

# POTOMAC

## *Air Monthly*

Oct 2015

## PAPAL VISIT 2015

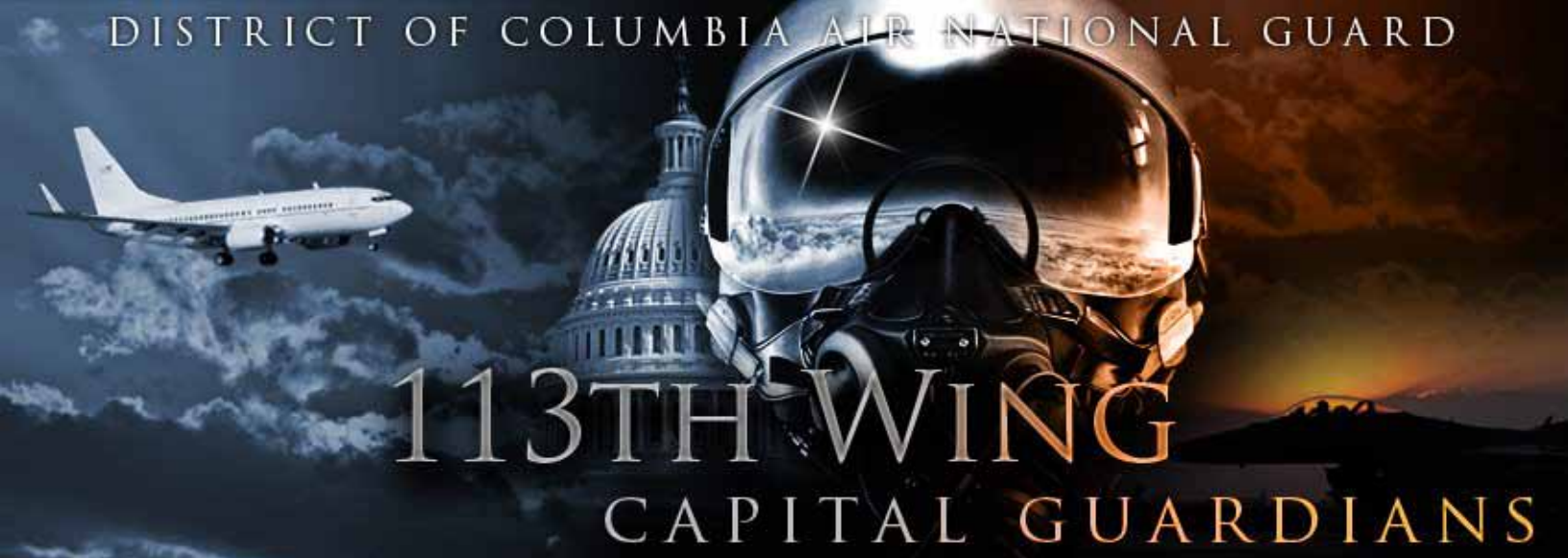
Another successful DCNG DOMOPS mission

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# *The* **Potomac Air Monthly**

## **113th Wing Commander**

Brig. Gen. George M. Degnon

## **113th Wing Vice Commander**

Col. Maren McAvoy

## **113th Wing Command Chief**

Chief Master Sgt. Jeffrey Coombs

## **Chief of Public Affairs**

Maj. Michael Odle

## **Public Affairs Officers**

Capt. Renee Lee

Capt. Nathan Wallin

## **Public Affairs Manager/Editor**

Master Sgt. Craig Clapper

## **Photojournalists**

Senior Airman Erica Rodriguez

Senior Airman Jennifer Stone

Senior Airman Sumeana Leslie

Airman 1st Class Anthony Small

## **Broadcast Journalists**

Tech. Sgt. Tabitha Hurst

Senior Airman Justin Hodge

Senior Airman Terrace Garnier

# *New Promotees*

## **Chief Master Sergeant (E-9)**

Liston, William J. - 113 CES

White, Darryl A. - 113 LRS

## **Senior Master Sergeant (E-8)**

Hester, Michael D. - JFHQ

Hotte, Allen M. - 113 CF

## **Master Sergeant (E-7)**

Dietrich, Paula L. - 201 ALS

Getsey, Mark D. - 201 ALS

Poitrass, David J. - 113 CES

Vegas, Sonia - 113 FSS

## **Technical Sergeant (E-6)**

Arnone, Stephen W. - 113 CF

Commings, Joseph M. - 113 CES

Green, Marquis A. - 113 WG

Marzilli, Michael N. - 113 LRS

## **Staff Sergeant (E-5)**

Edelblute, Cameron R. - 113 MXS

Espinal, Edwin - 113 SFS

Foster, Paulene C. - 113 LRS

Guilfoy, Michael H. - 201 ALS

Kiarie, Raymond K. - 113 CES

Nketia-Akonnor, Peter N. - 113 CES

Taylor, John E. - 201 ALS

## **Senior Airman (E-4)**

Dempsey, Logan M. - 113 MDG

Harlin, Daniel L. - 113 AMXS

Howard, Lindsay A. - 113 LRS

Wright, Kourtney R. - 113 CF

# October UTA training and events schedule

## Saturday, October 17

Start	End	Event	Location	POC	Phone
09:00	10:00	Supervisor Safety Training	Bldg 3213, WCR	MSgt Marra	857-5039
09:00	11:00	Medical Appointments ONLY (Profiles)	Bldg 3282, Room A14	CMSgt Katt	857-6615
09:00	12:00	End of Course Testing (EOC) - PME/CDCs	CE Bldg 3236 Room 121	SMSgt Zayas	857-3084
10:00	11:00	Risk Management Training	Bldg 3213, WCR	Maj Hagen	857-5039
13:00	14:30	Initial Records Management	Bldg 3213, WCR	MSgt Tjarks	857-7308
14:30	15:30	DAWG Meeting	Bldg 3283, MDG	CMSgt Katt	857-6615

## Normal Hours of Operation

08:30	13:45	CPTF Customer Service	Trailer R62	SMSgt Brown	857-0678
08:00	13:45	FSS Customer Service	Trailer R62	SMSgt Levins	857-4012
09:00	13:45	Mobility and Clothing Issue	Bldg. 3212	MSgt Robinson	857-9316
08:00	13:45	CF Customer Service	Bldg. 3222	MSgt Noon	857-0714

## Sunday, October 18

Start	End	Event	Location	POC	Phone
06:30	07:30	Chiefs Council Meeting	LRS Conference Room	CMSgt Thomas	857-3228
07:00	12:00	Fitness Testing	East Fitness Center	MSgt Marx	857-3997
07:30	08:30	Contemporary Service	Bldg 3213, WCR	Ch Lt Col Bowen	857-1032
07:30	08:30	Catholic Mass	LRS Conference Rm	Ch Lt Col Bowen	857-1032
08:00	10:00	Medical/Dental Appointments ONLY	Bldg 3282, Room A14	CMSgt Katt	857-6615
08:00	15:00	RHRP Dental Appointments	CE Bldg 3236 Room 121	CMSgt Katt	857-6615
09:30	11:30	HRE/ POSH Training & HRA Training	Bldg 3212, LRS Conf Rm	Maj D. Taylor	857-3238
09:30	11:00	AROWS ID member Training	CF Classroom	SMSgt C. Brown	857-0678
09:00	12:00	End of Course Testing (EOC) - PME/CDCs	CE Bldg 3236 Room 121	SMSgt Zayas	857-3084
10:00	10:30	Medical Walk-ins	Bldg 3282, Room A14	CMSgt Katt	857-6615
12:00	13:00	TOP III	Bldg 3213, WCR	MSgt Osecky/CMSgt Katt	857-2349
13:00	14:00	Rising Six	LRS Conference Room	TSgt Fair	857-9888
13:00	14:00	IDS Meeting	Bldg 3213, WCR	SMSgt Cumberbatch	240-462-1015
14:00	16:00	SAPR Commander's Training	Bldg 3213, WCR	Capt Lazear	857-3206
14:00	15:00	SMSgt White Promotion Ceremony	LRS Warehouse	CMSgt Thomas	857-3228
15:00	16:00	TSgt Vega Promotion Ceremony	ANG Readiness Center	SMSgt Zayas	857-3084
15:30	16:30	MSgt Allen Hotte Promotion Ceremony	Community Commons	Maj Church	857-0714

## Normal Hours of Operation

08:30	13:45	CPTF Customer Service	Trailer R62	SMSgt Brown	857-0678
08:00	13:45	FSS Customer Service	Trailer R62	SMSgt Levins	857-4012
09:00	13:45	Mobility and Clothing Issue	Bldg. 3212	MSgt Robinson	857-9316
08:00	13:45	CF Customer Service	Bldg. 3222	MSgt Noon	857-0714

# Distinguished Flying Unit Award goes to 113th Wing

By Senior Airman Erica Rodriguez

113th Wing Public Affairs

The National Guard Association of the United States selected the 113th Wing as a 2015 Outstanding Flying Unit Award recipient.

This award recognizes the five highest-rated outstanding Air National Guard flying units. The Army and Air Directorates of the National Guard Bureau base selections on the overall unit's combat readiness during the reporting year and the unit's performance with respect to all other Air Guard flying units.

"The 113th has exemplarily demonstrated its talents and capabilities throughout the year as measured by support to international contingencies, stateside events and high visibility operations," said Brig. Gen. George Degnon, 113th Wing Commander. "No other wing has two such demanding flying missions with support to national leaders and defense of the nation's capital twenty-four hours, seven days a week, nor

is there any other wing that habitually performs in such an exceptional manner under such exacting scrutiny."

Many specific 2014 accomplishments went into consideration for the award such as; winning the 2014 Maj. Gen. Paul A. Pochmara Trophy; executing more 480 alert events, the highest number of alert responses from a single unit since 9/11; leading and preparing the first ever ANG sponsored Fighter Integration Exercise, Sentry Savannah; flying 1,760 sorties, 128 Distributed Mission Operations simulators and more than 3,000 flying hours; and many more.

"The men and women of the 113th are a superb example of the talents and capabilities of our great Air Force and ANG," said Degnon. "This prestigious award recognizes their unselfish devotion to duty and continued outstanding performance."

This is the unit's second time winning the award since 2012.



## CFC KICKS OFF!

Brig. Gen. George Degnon, 113th Wing commander, speaks to the crowd attending the Combined Federal Campaign kickoff Oct. 7 in Hangar 8, Joint Base Andrews. If you would like more information on how to donate to a CFC-approved charity, contact your unit CFC keyworkers. (Photo illustration by Senior Airman Erica Rodriguez)



# D.C. Air National Guard demonstrates its Air Power

By Senior Airman Erica Rodriguez  
113th Wing Public Affairs

The D.C. Air National Guard participated in the 2015 Joint Base Andrews Air Show Sept. 18 to 19.

As one of the most active and unique units in the Air National Guard, the 113th Wing was able to showcase its mission to their local community and other military personnel during the free, public air show.

The air show, comprised of the ANG, Army National Guard, Air Force Reserve and active duty, featured many aerial demonstrations, static displays of military vehicles and equipment, entertainment for kids and various vendors including recruiters.

The event was especially important to the 113th members because it gave them a chance to engage with the local community.

"I'm glad they brought the Air Show back finally," said 1st Lt. Charlie Wilkinson, 121st Fighter Squadron F-16 pilot. "I think it's important for us to be out here and get some face-to-face time with the people living within the area; the people we help support and defend. It's nice for them to be able to see that we are here and what we are doing here."

Wilkinson was one of the pilots who stayed with F-16 static display during the event to answer spectator questions about the aircraft, the 113th mission and what it takes to become a pilot.

Spectators were also able to check out the wing's domestic operations capabilities first hand. The wing's Disaster Relief Mobile Kitchen Trailer, Mobile Emergency Operations Center



and the Fatality Search and Recovery Team equipment were on display along with some of their operators that could explain the capabilities and importance of each.

Beyond the displays, the 113th also kicked off the aerial demonstrations and ceremony with the time honored Missing Man Formation to honor fallen service members for POW/MIA day.

"It's an honor for us to be able to participate as the opening act of the Joint Base Andrews show this year," said Brig. Gen. George Degnon, 113th Wing Commander. "It's an opportunity for us to integrate with the active duty and the Reserve as well as other services here in the National Capital region as we showcase the military."

And it was that coordination of the event with all joint forces coming together in support of community relations that made the show a success.

## Individuals with a PT Score of 90% (Excellent) or higher for Sept 2015

Airman 1st Class Torrie Ericson  
Airman 1st Class Andrew Richardson  
Senior Airman Aaron Clark  
Senior Airman Allante Cluff  
Senior Airman Juan Gutierrez  
Senior Airman Mishaun Salmon  
Senior Airman Amanda Kelly  
Senior Airman Rebecca Martinez  
Senior Airman Austin Nielsen  
Senior Airman Courtney Parker  
Senior Airman Charles Suyat  
Staff Sgt. Delourel McColmbs  
Staff Sgt. Melissa Horsley  
Staff Sgt. Fred Wilson  
Staff Sgt. Steven Young  
Tech. Sgt. Jaqueline Constance  
Tech. Sgt. Reginald Downey

Tech. Sgt. John Singletary  
Tech. Sgt. Ryan Tonniges  
Tech. Sgt. Craig Therrien  
Tech. Sgt. Ozzie Paternostro  
Tech. Sgt. Jamall Williams  
Master Sgt. Sheila Smith  
Master Sgt. Rosealind Diyanny  
Master Sgt. S.J. Wright  
Chief Master Sgt. Steven Rook  
1Lt. Charles Wilkinson  
1Lt. John Brown  
Capt. Duane Peterson  
Maj. Anthony Fleming  
Maj. Damen Forte  
Maj. Gordon Martin  
Maj. Greg Newlin



# DCNG supports Papal visit

By Senior Airman Erica Rodriguez

113th Wing Public Affairs

More than 150 Airmen from the 113th Wing, D.C. Air National Guard volunteered as task force support for visit of Pope Francis to Washington, D.C., Sep. 22 to 24.

Sworn-in and deputized by the D.C. Metropolitan Police as special police, the Airmen served as a standing police force for the event that attracted thousands of spectators to the D.C. area.

Domestic operations is one of the many ways the 113th Wing supports its community. This event, Operation Roman Watch, was a culmination of both Army and Air Force from the D.C. National Guard.

"There are over 500 Guardsmen in this task force which makes the logistics difficult, but as Capital Guardians, we are trained and equipped to handle this mission," said Capt. Duane Peterson, Operation Roman Watch deputy task force commander.

The D.C. Air National Guard also supported the commemoration event marking the 50th Anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I have a Dream" speech, and the Concert for Valor event honoring Veterans Day 2014.

"We are happy to support the local community and making this a safe event for all is our honor," said Peterson.

Proper training prepared all members for event. As task



Master Sgt. Robert Hook, 113 MXS production superintendent, gives directions to an event attendee during Pope Francis' visit to D.C. Sep. 22 to 24. (Photo by Airman 1st Class Anthony Small)

force, members maintained crowd and traffic control, as well as enforcing the law.

"Operation Roman Watch was my first task force," said Airman 1st Class Darla Robertson, 113th Maintenance Squadron aircraft electrician. "My duties included security checks for those who attended the parade. I was excited and nervous about the event, but the briefing and training for the task force prepared me for it."

The event proved to be another successful domestic op-



A Washington, D.C. Metropolitan police officer swears in D.C. National Guard members as 'special police' prior to Pope Francis' arrival to D.C. As part of a multi-city tour of the U.S., Pope Francis visited the area Sep. 22 to 24. (Photo by Master Sgt. Craig Clapper)



# Maintenance team chief breaks ground in 113th aircraft training

Story and photo by Senior Airman Jennifer Stone  
113th Wing Public Affairs

Senior Master Sgt. Michael Turner, a Team Chief for the 113th Wing Crashed, Damaged, Disabled Aircraft Recovery Team, has spent the last two years acquiring a Ground Instructional Training Aircraft for Airmen to receive more hands-on training.

The GITA is an aircraft that has been decommissioned and being used for training purposes. It allows 113th Maintenance personnel an opportunity to create disabled aircraft scenarios involving the F-16 in order to provide real-world, hands-on training for the Crash Recovery Team without having to take apart a functioning aircraft or interrupt the flying schedule.

“A lot of traditional Airmen were not receiving hands on training because they were not here when parts of the aircraft would break,” said Turner. “The GITA allows them to work on parts of the F-16 that they may have never been able to work on before.”

The 113th is one of only a few Air National Guard units who have been able to obtain a GITA. GITAs are retired air-

craft and when the Air Force retires operational aircraft such as the F-16, they are usually scheduled for foreign military sales or to be used for parts critical to sustain the fleet which is why a GITA is difficult to obtain. This provides an opportunity for other guard units to visit the 113th Wing in order to train together.

“This is a big victory for the 113th Wing,” says Turner. “Having this aircraft will save a lot of time and money because without it, we would have to travel to get the training we need and there are not a lot of bases that have a GITA. We are definitely one of the few.”

Crash Recovery Team Chiefs have a requirement to perform a real aircraft lift every three years. Due to the Air National Guard Crash Recovery School being recently defunded, Airmen are only able to obtain this requirement by going TDY or responding to a real world incident which is what inspired Turner to begin looking for a GITA two years ago.

“The GITA increases mission effectiveness because we will now get better training and increase aircraft availability,” said Turner.



Senior Master Sgt. Michael Turner poses in front of a Ground Instructional Training Aircraft on Joint Base Andrews, Md.

# 121st Weather Flight conducts annual training

By Airman 1st Class Dominique Smith

121st Weather Flight

**JOINT BASE ANDREWS, Md.** - The 121st Weather Flight conducted their annual training at Camp Blanding March 7 to 21.

The two week structured Army training provided the 121st WF members with skills to support assigned infantry brigade combat team and battlefield surveillance brigade missions and allow for members to experience integration into a joint tactical mission. Members also completed specific training requirements needed to maintain Air Force weather certification.

The objectives provided were situation reporting; Humvee operations and egress; Portable Radio Connections 117/152 radio; Defense Advanced Global Positioning System Receiver operations; Military Grid Reference System and land navigation; night vision goggle familiarization; Counter improvised explosive device measure; Vehicle Convoy Operations Trainer; movement under fire and urban terrain; and a Field Training Exercise. The instructors worked to successfully convey the concepts and importance of the training moving forward with

real world missions.

Members utilized their training as they supported Army customers at Fort Drum in a week long Command Post Exercise, providing real world weather support to the 116th IBCT and the 118th ASOS June 11 through June 19.



The deployment allowed for the 121st WF forecasters to perform tactical weather operations to include, but not limited to; limited data forecasting and tactical observing, site surveying, visibility chart instruction, 175-1 briefs, local briefs and Battle Staff and Mission Execution Forecast briefings. Additionally, 121st members set-up, operated and troubleshooted the 121st WF tactical weather kit. A few of the products provided were the Five Day Area Forecasts with associated stop light charts, continuous Metwatch observations

and Convoy Weather.

The training with Camp Blanding and the exercise at Fort Drum provided members with capabilities supporting unit mission and better customer interaction. The training also proved to be an excellent opportunity to practice forecasting and observing, while building unit morale and helping to foster the relationship with their customers.





# Air Force Personnel Accountability and Assessment System

By Master Sgt. Alexander Dunning  
NCOIC Personnel Readiness

## What is AFPAAS?

-AFPAAS is the Air Force Personnel Accountability and Assessment System. It is a website designed to help Air Force personnel and their families directly affected by natural and man-made disasters.

- Update Current Accounting Status
- Update Contact/Location Information ("My Info" tab)
- Add/Remove Family Members
- Update Family Members Contact/Location Information

## Why is AFPAAS needed?

-AFPAAS provides a tool to report your status, current location, update emergency contact information and request assistance.

-AFPAAS helps the Air Force leadership to account for personnel and to

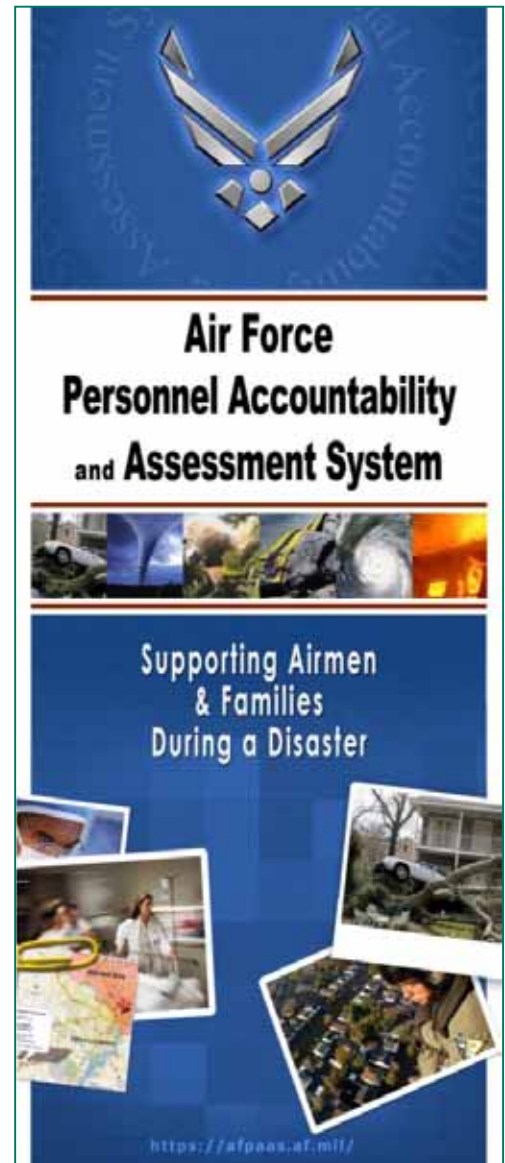
make decisions that support you and your family.

## Where do I find AFPAAS?

<https://afpaas.af.mil>

Or call 1-800-435-9941

\*\*\*\*The DEERS system flows important information into AFPAAS about the sponsor and dependents please make sure DEERS is updated accordingly. DEERS can be updated through any Rapids



# Virtual Enterprise Service Desk program

By Master Sgt. Richard Noon  
113th Communications Flight

You may have seen the icon (in the middle of this article) on your desktop recently and wondered what it was or what it can do. It is the Virtual Enterprise Service Desk program and it offers many benefits such as eliminating call wait times; provides customers automatic resolution to common IT problems; and is a client-based, desktop application for mission partners.



The primary goal is to empower Airmen by automatically fixing common minor IT issues. As a result, you'll get faster service with an automatic electronic ticket that includes a description of your issue and a computer diagnostics report.

Future capabilities will include new features and additional troubleshooting added to email, network, hardware, software, and phone.

So please join us in empowering Airmen by automating Air Force IT customer service.

# Keeping it in tradition

**By Tech. Sgt. Yvhan Santiago**  
113th Recruiting Office

The 113th Wing would like to welcome Wade Holmes to a unit of greatness! Holmes is one of our Undegraduate Pilot Training selectees of the D.C. Air National Guard.

To be chosen for a fighter pilot position at the D.C. ANG is quite an extraordinary achievement and Holmes most recently finalized the first step of his future career; enlisting for a commission. On Sept. 29 this first step occurred in a very unusual location, the Capitol in Washington, D.C.

Visiting the Capitol was a very impressive and rewarding experience, however the enlisting ceremony was a humbling one. It happened at the Lincoln Room with the precense of Wade's father, Lt. Gen. James Holmes, who had the honor of conducting the enlistment oath for his son.

Wade will now continue carrying the legacy of his family traditions while proudly serving as an American Airman in the D.C. ANG.



# A successful year for DCNG at the Andrews Airshow

**By Tech. Sgt. Yvhan Santiago**  
113th Recruiting Office

After months of anticipation and countless hours of preparation, the 2015 Joint Base Andrews Air Show took place on Sept. 18 to 19, entertaining thousands of visitors that attended in the event.

The last air show held at Joint Base Andrews occurred in 2012 and since then many military and aviation fans awaited for the opportunity to live the experience one more time. This time the air show coincided with the Air Force's 68th birthday!

The main attraction this year was the Air Force Thunderbirds team flying demonstration with their impressive skills and breathtaking maneuvering of the distinct F-16 fighter jet.

The event was a successful one on the ground as well. The D.C. National Guard was represented by the Army and

Air Force components with several unique displays. Among them were helicopters, specialty vehicles, an F-16 jet, various aircraft weapon systems, 113th Maintenance Squadron

section static engine demonstration, the 113th Services Flight mobile kitchen and the 113th Civil Engineering Squadron Mobile Emergency Operations Center vehicle. Additionally the 113th Wing Recruiting and Retention team showcased a booth that captured everyone's attention and generated ample leads from interested folks.

Tech. Sgt. Brandon Diggs led the recruiting coordination in order to have this success! Many thanks to all the recruiters as well and special thanks to all the unit members and their families who volun-

teered and helped to bring home the gold on this magnificent event!





# CCAF Graduate list

*The following individuals will receive their CCAF diplomas in a Joint Base Andrews ceremony Oct. 27, 2015:*

Tech Sgt. Basinger, Jason	Emergency Management
Staff Sgt. Bayones, William	Aviation Maintenance Technology
Tech. Sgt. Bowen, Richard	Munitions Systems Technology
Senior Master Sgt. Desot, Charles	Aviation Maintenance Technology
Master Sgt. Doty, Nathaniel	Aviation Maintenance Technology
Master Sgt. Folkerts, Donna	Electronic Systems Technology
Staff Sgt. Freeman, Wenona	Vehicle Maintenance
Tech Sgt. GarciaFernandez, Hector	Aircraft Armament Systems Technology
Master Sgt. Hills, Curtis	Aviation Maintenance Technology
Tech Sgt. Keckler, Daniel	Aviation Maintenance Technology
Staff Sgt. Manney, Joshua	Financial Management
Staff Sgt. Myers, Brock	Aviation Maintenance Technology
Tech Sgt. Ogburn, Omar	Criminal Justice
Senior Master Sgt. Payne, Joseph	Munitions Systems Technology
Tech Sgt. Peters, Sandra	Aviation Operations
Staff Sgt. Ricci, Mario	Intelligence Studies and Technology
Tech Sgt. Robinson, Hector	Aircraft Armament Systems Technology
Tech Sgt. Sarff, Kevin	Bioenvironmental Engineering Technology
Staff Sgt. Scaricaciottoli, Amy	Health Care Management
Tech Sgt. Smith, Anita	Human Resource Management
Senior Airman Spencer, Beau	Munitions Systems Technology
Master Sgt. Unkel, Bruce	Aviation Maintenance Technology
Senior Master Sgt. Wilson, Sterlin	Contracts Management
Senior Airman Clarke, Allante	Aviation Maintenance Technology
Master Sgt. Dietrich, Paula	Education and Training Management
Tech Sgt. Edwards, Jay Cheree	Transportation
Master Sgt. Folkerts, Donna	Information Management
Senior Airman Foster, Paulene	Human Resource Management
Master Sgt. Garland, Cary	Aviation Operations
Master Sgt. Gray, David	Criminal Justice
Tech Sgt. Harrelson, Dustin	Information Management
Tech Sgt. Murray, Cheryl	Financial Management
Staff Sgt. Smialek, Amanda	Practical Nursing Technology
SMSg Smith, Troy	Maintenance Production Management
Master Sgt. Taylor, Phillip	Human Resource Management
Master Sgt. Taylor, Phillip	Aviation Operations
Master Sgt. Vazquez, Jose	Aviation Maintenance Technology
Staff Sgt. Weiss, Lisa	Aviation Operations
Staff Sgt. White, Tristan	Emergency Management
Tech Sgt. Wolf, Eric	Aviation Maintenance Technology

# Important financial information

**By Senior Master Sgt. Courtna Brown**  
113th Comptroller Flight

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- Projected pay date : 30 October 2015
- Office Hours: Sunday 0830-1500

## **AROWS Inactive Duty Processing**

Starting 1 Oct 2015 all inactive duty training will be scheduled, and certified using the Air National Guard Reserve Order Writing System (AROWS). This change affects all inactive duty training normally submitted on the manual NGB form 105S (RUTAs, PTs, AFTPs, etc.).

### **Program highlights:**

- Inactive duty processing in AROWS will require a two-step process consisting of an Authorization and a Certification.
- The Authorization should be accomplished prior to the duty performance. The request can be initiated by the member or the unit AROWS Inactive Duty Administrator.
- Certification can be requested once the duty has been performed. Similar to the active duty e- certification process, only the member can initiate the certification.

### **Flying Status:**

Members in a flying status will have an additional approval level by the Host Aviation Resource Manager (HARM). The HARM will review all Flying Status request to confirm flying status eligibility. This review will take place on both the Authorization and Certification.

### **Training:**

Member (User) Training - To facilitate the transition, training will be held every Thursday starting on Oct 8th in the LRS conference room at 1300. Training will also take place during the Oct and Nov UTA for Traditional Guard members in the CF training room.

Oct UTA – Sun @ 0930 in CF conference room

Nov UTA – Sun @

### **Guides:**

Member training slide is attached. All guides and introductory video can be found on the J drive at J:\Finance\AROWS ID.

### **Questions:**

For questions or additional training information please contact TSgt Carlos Miyasato at 240 857-4842 or at [carlos.v.miyasato.mil@mail.mil](mailto:carlos.v.miyasato.mil@mail.mil).

- DTS policy change – as of 1 Sep, all lodging reservations must be booked through DTS. This includes reservations for both government and commercial lodging.



E-MAIL STORIES AND PHOTOS TO  
[CRAIG.S.CLAPPER.MIL@MAIL.MIL](mailto:CRAIG.S.CLAPPER.MIL@MAIL.MIL)



# News from the 113th Medical Group

By Chief Master Sgt. Thomas Katt  
113th Medical Group Superintendent

## TRICARE Dental Program

MetLife is proud to offer the TRICARE Dental Program (TDP) to active duty family members, National Guard, Reserve members, and their families. Take advantage of the cost effective dental coverage and convenience of having access to thousands of MetLife network locations. Join the 1.9 million military members who already protect their smiles and save on out-of-pocket costs with the TDP. Learn more about the benefits of the TDP so you can be better prepared for the unexpected.

The TRICARE Dental Program is...

### - *Cost Effective*

Government-supported premiums for most members and negotiated fees at over 164,000 CONUS dentist locations minimize out-of-pocket costs to maintain good oral health.

### - *Worldwide*

Active duty families move often. The TDP offers coverage worldwide, so when changing duty stations, enrollees do not have to change dental plans, because their dental coverage moves with them.

### - *Flexible*

The TDP offers continuous dental coverage when sponsors change status to and from active duty to National Guard and Reserve.

### - *Easily Accessible*

Members can visit any licensed and authorized dentist in the world; however, it is often more convenient and cost effective to visit dentists who participate in the MetLife Preferred Dentist Program (PDP).

## Sponsor's Military Status

## Type of Enrollment

Active Duty

- Single: \$11.30
- Family: \$33.88

Selective Reserve and IRR

- Sponsor Only: \$11.30
- Single: \$28.24
- Family: \$84.71
- Sponsor and Family: \$96.01

You have three ways to enroll:

Online: [https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/appi/bwe/indexAction.do;jsessionid=zDi3dw4hl4ApYHJbaCtcf5-K3adoKXFdQOgAnPZvmUd9Fi\\_5DhA!2025037323](https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/appi/bwe/indexAction.do;jsessionid=zDi3dw4hl4ApYHJbaCtcf5-K3adoKXFdQOgAnPZvmUd9Fi_5DhA!2025037323)

By Mail: <https://emloyeedental.meflife.com/dental/util/html/popUp.html>

By Phone:

CONUS 1-855-MET-TDP1 (1-855-638-8371)

OCONUS 1-855-MET-TDP2 (1-855-638-8372)

MetLife TDD/TTY Service for the Hearing Impaired 1-855-MET-TDP3 (1-855-638-8373)

Please Note: A CAC or DS logon is required to access the Beneficiary Web Enrollment site.

**If you have questions or concerns regarding your Medical/Dental health, please call the 113th Medical Group at 240-857-6657**

# Important family readiness information

By **Connie Moore**

113th Family Readiness

## **Key things to know about VA health care for combat veterans**

Any Service Member deployed to a combat zone after September 11, 2001 (must be discharged under conditions other than dishonorable), receives 5 years free health care coverage through the VA for deployment related conditions. This includes new conditions or conditions that worsened as a result of deployment, and includes both physical and mental health. Deployment related conditions do not need to be proven to receive care (ie: no LOD is required for cost free treatment under Combat Veteran status).

You must enroll and be seen by a VA provider within the 5 years to keep your VA eligibility once your 5 years of Combat Veteran benefit status through VA is expired. You will not keep your eligibility past the 5 year mark if you only complete an application.

If you are seen within the 5 year window, you will retain VA eligibility for health care even after your 5 years is up (regardless of income, Service Connection status, etc).

By waiting until after the 5 years is up, you will have to meet other strict eligibility criteria set forth by Congress in order to receive VA health care services. For National Guard/ Reserve members, your combat Veteran benefits renew after each deployment to a combat zone.

**Dental:** If you meet the eligibility for Combat Veteran benefits and you have not received a dental exam within 90 days of being discharged from Active Duty (line 17 on your DD214 must be checked 'no'), you are eligible for a free dental exam and treatment through VA. This one-time benefit must be applied for within 180 days of the discharge date on your DD214. You will need to request this through your local VA Medical Center/Clinic and ensure that they have a copy of your DD214 to verify eligibility.

**\*\*We encourage yearly primary care appointments to maintain health/wellness and keep your primary care assignment**

## **TRICARE options for family members of National Guard and Reserve members**

As the family member of a National Guard or Reserve member, your TRICARE options may change throughout the course of your sponsor's career. Your TRICARE eligibility depends on your sponsor's military status. If your sponsor's status ever changes from inactive to either, pre-activation, active duty, or deactivation, your TRICARE options will vary.

The first step in your family gaining TRICARE eligibility, is for your sponsor to register all eligible family members in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System

(DEERS) in person, at a uniformed services identification (ID) card issuing facility and provide the required documentation; also when making changes with the family's composition (i.e. marriage, birth, death, divorce). Updating personal information such as address, email addresses or phone numbers can be done by logging into MilConnect at <https://myaccess.dmdc.osd.mil>, calling 1-800-538-9552 (TTY/TDD: 1-866-363-2883), faxing updates to 1-831-655-8317, or mailing updates to Defense Manpower Data Center Support Office:

Attn: COA  
400 Gigling Road  
Seaside, CA 93955-6771

For more information on DEERS and to keep your contact information up to date, visit [www.TRICARE.mil/DEERS](http://www.TRICARE.mil/DEERS).

If your sponsor is issued a delayed-effective-date active-duty order in support of a contingency operation for more than 30 consecutive days (pre-activation status), eligible family members may receive the same TRICARE benefits as active duty family members under Early Eligibility. TRICARE Standard coverage is automatically provided to those registered in DEERS. No enrollment is necessary! TRICARE Prime, TRICARE Prime Remote Active Duty Family Member (TPRADFM), TRICARE Young Adult and the US Family Health Plan are also available based on eligibility and/or geographical location. These programs require enrollment. Your family keeps active duty benefits when your sponsor transitions to active duty.

While your sponsor is inactive, he or she may qualify to purchase TRICARE Reserve Select (TRS) coverage. TRS is a great option for your family if your sponsor is a member of the Selected Reserve and is not eligible for or enrolled in the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program. TRS provides comprehensive health care coverage and allows you to see any TRICARE authorized provider. Visit [www.TRICARE.mil/TRS](http://www.TRICARE.mil/TRS) to learn about TRS. Your sponsor may qualify to purchase TRICARE Retired Reserve (TRR) coverage for your family upon entering the Retired Reserves and is under the age of 60. Visit [www.TRICARE.mil/TRR](http://www.TRICARE.mil/TRR) to learn more about TRR.

Families of National Guard and Reserve members may also be eligible for the TRICARE Dental Program (TDP). Enrollment in TDP is voluntary, and your premiums are based on your sponsor's status. To see if TDP is right for you, visit [www.TRICARE.mil/TDP](http://www.TRICARE.mil/TDP). To maintain continuous healthcare coverage when your sponsor's status changes you will need to purchase/enroll by the specific deadlines specified by your respective health plans. To verify your eligibility and learn more about your benefits as the family member of a



National Guard or Reserve member please visit [www.TRICARE.mil/reserve](http://www.TRICARE.mil/reserve).

When your sponsor is deactivated, your family may qualify for either the Transitional Assistance Management Program (TAMP) or the Continued Health Care Benefit Program (CHCBP). TAMP is available to eligible Guard/Reserve members that served more than 30 consecutive days in support of a contingency operation, and offers 180 days of transitional health care benefits to service members and their families. Under TAMP, TPRADFM is not available. Visit [www.TRICARE.mil/TAMP](http://www.TRICARE.mil/TAMP) to learn more about TAMP. CHCBP is similar to COBRA health coverage, and CHCBP eligibility begins the day after you lose active duty TRICARE coverage or TAMP coverage ends. You must enroll in CHCBP within 60 days of losing TRICARE eligibility and pay quarterly premiums. Visit [www.TRICARE.mil/CHCBP](http://www.TRICARE.mil/CHCBP) to learn more about CHCBP.

### **Guard/Reserve Dental Care**

Your dental care depends on your current military status.

### **When Not Activated**

You and your family can enroll in the TRICARE Dental Program.

- You can enroll at any time
- You must enroll for at least 12 months
- You pay monthly premiums based on your military status
- Sponsors and family members enroll separately

If you get called to active duty, your enrollment will change. But your family's enrollment in the TRICARE Dental Program will continue.

### **When Activated**

You'll get active duty dental care when you get called to active duty for more than 30 consecutive days. This means you'll get:

- Most of your dental care from a military dental clinic
- Civilian dental care through the Active Duty Dental Program in the U.S. and U.S. Territories

- Overseas dental care through the TRICARE Overseas contractor, International SOS

If you're enrolled in the TRICARE Dental Program when called to active duty:

- Your coverage automatically goes on hold.
- You won't have to pay while you're on active duty.
- Your family's enrollment in the TRICARE Dental Program continues with lower monthly premiums.

### **When Deactivated**

Your coverage depends on whether you qualify for the Transitional Assistance Management Program (TAMP) when you deactivate.

If You Qualify for TAMP:

- You still have active duty dental benefits during the TAMP period (180-days).
- When TAMP ends, you may enroll in the TRICARE Dental Program.
- If you were enrolled before you went on active duty, your coverage automatically resumes.
- Your family's enrollment in the TRICARE Dental Program continues, but their premiums will return to the pre-activation rates.



### **ALL IN DAY'S WORK**

Master Sgt. Joseph "J.P." McGinley and Staff Sgt Duane Bailey, 113th Communications Flight specialists, pull cables on the newly upgraded Aerospace Control Alert tower Oct.6. (Photo by Senior Airman Erica Rodrigues)

# The do's and don'ts of Halloween

## Do:



Go out with a group.



Let your parents know where you are.



Stay in well-lit areas.



Put your phone away instead of staring at it while you walk.



Stay in neighborhoods you know.

## Don't:



Go into the home of a stranger.



Eat treats that look already unwrapped or tampered with.



Wear a costume that makes it hard to see or be seen.



Roughhouse around lit jack-o-lanterns.



Cross the street without first looking for cars.

Have a fun and safe Halloween!



HAPPY HALLOWEEN FROM 113<sup>th</sup> WING SAFETY

Brought to you by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention