

SCOPE

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

Wing soars to AFOUA #15

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State Command Chief says goodbye



Norris among Air Force's 12 OAY



SCOPE

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State Command Chief Perspective



By Chief Master Sgt. Ralph Braden

State Command Chief

After twenty-two plus years in the Pennsylvania Air National Guard and over thirty-eight years serving in our Nation's military it is time for me to hang up my uniform. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve you as State Command Chief over the past four years and six months. I will look back on this experience with great pride.

As some of you know, I served in three active duty branches of the military. I served in the Army, Navy and Air Force. I also served in four reserve components of the military including the Army Reserve, Air Force Reserve, Navy Reserve and the Air National Guard. I can honestly say that the service I enjoyed the most is the Air National Guard.

The Air National Guard is truly a family. I am sure that you hear that cliché many times in your career whether you are a new Airman or a seasoned Airman. I can tell you that it is true and I will miss my National Guard family when I retire.

It has been a great experience working in Joint Forces Headquarters of the Pennsylvania National Guard.

During my tenure I became reacquainted with my military roots in the Army. I have served with many outstanding

individuals during my tour of duty at Headquarters. I will miss working with the Headquarters team serving the National Guard Soldiers and Airmen of Pennsylvania.

To the Wing leadership of the Pennsylvania Air National Guard I want to say thank you. Thank you for your service to our Airmen and thank you for the support you have provided me over the years. The Pennsylvania Air National Guard has some of the best leadership I have seen anywhere.

I have served with several Wing command chiefs over the years. These individuals are a special group and I salute them for their service to you. These individuals are special to me as colleagues and friends. Each one of them put a lot of effort and time into serving you.

I want to send my best wishes to the men and women of the 111th Fighter Wing, the 193rd Special Operations Wing, 171st Air Refueling Wing and their associated geographically separated units. Every time I visited one of your units I was welcomed and made to feel as though I was part of your local Air Guard family.

To my replacement Chief Master Sgt. Victor Guerra, the present Wing Command Chief of the 171st Air Refueling Wing, I want to say thank you for stepping up and assuming the role of State Command Chief. It is a very demanding position for which I know Chief Guerra is well prepared. I am confident Chief Guerra will serve you well and will continue these monthly articles beginning next month.

In closing, I thank Maj. Gen. Stephen Sischo for the opportunity to serve you as your State Command Chief. I am very proud to have served the outstanding Airmen of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Lastly, I want to thank the men and women of the Pennsylvania Air National Guard for your support over the years and your continued service to our Nation and our State.

ON THE COVER



The Airmen Air Stations 1, 2 and 3 make up of the 193rd Special Operations Wing, seen here in the 2010 Wing photograph. (Photo illustration by Senior Master Sgt. David Hawkins)



News In Brief

Officer seminar scheduled

The Officers Professional Development Seminar for 2011 will be August 16 through 19 at the Air National Guard Schoolhouse, Fort Indiantown Gap. This year's seminar will have many special guest speakers and military subject experts. They will provide four days of interactive leadership training. It will be a time for you to meet and communicate with other officers.

The registration form can be found on the 193 SOW Portal Pages under the topic "Education and Retention". Return e-mail registration to retired Chief Master Sgt. Wayne Isett at wayne.isett.ctr@ang.af.mil, or mail to 193 MSG/IM, 81 Constellation Court, Middletown, Pa. 17057-5086. Registration deadline is Aug. 7.

Rooms are available at the ANG Schoolhouse lodging facility. You will be billeted two to a room. A motel room cannot be utilized unless there are no rooms left at the Schoolhouse. Room reservation can be made by e-mailing ang.school.roots.omb@ang.af.mil.

Information about orders, lodging and pay should be addressed to your squadron orderly room or Tech. Sgt. Pamela Nee pamela.nee@ang.af.mil. If you have any curriculum questions please contact seminar OIC, Lt. Col. Dan Bailey at daniel.bailey2@ang.af.mil or seminar facilitator, Wayne Isett.

Veterans with disabilities in Pittsburgh for wheelchair games

8/1/2011 - WASHINGTON (AFNS) -- More than 600 disabled veteran athletes will compete in a variety of sport competitions at the 31st National Veterans Wheelchair Games in Pittsburgh, Aug. 1st through the 6th. The event is presented each year by officials with the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Paralyzed Veterans of America.

To read the rest of this story click here: <http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123266262>



Soldiers killed in action

Three Pennsylvania National Guard Soldiers were killed and five wounded July 18 when an improvised explosive device detonated on their convoy outside of Bagram, Afghanistan.

Sgt. Edward Koehler, 47, of Lebanon, Sgt. Brian Mowery, 49, of Halifax, and Staff Sgt. Kenneth VanGiesen, 30, of Kane, were transporting supplies and equipment when they were killed in the same vehicle.

None of the five wounded Soldiers sustained life-threatening injuries.

The Soldiers were serving with the Pennsylvania Army National Guard's, 131st Transportation Company, 213th Area Support Group, based in Williamstown and Philadelphia. The company is primarily in charge of convoys and convoy security.

"Our thoughts and prayers go out to the families of these brave young men who have made the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of this country," said Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Corbett. "This tragic incident is a stark reminder of the dangers our troops face on a daily basis for the cause of freedom. We owe them our respect, our support and our gratitude."

The passing of Koehler, Mowery and VanGiesen bring the total number of Pennsylvania National Guard members killed in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan to 39.

"The impact of the tragic loss of our three Soldiers is felt throughout the entire Pennsylvania National Guard," said Maj. Gen. Wesley Craig, Pennsylvania adjutant general. "We will honor their service by caring for their families left behind, and by increasing our determination to accomplish the mission they set out to do."

They will be posthumously awarded the Purple Heart.

Memorial services were held for Staff Sgt. Brian Mowery at Indiantown Gap National Cemetery on Tuesday, August 2.

Funeral services for SGT Edward Koehler were held Saturday, July 30 at the Heritage Funeral Home, followed by burial at Anderson Memorial Gardens, Ringgold, GA.

Memorial services for Staff Sgt VanGiesen were held at the Kane Area High School on July 28 followed by a private burial in Gibbs Hill Cemetery, Ludlow, PA.





193rd awarded for year of outstanding service

Story by Senior Airman Claire Behney

Public Affairs Specialist

The Colors at the 193rd Special Operations Wing are about to get a new streamer for the Unit's receipt of the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award. This streamer will join 14 others of its kind to be displayed with honor and show the accomplishments of the Wing. These accomplishments would not have been achieved if it weren't for the devoted Airmen who make up the 193rd.

The honor of the AFOUA is awarded to units that have demonstrated meritorious service or outstanding achievement that clearly distinguish them from other units.

"The 193d Special Operations Wing has exceeded all expectations and has proven to be a valuable asset to the Air Force, Air National Guard and Pennsylvania Commonwealth," said Brig. Gen. Eric G. Weller, 193rd commander. "This units contributions have made the Air National Guard a strong, reliable and ready organization. The professional talents, high work standards and dedication to duty of the Wing personnel are what make this unit valuable in the eyes of our major commands as well as the National Guard Bureau."

"The 193d Special Operations Wing has exceeded all expectations and has proven to be a valuable asset to the Air Force, Air National Guard and Pennsylvania Commonwealth,"

*-said Brig. Gen. Eric G. Weller,
193rd commander.*

The Wing is awarded for their accomplishments for the period Oct. 1, 2009 to Sept. 30, 2010.

A few mission accomplishments throughout the Wing include flying more than 3,800 hours, involving 2,082 accident-free hours; the Air National Guard Schoolhouse trained 1,733 students; the Medical Group supported constant deployment of more than 600 personnel for Commando Solo mission with a 100 percent "mission medical ready" status; the Logistics Readiness Squadron supported the first outside the continental United States deployment of Defense Distribution Center deployable

Depot system; the Force Sustainment Office sent 800 personnel to various schools; fueled, accounted for and distributed over 2.0 million gallons of aviation fuel and 168,000 gallons of ground fuel with zero mishaps...and the list continues.

This list was gathered as part of the nomination packet assembled by Maj. Howard Nast, Wing Plans. Major Nast said the research needed to create the nomination packet was a joint effort throughout the Wing starting with the information the Plans Office collects throughout the year. He also sends out requests for information to all the squadrons and groups at the end of the year to obtain any pertinent facts from throughout the year.



The Air Force Outstanding Unit award ribbon can be worn by all Airmen in the Wing during the time period of Oct. 1, 2009 to Sept. 30, 2010. The Wing will also receive a new streamer to add to the other 14 that already decorate the Colors.

"Working in Plans gives me the opportunity to see all the contributions of all 193rd members," said Major Nast. "It is very impressive what we have and what we continue to accomplish."

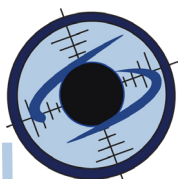
Once the packet was prepared it was forwarded for endorsement from the Wing commander, deputy adjutant general and adjutant general.

After receiving the endorsements, the nomination packet was sent to the National Guard Bureau where it was up against all similar units within the command. Once at NGB, the packet went before an award board, where approximately only 10 percent of packets are recommended annually.

For the efforts of the 193rd Airmen, the Wing will receive a streamer to adorn the Colors, an award citation, a certificate, and unit decorations.

The accomplishments of the Airmen of the Wing reveal the strong dedication they have towards the Unit and its mission. It's this type of commitment that makes the 193rd stand out for its excellence and makes winning the AFOUA possible.

"Our planning and management of resources along with our countless achievements rank the 193rd SOW as one of the most respected Wings within the Air National Guard," said General Weller. "I am proud to serve with such a fine organization."



Catch the latest broadcast of **Eye on Scope** by tuning into channels three and four throughout the weekend.

This edition will feature the Public Affairs team's newest broadcast journalist, Airman 1st Class Cook! Please check your e-mail for a Help Desk message with the exact times of the broadcasts.



Norris among Air Force's 12 OAY

Story by Senior Airman Claire Behney

Public Affairs Specialist

Air Force officials recently announced the service's top enlisted members, naming the 148th's Air Support Operations Squadron's Staff Sgt. John Norris as one of the 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year for 2011.

Norris, a tactical air control party specialist with the 148th, began his journey to this level during his most recent deployment in Afghanistan, when he learned his hard work and dedication had been recognized.

He was selected as the 193rd's Outstanding Airman of the Year for non-commissioned officers. Following his wing-level award, Norris went on to win at the Air National Guard level as the NCO Outstanding Airman of the Year, an award his squadron commander says he truly earned.

"Staff Sergeant Norris is an exceptional, combat-hardened NCO, JTAC (joint terminal attack controller) and citizen battlefield Airman," said Lt. Col. Terrence Koudelka, commander, 148th ASOS. "He is truly deserving of this recognition and I'm extremely proud of his accomplishments and achievements this past year while serving in Afghanistan."

While deployed Norris served with the 101st Airborne Division, Company A, 2nd Battalion, 327 Infantry Regiment, Task Force No Slack.

While deployed with Task Force No Slack, Sergeant Norris coordinated and controlled 120 close air support taskings as a JTAC and conducted more than 100 combat patrols, for which he was awarded the Army Commendation medal with a valor device.

He is also credited for the capture of one high value target and the elimination of another.

"As a JTAC he has operated at the tip of the spear, shoulder-to-shoulder with United States Army infantrymen," said Colonel Koudelka. "His performance in

combat, under enemy fire, was undeniably stellar and valorous."

Sergeant Norris' stellar performances during his recent deployment have earned him a nomination for the Bronze Star, with a valor device, for which his Army commanding officer at the time selected him for.

Sergeant Norris boldly charged into enemy fire to rescue two wounded and isolated Soldiers during an enemy ambush. He was able to order an evacuation of the two injured Soldiers while simultaneously directing fire from two Apache helicopters, who successfully silenced the enemy; controlling multiple air assets; directing close air support; and firing his personal weapon.

"It was very hectic; I can't tell much about how I was feeling because when your fight or flight takes over the memory part of your brain shuts off," said Norris. "I do remember running with a skedco (medical equipment) and seeing bullets impact the ground around me."

Modestly, Norris chalks this up as part of his traditional role as a TACP.

After being selected the Air National Guard Outstanding Airman of the Year for non-commissioned officers he was placed up against 35 other nominees for an Air Force selection board at the Air Force Personnel Center.

The board then selected the top 12 Airmen based on superior leadership, job

performance and personal achievements.

As a winner of the OAY, Norris will be authorized to wear the Outstanding Airman of the Year ribbon with the bronze service star device on the ribbon. He will also wear the Outstanding Airman of the Year Badge for one year from the date of formal presentation.



Staff Sgt. John Norris, 148th Air Support Operations Squadron TACP, is pictured on patrol during his deployment to the Kunar Province, Afghanistan in late 2010. During this deployment Norris is credited for the capture of one high value target and the elimination of another. (Photo archive of public affairs office).

When he was selected to represent the Air National Guard in the top 35, Norris took the time to thank and honor his teammates.

"I am honored to be selected and to represent the 148 ASOS and the ANG," he said. "I couldn't have achieved this without all of the excellent training and teamwork of the 'One Four Great' and of course, I can't forget the Soldiers of Alpha Company, Task Force No Slack, whom I served with in Afghanistan."

Norris, along with the other 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year, will be honored in September during the Air and Space Conference and Technology Exposition in Washington, D.C.

-The National Guard Bureau contributed

Have a story to tell, job vacancy or an announcement? Scope can work for you, contact the public affairs office.
All Scope submissions must be received by the Sunday of the UTA prior to the desired run date.



By Command Chief Master Sgt. Steven Hile

Wing Command Chief

Air Force Instruction 36-2903, Dress and Personal Appearance received an upgrade and was released on July 18. After several years of interim updates as uniform items were introduced and phased out. This update includes the following and eliminates the need to continue to save the various interim messages:

- Integrated public display of affection language
- Elimination of Friday morale t-shirts for flight suit wearers
- Added “dental ornamentation” as a prohibited item
- Exclusion of the Command insignia from the count of maximum badges authorized

Wing Command Chief Perspective



- Added authorizations for cosmetic tattoos for medical reasons for both men and women.

- Allows cosmetic tattoos for non-medical conditions such as eyebrows and eye liner for women (in line with other services)

- Tables are now integrated into text and each uniform has its own section in the AFI

- Photos of uniform combinations, drawings depicting hair standards, measurement tools for Airmen and Commanders to determine if tattoos meet standards

Along with the new AFI 36-2903, the following link is a great tool that the Air Force Personnel Center puts out to help answer questions. <http://www.afpc.af.mil/dress/index.asp> This Air Force dress and appearance program Web site is a one-stop shop for all questions on wear of the uniform, insignias, awards and decorations. It also provides the latest news updates and policy changes. In addition to the website the Total Force Service center offers a toll free number if you have questions, 1-800-525-0102.

I remind you that Nov. 1 the following are phased out: battle dress uniform; desert camouflage uniform; and tan boots, excluding Airmen deployed to the area

of responsibility. The wear of the Airman battle uniform and ABU items will be mandatory as of Nov. 1.

Since the subject of this article is dress and appearance I would also like to take a moment and encourage all Airmen to get occupational badges appropriately affixed to their ABUs. As I walk around all air stations I often take a quick look at uniform appearance. The biggest thing I notice is a large percentage of our Airmen do not wear their occupational badges. Occupational badges have a purpose; they identify skill level with time in service, multiple qualifications and more. I would like to all Airmen wearing their appropriate occupational badges.

It is up to all of us to be within uniform standards. This article will assist you in knowing where to find answers and also give you the information needed to assist in enforcing uniform and appearance standards. I encourage commanders, chiefs, first sergeant, and supervisors to ensure this information is well disseminated to all Airmen. For local guidance, consult your chain of command for clarification and further guidance on standards and policies. All personnel are encouraged to review the entire AFI.

Command Chiefs visit 193rd



Senior Master Sgt. Llyod Herman III, 193 Special Operations Wing explains the cockpit of an EC-130J to Chief Master Sgt. William W. Turner, Command Chief Master Sgt. for Air Force Special Operations Command and Chief Master Sgt. Christopher E. Muncy, Command Chief Master Sgt. for Air National Guard. The Command Chiefs came to Middletown, Pa., July 16 to meet with Airmen of the 193rd and to tour the base. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Culeen Shaffer.)



Sounding Off

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

193rd Airman scheduled to run in Hawaii

Airman 1st Class Emily Shertzer, a member of the 553rd Band of the Mid-Atlantic ran her first marathon at the National Guard Marathon Team Trials, held in conjunction with the Lincoln Marathon in May. Shertzer finished second female overall and first national guard female in 2:54:20. This qualified her for the All Guard Team.

As part of the All Guard Team Airman 1st Class Shertzer has ran two events since May and is scheduled to run Sept. 4 in the Kauai Marathon, Poipu Beach, Hawaii.

Keep an eye out in future Scopes to learn how Shertzer faired in Hawaii and more about her running history.

WSO position opening

The 193rd Special Operations Wing is looking for the Pennsylvania Air Guard's best and brightest who possess a passion to fly to apply for a current vacancy as a weapon systems officer.

Application boards will be held on October drill and complete packages are due no later than Sept. 30. Packages must include a cover letter, resume, official college transcripts, a copy of most recent physical, AFOQT scores, AF FM 24, a minimum of three letters of recommendation and if applicable, a copy of private pilot license, DD 214, NGB 22 and all OPR's/EPR's.

Send packages to 193rd SOS/DOOW, WSO Recruiting: Capt. Kathleen Pearson 76 Constellation Court Middletown, PA 17057.

Don't wait until the last minute; schedule your AFOQT now and get your application in today!

For additional information stop by the WSO section or contact Capt. Kathy Pearson, 193rd WSO section supervisor 717-948-2473 or kathleen.pearson@ang.af.mil.

ALO position announced

Admissions Liaison Officer wanted for the Air Force Academy and Air Force ROTC in Pennsylvania. The liaison officer will work with students in high schools and colleges or universities within their neighborhood, which also offers the opportunity to advertise for the ANG.

There are additional duty positions for Air National Guard and AFRC commissioned officers that earn additional retirement points and occasional man-days.

There is a required one-week paid TDY to the Air Force Academy, Colo., for initial training, which refresher training every four to five years.

For more information or to apply, contact Lt. Col. Dave Palmer at DSN 423-2202 on UTA weekends or (301)836-7166, DSN 278-7166 during the week.

Helpful tools

To stay informed about awards and decorations policy changes and updates become a member of the Air National Guard Force Support Squadron Community of Practice. The CoP can be found by going to <https://www.my.af.mil/afknprod/community/views/home.aspx?Filter=AN-DP-01-97>.

July 18 there was an update to the Air Force Instruction 36-2903, Dress and Personal Appearance. To learn more about the Dress and Personal Appearance updates go to <http://www.afpc.af.mil/dress/index.asp>.

What's on the Menu

UTA PAYDAY
August 19

Constellation Cafe

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

SATURDAY

Main Line:

Sweet Italian Sausage
BBQ Beef Cubes
Mashed Potato
Carrots
Broccoli
Salad Bar
Soup De Jour

Snack Line:

Reuben
Burgers
Baked Beans
Onion Rings
Clancys:
Chicken Salad Sandwich
Reuben
Chips

SUNDAY

Family Day

Clancys:

Open from Apr - Jun and Aug - Sep

Need space for a working lunch?

The atrium is now available for working lunches and can accommodate up to 24 people. Call extension 2456 to reserve this space 48 hours in advance.



Snapshots around the Wing



Staff Sgt. Brian Sommers, an aerial porter with 193rd Special Operations Wing, Middletown, Pa. prepared 25-pound parachutes, June 11 to be attached to Container Delivery Systems used for airdrop training. (Photo by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Culeen Shaffer.)



Past wing and group commanders of the 193rd Special Operations Wing at Middletown PA toured the EC130-J Commando Solo during their visit on Tuesday, July 19. The commanders were briefed on upgrades the unit has made to its aircraft, facilities and organization and included a tour of the wing's Regional Support Group at Ft. Indian-town Gap, Annville PA. (Photo by Senior Master Sgt. David Hawkins.)