



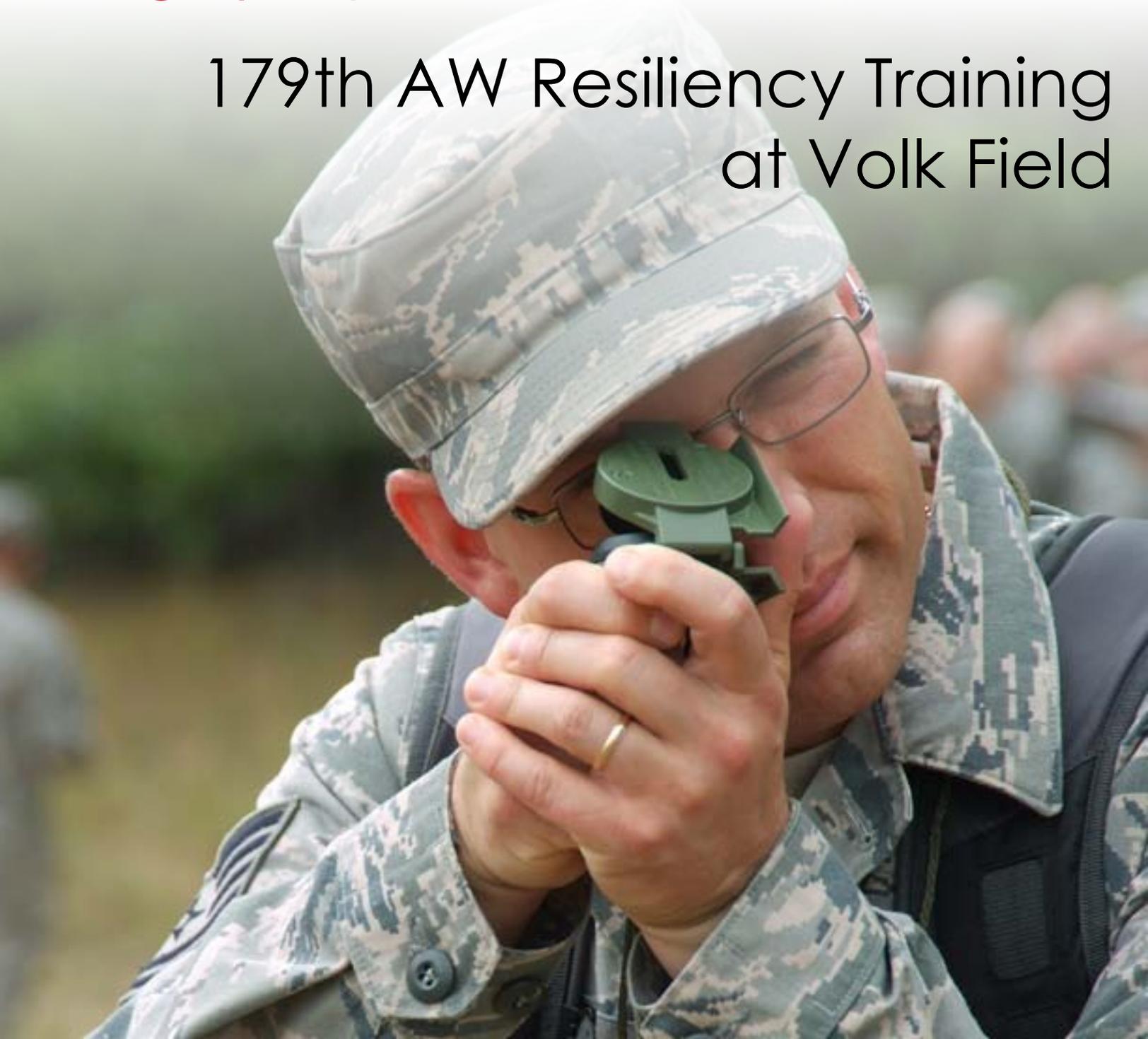
Buckeye

AIRLIFTER

Aug. | Sept. 2012

www.179aw.ang.af.mil

179th AW Resiliency Training
at Volk Field



179th Airlift Wing Annual Awards Banquet

Oct. 13, 2012

R & L Banquet Center

781 5th Avenue Mansfield, OH 44905

The price for all tickets are \$20.00
Please see MSgt. Lisa McKerrow, TSgt Lyndsy Pumala,
or TSgt Sheila Pryor to purchase your tickets.

It's award season. In Hollywood that means stars are breaking out their finest gowns and jewelry, but at the 179th Airlift Wing the Airmen and officers shine brighter than any jewels. This year's banquet will be held at the R & L Banquet center off of Route 30 in Mansfield and unit members of all ranks are encouraged to come out to support the nominees.

"It's nice to meet the movers and shakers from the base," Staff Sgt. Michael Swick said of attending past banquets. "As a young

Airman, I found it inspiring to see the accomplishments of the nominees. It was nice to show support for those nominated." For those this year looking to show support

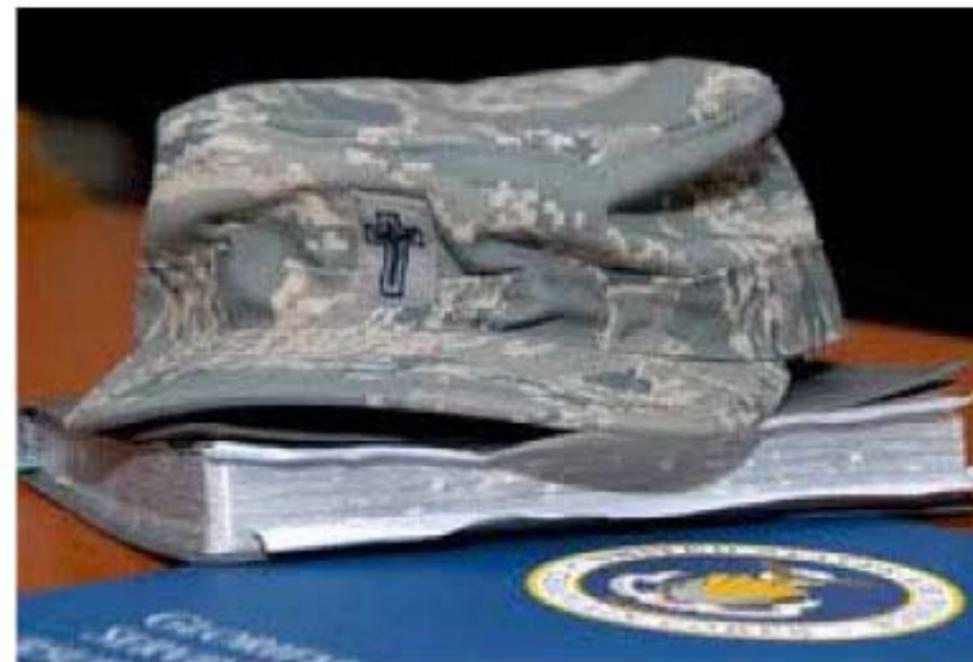
committee members and through Paypal until the end of September.

Commentary by: Tech. Sgt. Jessica Hill, 179 AW PA



and gain inspiration, tickets to the Awards Banquet can be purchased from

UPCOMING EVENTS at the 179th



Protestant Services:

Sunday September Drill - 1400
Bldg. 422

Catholic Services:

Sunday of October Drill - 1300
Bldg. 422

Chaplain's office:
On Base - 419-520-6877

Chaplain, Maj. Shirley
Cell phone - 419-571-2523

Armed Services Blood Program Blood Drive

Blood drive will be held Oct. Drill

Sign up now to participate!
Representatives will be in the
DFAC during lunch of Sept. drill



ASBP

VOLK FIELD TRAINING

In August, members of the 179th Airlift Wing traveled to Volk Field, Wisc., for a six-day training and team building experience. During this time, members were able to focus on resiliency and team building exercises which included completing a confidence course and land navigation course, a 5+ kilometer run and numerous fun sports such as kickball, horseshoes and sand volleyball.

Airmen also took advantage of the time away from customers and daily routines to accomplish required ancillary training. Briefings and classes were given by Military Equal Opportunity, the base Inspector General and the Judge Advocate on areas pertinent to all members. Additionally, a CPR class was held to update Airmen on life-saving techniques.

The 179th AW fire fighters were able to complete numerous training activities that are not typically available at home station. They focused on controlled burns on a training plane hull and inside of a simulated training building.

Many members came back from the trip with positive feedback about the training and team building experience. There are plans in place to repeat the trip in future years to continue team building, training and resiliency.

Commentary by: Tech. Sgt. Jessica Hill

179th AW Public Affairs



photo by: Staff Sgt. Joe Harwod



photo by: Staff Sgt. Joe Harwood



photo by: Staff Sgt. Dustin Edgell



photo by: Staff Sgt. Dustin Edgell

Council of College and Military Educators



The CCME Scholarship committee has posted the 2012 scholarship applications to the CCME website. In order to get the widest dissemination on this call for applications as possible. Please pass to all in our military community and their spouses.

The Council of College and Military Educators (CCME) is offering \$1000 scholarships (15 in all), to service members (active duty/guard/reserve/veterans) and their spouses, who are working towards the completion of higher education degrees.

**Five(5) for Active Duty (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine and Coast
Guard Officer and Enlisted, Reservists and National Guard)**

Five(5) for Military spouses

Five(5) for Military Veterans

Eligibility requirements, instructions, and applications are available on the CCME website located at <http://www.ccmeonline.org/scholarships>.

The application will be available through October 1, 2012. Finalists will be required to provide documentation of service.

If you need any additional information, feel free to contact SMSgt DAVID W. UMLANG, Council of College and Military Educators, Armed Services Liaison, (david.umleng@us.af.mil).

CAN you Make a Difference ?



Donated food will be given to Ohio Military families in honor of "9/11/2001"

Start donating today and place items at your work area. Pick up will be done Fri. Sept. 7th

You WILL make a difference

with can and boxed food donations!

Thank you for participating in "Operation I Can"!

Questions- Sherry Vipperman vistavipperman@gmail.com 520-6599

**Wing Family Programs
Invites you to
Fun in the Sun 2012**



WHEN: SUNDAY!!!! SUNDAY!!!!

9 September 2012

Time: 5:30 – 8:30 pm

Food Served: 6:00 – 8:00 pm

**WHERE: Buck's and "The Infield"
176 East Main Street
Lexington, Ohio**

Cost – Free – Free – Free !!!!!

Go kart rides, Putt-Putt golf, swings, batting cages, cotton candy, kiddie rides, face painting, lots of food, and this year we'll be doing caricature drawings – what fun!



Defenders on the Line

by: Tech. Sgt. Shawn McCowan
455th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

The population of Bagram Airfield represents a true “melting pot” of the ongoing international effort to support stability in Afghanistan. Servicemembers from America’s four major military branches, military members from several NATO member nations, civilians, and even Afghans, all work together toward the common goal of ensuring the nation remains free and secure.

The thousands of men and women from around the world who call “BAF” their temporary home depend on an effective security force to keep them safe. It might be easy to imagine such a major responsibility belonging to an elite special operations unit. In actuality, Bagram’s safety rests in the capable arms of U.S. Air Force security forces teams deployed from Active Duty, Reserve, and Air National Guard units from all over the world.

While the mission may be challenging and complex, both leadership and security forces individuals agree that the current team is ready for the trials their job may bring.

Lt.Col. Thomas Sherman, 455th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron commander and Bagram Defense Force commander, says the plan for this “blended” band of “Defenders” has been in the works for years, but is being expertly executed today.

“This operation is a great actualization of the ideals that began with Operation Safeside in Vietnam in the 1960s. Enemy forces can not touch us in the air. We have an incredible amount of air superiority. Our adversaries realized they need to get those birds while they were in the nest. Having Air Force defenders responsible for that is the best way we can accomplish that mission. We have Air Force defenders working in an integrated base concept both from the source to the perimeter and throughout the Bagram security zone. Air Force defenders ensure Bagram Airfield is protected,” said Sherman.

He credits their effectiveness to the professionalism of the diverse team of defenders who work for him, from personnel management to the newest

patrol member.

“We have got an incredible mix of everything from America’s sons and daughters, Coalition and allied forces, and even contractors. We have new Airmen and experienced personnel, combat veterans to first-timers, and the great integration of the Guard, Reserve, and Active Duty components. The way we structured this is absolutely seamless. As our defenders arrive on the ground, we’re compartmentalizing them into mission sets.”

Looking back at his years leading security forces both deployed and stateside, Sherman believes his current team at Bagram is the best he’s known.

“I’ve had the pleasure in my career to work with the Guard, Reserve, and Active Duty through a variety of mission sets. I have to admit, this has probably been integration I’ve seen in 17 years of doing this job.”

Integration as seamless as this may reflect great planning and great management, but Sherman says it starts with positive and dedicated individuals, all willing to step into harm’s way in one of the most dangerous places on earth.

A1C Kory Caldwell, who lives in Dayton, Ohio and is deployed from the Ohio Air National Guard’s 179th Airlift Wing, spends his days standing guard at one of Bagram’s many Entry Control Points. He did not hesitate to echo the positive attitude Sherman refers to.

“I love this. Since I first joined, I always wanted to deploy. This has definitely been an experience of a lifetime. As a little kid, I saw camo and guns and I just thought it was cool. Then as I get older, I knew I wanted to do something for my country. Now I can see it means more than that. If we weren’t here people back home couldn’t do what they do. My favorite part of the job is camaraderie and meeting new people from different places,” said Caldwell.

He was also quick to point out that individuals from varied backgrounds at

units all over the U.S. truly work together seamlessly.

“I feel very integrated here. You sometimes hear stories about active duty, guard and reserve...but it actually works very well here. Everyone meshes together very well, side by side, and it works for everyone.”

Another “overwatch” responsibility performed by the blended base security team is that of the Advanced Designated Marksman. SSGT James Neace, from Moody Air Force Base, is one of those “ADM” Airmen, who specializes in keeping a watchful eye on potential threats from afar. He takes his duty to protect those he cares about seriously.

“I grew up with playing with guns, hunting; things like that. This is one of those career fields that allowed me to keep doing the things I love to do. Now we come here and represent our country, while both keeping this [threat] away from home and helping your brothers and sisters. It’s like a family out here,” said Neace.

Some of the local populace works on Bagram during the day, which is why SrA Ryan Rucker, a reservist deployed from the 514th Security Forces Squadron at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, monitors one of Bagram’s special security measures; an array of X-Ray scanners used to protect Bagram. Rucker and his active duty co-workers make sure any type of contraband, weapons, or any unauthorized items are discovered before workers enter the base.

Not only does the Teaneck, N.J. native, work with active duty regularly, but his team also coordinates with an Afghan counterpart if anything looks suspicious. Rucker said he appreciates the opportunity to work side-by-side with Afghans and active duty Airmen.

“We get all different types of backgrounds out here. I like knowing that active duty and reservists can work together. We all get along with no issues. Back home I do my job one weekend out of the month, but I have to know my job as proficiently as he does. Once we get into this environment, we all have the same training, and do the same jobs,” said Rucker.

Some of the Defenders’ responsibilities reach “outside the wire.” “Mike” teams regularly patrol the local area around Bagram. Many of their missions appear to be closer to community relations than the perceived traditional base defense. But these missions protect the Bagram family in a different way; by building positive relations with Afghans who live near the base.

A security mission like “Mike” teams was a perfect fit for SrA Arsenio De la Cruz. The Corona, Cal., native says he wanted to experience new things on a different side of the world away from what he called “secluded to the world” he knew back home.

“Being deployed in Afghanistan, I’ve got to witness a different side of life. Outside here, they didn’t get to grow up with what I grew up with... it’s a real eye-opener. I didn’t really expect to see that coming here,” said De la Cruz.

De la Cruz said he’s happy bring his individual strengths and personality to the team.

“It’s like playing a sport. You’re coming together, meeting new people and finding your weaknesses and strengths. You pull together and work it all out. I’ve never thought that I’m in a different unit, so I’m better than anyone. We’re all the same here, all in the same mission, and we all work it out just fine with each other.”

De la Cruz said he’ll take home his deployment experiences and grow from them.

“I learned not take things for granted. This makes you feel proud to be serving your country and making a change in everyone’s life, even if it’s just giving a kid some food or candy. It’s all about being grateful for what you have.”

Once the sun sets over Afghanistan, base protection continues along the fence line. Waverly, N.Y., native A1C Kirsten Hamilton is a member of a perimeter response team. Deployed from Altus AFB, she and her co-workers ensure outside threats remain clear of the

base fence line. A common event that can cause anxiety for Hamilton and her team is when unfamiliar vehicles approach Bagram’s entry gates, but she says she understands the importance of her job, and that makes it worth the tension.

“This can be stressful, but I like it because I know everyone is able to sleep because of what I do. It feels like I’m actually doing something with my life,” said Hamilton.

One of Hamilton’s co-workers is SSGT Elijah Langhorne, a perimeter response team leader from Leesville, La. Although his job is centered on protecting people on base, he finds his dealings with those outside Bagram even more satisfying.

“I think interaction with the locals, both positive and negative, is the most rewarding thing about this job. We see locals asking for our help, dealing with mines, insurgents... things like that. It’s nice to see the positives happen, because it lets us know we’re making a difference. Seeing locals respecting us for us coming here, recognizing that we’re trying to help. We’re not trying to be a disruptive force here, even though we’re completely alien to their lifestyle and what they have around them,” said Langhorne.

But Langhorne says his greatest personal reward comes from an overall understanding of what his diverse blend of

Afghanistan and back home.

“I feel justified in what I do every single day. Not just because of what’s outside the fence, but because of who we’re protecting inside the fence. Seeing the effect on the local population, it’s nice to know I’m not just protecting Americans. We’re also making a difference for the people around us.”

“I try to live up the standards my dad set. Being a man, living with integrity. Trying to take pride in doing a good job even if no one notices. Every single day we have a good day, when nothing happens, and everyone I’m responsible for goes home safely, I get that gratification.”

Langhorne admits that not every day is a good day in his job, but he knows how to keep it all in perspective.

“The low parts help you appreciate the high parts. And there are a lot of both. But either way, right now I can’t think of anything else I’d rather be doing.”

His thoughts seemed to echo those of the rest of his squadron; something one might expect when a team comes together as successfully as the Defenders have.



A1C Kory Caldwell, an Airman assigned to the 455th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, monitors an entry control point at Bagram Airfield Afghanistan, Aug. 18, 2012. Bagram’s large size and vital mission make it a strategic target for insurgents seeking to demonstrate capability, which is why the Airmen from 455 ESFS remain ever-vigilant against the threat of enemy attacks. (U.S. Air Force Photo/Capt. Raymond Geoffroy)

“Defenders” contribute to the big picture in their own lives, and the lives of those in

Did you know?

The Air Force has a newly updated Social Media Handbook? Scan the barcode with your smartphone for more information. You can stop by the Public Affairs office if you want a copy.



September is Suicide Prevention Month and it serves as a good reminder that our Airmen are not invulnerable to stress. Our Airmen have a responsibility to show strength in seeking help and to be the guiding Wingman if they see someone in distress.

A new resource for both the distressed Airmen and an aware Wingman can be found here: <http://www.wingmanonline.org/>

Please share the link to help raise awareness and to show Airmen they can be resilient. We all hold responsibility.



Buckeye AIRLIFTER

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Stories or story ideas may be submitted to the Public Affairs Office for publication consideration in the Buckeye Airlifter. Information should be e-mailed to lisa.haun@ang.af.mil.

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