six years of service.

The child cannot use the benefit until the member has completed 10 years active duty and/or selected reserve. In addition, the member must agree to serve four additional years active duty and/or selected reserve.

A member must be participating on active duty or selected reserve to be eligible to transfer benefits. Once the member retires or stops participating for pay and points, they are no longer eligible for the TEB entitlement.

The transfer of benefits to a dependent child must be accomplished prior to their 21st birthday or, if a full time student, by their 23rd birthday.

After it is properly transferred, the

benefit can be used up to their 26th birthday.

Service members should contact their Reserve Education office with questions.

## Commissioning Opportunity

An opportunity exists for a deserving Airman to obtain an officer position in the Logistics Readiness Squadron through the Deserving Airman Commissioning Program (DACP).

Applicants must have a bachelor's degree, be under age 35 and meet qualifying scores on the Air Force Officer Qualification Test (AFOQT). Initial applications are due to Career Enhancement no later than Feb. 11, 2011 and will consist of the following:

a) Letter of recommendation from your current supervisor and indorsed by your commander

b) Typed resume that is in accordance with AFH 33-337, formatted using Times New Roman font in 12 pitch

c) Verification of AFOQT scores. Please contact Senior Master Sgt. Mary Ann Grow at 412-474-8516 to schedule an appointment to test.

Point of contact is Master Sgt. Linda Davis at 412-474-8517 or Genny Todorowski at ext. 8560.

## Check MYPAY for verification

Members should check MYPAY, December 8, and if they do not see their UTA pay contact either Brian Zator at 474-8050 or Randy Butcher at X8552 and let them know.

There is a command wide problem with the pay system and until it is fixed we need our members to be vigilant and let us know if they are not getting paid.

## Family Day 2011

Mark your calendars! The date for Family Day 2011 is scheduled for July 10, 2011.

## Lodging Reservations

To make lodging reservations, call 474-8230.

When in Status (UTA/Active Duty) please comply with the following:

-Reservations must be made in advance and orders must be presented at the front desk.

-Once a hotel is assigned, it cannot be changed.

-As per Air Force Instruction, walk-ins on UTA weekends will find and pay for their own lodging.

-Please call and cancel if you will not be using your lodging reservation.

## New Fitness Center Hours

The Fitness Center is now operating under the following hours:

Monday-Thursday 6:30 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Friday 6:30 a.m. – 7 p.m.

### UTA weekends

Saturday 6:30 a.m. – 9 p.m.

Sunday 6:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.

## Pay Dates

Primary  
December 15

Secondary  
January 5





# Do anything special today?

## If the answer is NO...

# Call 412-474-8555

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